



The top photo was taken by Shawn Harrington a couple years ago. The bottom one is Rufus Gilbert of Dorset on a 16' 3200 lb. taken ca. 1920. Photo courtesy of Carrie Graham Williams.

"SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

March 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

You bless my heart with how you come together to help when a need arises. Thank you for taking to your phones and computers to get organized, to your kitchens to prepare food, to the church building to set up tables and chairs, and to prayer for God's strength and comfort. No family can bear the weight of grief and loss alone. Our gifts of practical help and presence remind our brothers and sisters that they are not alone.

A passage of Scripture has come to my attention through Bryan Richheimer, who read it as our word of preparation on Sunday and my friend Amy Crooks, who quoted one of the verses in her Facebook post requesting prayers for her family. I think it fits what is happening now as we prepare for Alexander Johnson's funeral together.

*·Be devoted to one another in love...
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality...
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
Live in harmony with one another."
Romans 12:10-16*

May God give us grace and strength us as we endeavor to be devoted to one another in love,
Pastor Rebecca



INTERFAITH COUNCIL

The Interfaith Council meets once a month at different churches in turn. Pastor Rebecca, Carol Lattuga and Martha Thompson are our representatives.

The recent worship service at E. Arlington Federated Church celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. was well attended despite a very wintery night. Ethan Buckner shared a meaningful message including his music.

On March 6th, First Baptist Church joins with The Dorset Church to observe Ash Wednesday and it will be held in Dorset this year at 5:00 P.M.

At the last meeting the suggestion was made that the Council might sponsor an appreciation dinner for police, fire fighters and rescue squad members from the area served by the IFC. There will be more information about this dinner in the future.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

Highlights from **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE** meeting of Tuesday Feb 12, 2019.

- Bryan was nominated to continue as chairman through 2019.
- Dottie was nominated to continue as Secretary through 2019
- We are currently seeking bids to insulate the storage space under the organ which includes the ceiling and the wall adjacent to Joy Hall.
- We are seeking some estimates to replace our sanctuary windows
- Jeremy agreed to join the kitchen renovation team and will report back to the prudential committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Richheimer

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship will be meeting on March 10th at 8:30 with Lisa Towslee and Martha Thompson as hostesses. Ideas for the basket party will be discussed. Basket Party Information is elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Kitchen Committee; Jim Comar, Martha Thompson, Barb West and Lorraine Wilkins met with new representatives from Kitchen By Design and reviewed the plans that had been submitted previously by Scott Healey. This project has been blessed by the promise of \$25000 to add to the money already set aside (nearly \$25000) by MMF for kitchen renovation. The committee would like a clearer idea of what the renovation will cost because more money may still need to be raised. In January a soup and bread luncheon and in February a lasagna dinner were held to help raise funds for the kitchen.

The Fellowship has purchased a sign to be used outside to advertise events. The sign that Dick Spaulding built for us is very heavy and hard to handle but it has served the church well for many years.

The Mary Martha Fellowship meets the second Sunday of each month at 8:30 A.M. except April when flowers are bundled the day before Easter and July and August. A trip to a Butterfly garden is being considered instead of a picnic in July.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

MEN'S GROUP

The MEN'S GROUP (F.O.C.U.S.) is meeting on Saturday, March 2nd at 8:00 am in the vestry!

Contact Jim Johnson for more information!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee welcomed new members Dot Beers and Linda Bushee. Officers for the year were elected including Lisa Towslee as chair, Martha Thompson as secretary and Linda Bushee as financial reporter.

We continue to support our student in Africa, Leon, and are now supporting a project in Thailand to Abolish Global Slavery led by missionary, Jeni Predzinski. The committee also voted to donate \$75 to the shoe project for Guatemala.

In March, The America for Christ Offering will be received. The Ministers and Missionaries Retirement Offering was received in December and the goal of \$450 was surpassed. The total of \$498. was donated. Thank you for your generosity, congregation.

Church Treasurer, Lisa Hess, will open an account for funds set aside for a mission trip: \$973.60. Pastor Rebecca reported that there has been some interest in a mission trip as Kelsey Towslee would be willing to act as leader or chaperone. Even a small group can do a lot of good. More to follow about this event.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20th at 4:45 P.M.
~submitted by Martha Thompson



It's time for the annual Mary & Martha Basket Party. It will be held on March 30th at the VFW Hall on Route 30. Doors will open at 11:00 am. Drawing will begin at 1:00 pm. Food will be sold separately. It will be \$5.00 for the first set of 25 tickets, entrance fee and a chance at the door prizes. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$3.00 each. Mary & Martha would appreciate any donations of baskets of goodies. Do you like to cook? Bake a cake. Make fudge. Arrange a plate of homemade cookies. Need a suggestion? See Lorraine. We are also asking for food donations. Sign up sheets are hanging in the vestry. We will also need people to help the day of the event. As the date gets closer, I will be able to tell you if we will set up the night before or the morning of. Come join us. See what fun it is! All proceeds will go towards the kitchen renovation

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We currently have three **Sunday school classes meeting each Sunday at 9:30**. The Littles young children's group is working on a series called Super Simple Bible Lessons that include a familiar Bible story and craft in each lesson. The Tweens and Teens are exploring a Right Now Media series discussing the connections between scientific discovery and creation. The Adult class just started a new series on The Gospel of Mark, which explores Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Please join us!

