

The Bridge

January 1 - February 12
Preaching Series



How do I relate to:
Myself
God
My spouse
My children
My parents
My co-workers
My enemies

Inside this Issue

Musical Notes	2
Lessons & Carols	2
Memorial Poinsettias	2
Health Ministries	
Holiday Opportunities	3
Cold vs. Flu—How to tell	3
Deacons Bench	4
From the Trustees	4
RMMO	4
Celebrating the Arts	4
Invitation to tell your Story	5
Classroom Clipboard	5
Calendar	6
Stone Soup Information	7
In the Family	8

WANTED

Participants for the
Living Creche & Candlelighters

Pastor's Perspective...

Christian Discipleship is Both Personal and Communal, Inward and Outward

It's often difficult for people to hold different ideas in tension with one another. One idea dominates over the other, minimizing it, if not eclipsing it, resulting in a distortion and perversion of the whole. Unfortunately, this is too often true of people of faith. In some ways this month's article is a follow-up to last month's. Here I want to explore the Christian faith as both personal and communal, both inward and outward.

Characterized in the extreme, which almost always results in caricature, it has been said that Christians who focus on their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their own soul health become too self-absorbed, neglecting matters of social justice and concern for others. On the other hand, Christians who focus on social justice issues can easily become so engrossed in saving the world and helping others that they neglect their own souls, failing to cultivate any kind of meaningful inner life of integrity in the Spirit. The reality is that genuine Christian faith results in expressions of faith that are both inward and outward. The genuine Christian pursues inward spiritual growth through activities such as reflection, bible reading, prayer, worship, fasting, confession, etc. *and* lives a life that is characterized by practical love and care for one's neighbor, regardless of who that neighbor may be. Something that's important to remember is that because of differing personalities, proclivities, life places, means, etc. we are all at different places on the spectrum of faith expression, some being more contemplative, some being more oriented toward outward service. But what matters is that both the inward and outward faith expressions are present; otherwise, the rungs needed in order to ascend higher into Christian discipleship and spiritual progress are not there.

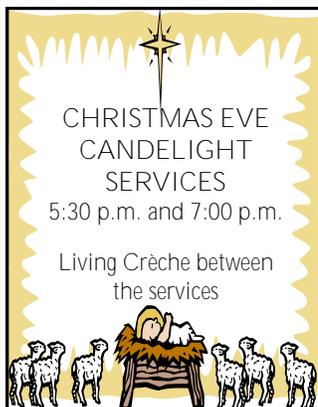
During this wonderful season we celebrate the wonder of God coming in human flesh to dwell among us. In doing so he invited us to receive him as our Lord and Savior, and to find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28). And, having our hearts filled with his love, our minds renewed with his truth, he invited us to love one another (Luke 10:25-37). As you continue to follow Jesus may you grow in the knowledge of God, letting him into all of your heart, soul, and mind so that you may be refined and built up in the truth and in godliness. And may your love for all be evident to all, as God's great power animates your daily life producing the fruit of the Spirit.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Charles

OPEN HOUSE AT THE
PARSONAGE

December 11

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT
SERVICES

5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Living Crèche between
the services

Musical Note

It's December, and our music programs are in full swing, preparing for Christmas. I invite you to join us at this very festive and joyful time! Our Senior Choir meets every Thursday evening at 7pm to sing carols, hymns and four-part anthems in many different styles. We would love to have you sing with us! We also sing at our 9am Sunday morning services on a weekly basis.

If you prefer to praise God in a contemporary style, I invite you to join our Praise Group, which meets to sing and play music on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. We are always looking for singers and instrumentalists to enhance our group, which currently consists of guitars, drums, flute and piano. We lead the congregation weekly at The Gathering, our Sunday morning Contemporary Service at 11am.

We also need more bell ringers for our Handbell Choir. While ringing bells does require a minimum of music reading skill to begin with, it is also a learning experience and extremely rewarding. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7pm, and plays during our Sunday morning services about once every month.

Many times I hear people say, "I don't sing well enough to join the choir." Usually, this is not true, and anyway, a successful choir is only 10% skill, and 90% spirit! If you love music, and love to sing, please consider joining one of our music groups; I sincerely feel that it will enrich your life, and the life of our church.

Merry Christmas!
Dave



COMMUNITY LESSONS & CAROLS CELEBRATION

First Baptist Church of New London
461 Main Street, New London

Sunday, December 18 @ 4:00 p.m.

The community is invited to
sing with the Community Choir
as we celebrate the
Coming of Christ.

Rehearsals will be held on
Saturday, December 10 and 17
8:00-10:00 a.m.

at First Baptist Church
All singers high-school age and
older are welcome

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

ACT NOW if you wish to have a memorial poinsettia in the Meeting House during the Christmas season. Here's the procedure to follow: (1) **Call the Church Office, 526-6511, before December 8.** Give us details to be included in the bulletin: name of donor(s) and name of person or persons being remembered. (2) Call your local florist and order the size and color poinsettia you want. Plants will be delivered by the florists to the church. If you wish to choose your plant in person, please see that it is at the church at 8:30 a.m. on **Friday, December 9** with **dark green foil** and a card included naming the donor. We will need to know whether you will pick up your plant on **Sunday, December 25** or wish to have it delivered to a shut-in.





Verses to Remember:

Especially for December:

“And his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us).” Matthew 1:23

Especially for January:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:19

HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

GIVING TREE: (Also known as THE VNA & HOSPICE KEARSARGE KIDS CHRISTMAS PROJECT). Starting Sunday, November 27, wish list items for local families-in-need will be available on the Christmas Tree in Cleveland Hall. To participate, simply select a tag from the tree and register the tag in the folder. Then purchase, wrap, secure the tag to the gift and bring the gift to the church office by Wednesday, December 7th.

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK:

Come either on your own or with a friend. The Labyrinth will be available in the chapel/choir room on Monday, December 5 from 9:00am – 7:00pm. No instructions are necessary but some suggested guides will be available on the Welcome Table if you would like to use them.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS & SPECIAL FRIENDS:

This is one of our favorite FBC traditions. Sign up to bake, pack and/or deliver Christmas cookies for those members and friends of FBC who are less able to be out and about. In addition, we also remember those who have experienced the death of a spouse in the past year as well as those in our community who are always ready to serve (police department, fire department, and post office, library, hospital, VNA and FBC staff) The process is easy:

*Bake you favorite cookies and bring to the church Sunday, December 11 or early Monday morning, December 12.

* Pack and/or deliver the packaged cookies. It’s a delightfully delicious, wonderful way of letting people know we appreciate them! We will be packaging the cookies beginning at **9:00 am Monday, December 12.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE CONGREGATION:

Rather than sending many cards to many people in our congregation, why not send one card to the FBC congregation to be hung on the tree in Cleveland Hall for all to enjoy? It will save on stamps and might even help save a tree.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:

It’s the perfect gift for the people in your life who “have everything” and/or “need nothing”! A gift in their honor to the KLS Food Pantry or KREM, or TLC (aka Good Beginnings) could be just the thing you have been looking for and we have printed gift cards for you to make it official. Locate the Health ministries table in Cleveland Hall or stop at the church office for details.

IS IT THE FLU OR IS IT A COLD? HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE

<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Cold</u>	<u>Flu</u>
Fever	Rare	Usually present
Aches	Slight	Usually, often severe
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Tiredness	Mild	Moderate to severe
Sudden symptoms	Appear gradually	Appear in 3 to 6 hours
Coughing	Hacking, productive	Dry, unproductive
Sneezing	Common	Uncommon
Stuffy nose	Common	Uncommon
Sore throat	Common	Uncommon
Chest discomfort	Mild to moderate	Often severe
Headache	Uncommon	Common

Cold & Flu Prevention Tips:

Wash hands ~ Do it thoroughly & often with soap & water

Get lots of rest ~ Sleep deprivation can make you vulnerable to viruses

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth ~ It’s easy to become infected without knowing it

Avoid direct contact with those who are sick ~ Keep your distance from others if you are sick



FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” John 1: 1

Please reserve Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 PM to attend the traditional ecumenical service of Lessons and Carols here at FBC. This community service consisting of the choirs from St. Andrews Episcopal, Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic, Kearsarge Community Presbyterian, and the First Baptist Church of New London, as well as other voices from the communities in this area join together to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with song and scripture readings related to the coming and birth of Christ. For those of FBC, who do not sing in the choirs, but who love to sing the music of Christmas, we invite you to join in song by attending the practices on Saturday, December 10 and Saturday, December 17 at 8:00 AM in the sanctuary of FBC. There will be a free will offering at the Sunday Lessons and Carols service, proceeds going to Kearsarge Region Ecumenical Ministry (KREM). The Deacons, Clergy, and Music Director encourage all of you and your friends to attend or participate in this very moving and uplifting service.

The members attending the annual meeting of the Church held on Sunday November 13, 2016, approved the Goals and Objectives of the Church for 2017. The Deacons have begun discussion to develop the Board of Deacons goals which relate to the approved Church goals. This work will be accomplished in coordination with Pastors Charles and Cindy and the appropriate staff and Boards and Committees of the Church. Our plan is to produce and disseminate the completed Deacon goals for 2017 via the January 2017 BRIDGE and the FBC Website posting. Stay tuned!