Our Youth Group joined the Dorset Church Youth Group for a day of ice skating at Riley Rink, followed by games and a taco dinner at the Dorset Church on Friday February 22nd. The youth groups collectively hosted ten young people. The **next combination youth group activity** is planned for **Saturday, April 6th**, and will include pizza and bowling at the Granville Lanes. Watch the bulletin for more information as we get closer to the date.

We will be hosting a **Cabin Fever Potluck and Family Game Night** at church on **Saturday March 23**. We will enjoy dinner between 5 and 6 pm, with games to follow from 6 to 8 pm. This event is for all ages. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the vestry for potluck items starting Sunday March 10th. Then bring your favorite family games to play!



There is an exciting opportunity for youth to join the First Baptist Church of Lansdale, Pennsylvania in **youth mission work** in Rutland. Youth will be staying overnight at a church in Rutland during the week of **June 16-21**. This mission trip is designed for high school students and young adults.

There are already some tentative activities planned for this spring and summer. We are planning a **Women's Retreat on Saturday July 13**. We are also working on creating a Kids' Corner during the **June Manchester Street Fest** with games and prizes for children, snacks, and a comfort station for parents of little ones attending the Street Fest. Watch for more details to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Crumb

Shalom
by Cara Davenport

Sometimes I wish
I could take all the spread-out-sloshed-around-split-up goodness
and distill it and swallow it whole
or trace its gently flapping gauzy threads
back to their arachnid origin

To hold it cupped in my hand and say,
“Here it is”
and feel the cohesiveness of it
resound in me and steep into my cells

Nothing missing, nothing lost, nothing broken.

Instead I sift and sift and sift
fixating, distracted, getting lost in the grit
and my sieve is all wrong
and my pile is too small
and my arms are tired
and my vision is blurring
and

There’s a magnetism beyond my failing perception
that I’ve put my hope in-

A drawing together, a sorting out, a pulling in
of everything that matters, every kernel of worth.
It’s all waiting to come together,
to be gathered,
to be made well.

DIACONATE COMMITTEE

Please continue to give as much as you can for the fellowship fund. Coming up on March 6th is the Ash Wednesday Service at Dorset Church at 5pm. On March 17th Matt Summons will be talking about his trip that he went on and on March 31st Dara Zink from Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) will be coming to talk to our Church Family.

Submitted by Kelsey Towslee

COMPUTER TIP from PC Matic security software (contributed by Russ Taxter)

If scammers end up reaching out to you this tax season, it will likely be through one of these two avenues – phone calls or emails. Although this is quite broad, it's important to know the following about each potential attack.

Fake Phone Calls

First, scammers will mask their caller ID so it reflects an IRS number. Next, they will falsify their names and titles, in an attempt to create some sort of legitimacy to their fraudulent identity. Then, they will do one of two things. They will either claim you have an outstanding debt with the IRS, which must be paid over the phone, at that time. Or, they will claim to have a refund that wasn't properly distributed, and they need personal information to process the remaining refund amount.

Phishing Emails

As if calling wasn't enough, scammers have found sending malicious phishing emails to the masses is a much faster payday than individually calling people. These emails have one primary goal — to generate urgency for the reader to act. This action may be clicking on a link, calling a phone number, or downloading an attachment. The email will likely make similar claims as the phone scams, either the victim "owes" funds, or is getting "refund". Regardless — it is fake.

Don't Fall For This

It is important users understand, the IRS will never reach out to you via telephone or email. If you legitimately owe the IRS money, or are privy to an additional refund, they will reach out to you via the United States Postal Service, either through standard or certified mail.

Also, the IRS will never require you to make a payment through a certain payment method, like a prepaid credit card. Nor will they threaten to notify local authorities if you fail to pay.

If you receive a bogus phone call, please let them know you're aware it is a scam. This should get them to remove the phone number from their list, since they know it's a waste of time. If you receive a phishing email, send it to phishing@irs.gov and then promptly delete it.

If you'd like confirmation regarding your tax refund or clarification regarding any past-due taxes, you may reach a legitimate IRS staffer at (800) 829-1040. Or, if you are certain you don't owe taxes and don't have any tax problems, report the phone call scam to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484.

**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
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

March 3: Lorraine Wilkins
March 10: Leona Squires
March 17: Paul & Susan Bauers
March 24: Maurie Hill
March 31: Martha Thompson

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

March 3: Jenny & Cheryl
March 10: Cathy & Lindy
March 17: Dottie & Bryan
March 24: Holly & Ronan
March 31: Maurie & Linell



The First Baptist Church Family would like to extend their
condolences to Elex and Nancy Johnson and the entire
family of Alexander Johnson who passed away on
February 23, 2019.