The sanctuary was trimmed for Advent on November 26. Let us all join together during this important time in the church calendar to celebrate the coming and birth of our Lord. Merry Christmas to one and all of the members and friends of FBC. We wish God's blessing to all of you.

From the Trustee's Chair:

I bring you greetings from the Trustee Board.

Since my last entry in the Bridge, much has transpired. The Annual Meeting came and went with an understanding that we are in a transition period to find the proper balance in the relationship between our income and expenses.

To this end, the Church Council has charged us with providing the CC Board with an analysis of the Fiscal Health of FBC. The Trustee Board will develop a plan to present to the Church Council and ultimately to the Congregation over the course of 2017 with our findings.

Stewardship Update: As of today, Contributed Support is at \$239,865.00 which is \$25,135.00 short of our Projected Budget Income of \$265,000.00, and significantly below last year's support level of \$311,000.00. If you plan to Pledge for the upcoming 2017 Budget, please make your intentions know as soon as possible.

The Trustee Board meets again on 12/14/16 at 5:00 PM at FBC. Any questions, comments, or concerns are welcome, and will be addressed.

Ben Barton, Chair

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING IN DECEMBER

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) provides you with a tangible way by which to honor, say “thank you,” and provide financial assistance to the retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses who supported you in times of need, guided you on your spiritual journey, and provided inspiration. Through the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, from generation to generation, we remember in love those who have given to us. Envelopes will be in weekly bulletins through the month of December for your donation to the RMMO offering or you may drop off a check by the church office.

Checks may be made out to FBC with “RMMO” in the memo section.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

If you are an artist who would like to share your gifts in the form of an art exhibit here at FBC during the coming year, please contact Janice Cundey (janicecundey@comcast.net or 526-7836) for more information.

An Invitation to Tell Your Story

First Baptist Church is teaming up with Colby Sawyer College early next year, February 2017, to embark on an oral history project. Student applicants are currently enrolling in this Integrative Studies course entitled “Narrative and Community: Telling our Story.” The invitation is also being extended to the elder members of our FBC church family who might be interested in playing the role of participant and be willing to partnering with students in sharing their life stories.

This class and oral history project was born out of the Pat Kelsey Bequest Proposal. In 2015, our friend and community member Pat Kelsey left a sizable contribution to the church upon her passing. In turn, the church chose to “tithe” a portion of this donation back into the community. The hope was to generously and creatively foster a collaborative venture between the New London First Baptist Church and the surrounding community. We also sought to find projects that would encourage participation with our church family in addition to financial support.

After receiving and reviewing a number of proposals from a pool of applicants, the Pat Kelsey Bequest Committee awarded Colby-Sawyer with a stipend of \$4,000 to initiate this Oral History Project in partnership with members of the First Baptist Church. As stated in the Course Description:

Based on the Pat Kelsey Proposal linking Colby-Sawyer, the First Baptist Church Community, and the New London community, this course will form inter-generational “pairs” of CSC students and elder members of the First Baptist Church. The course will explore different techniques available to “tell the life story” of the elder of the pair. The pair will design the goals and approach for the project, impart the story using a particular method, and agree upon an approach to disseminate the stories to select audiences.

The project will bring students, faculty and our church family together around stories, many that involve the pivotal role of this church in our community over the years.

Students will be attending 15 weeks of classes, learning about and analyzing these different forms of narrative storytelling. The students will also be interviewing, researching and synthesizing stories into a final project that may include audio tapes, written documents, digital recordings and photographs. A final reception will be held for the students, faculty and the First Baptist Church participants.

We are currently seeking “storytellers” from the congregation. If you would like to get involved in this project please contact Pastor Cindy or Tom Cooper through the church office at 526-6511.

CLASSROOM CLIPBOARD

Fall 2016

The elementary age Sunday School students have been focusing on cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude during the month of November, as we integrate the stories of Noah, the Hebrews in the Wilderness, and the Pilgrims. We’ve learned a lot about giving thanks in all situations. We made a Thanks-Giving Turkey with feathers listing things we’re grateful for, and we’ve been adding a verse each week to our “I Want to Thank You” song. Many thanks to teachers Beth Frost, Cindy Johnson, and Jan Reney for their creative ideas!

As long as we’re talking about thanks, we’ll sneak in a thank you to all of YOU who attended our Noah’s Ark puppet show and food sale, helping us raise over \$400 for NEADS, the National Association for Assistance Dog Services, which trains both guide dogs and service dogs.

Advent ushers in a *new* unit, “Christmas Around the World.” We’ll experience lots of fun projects and activities as we focus on the perspective of the Wise Men, who followed the star to a foreign country in search of the Baby Jesus. We’re excited to have a visitor join us each week to tell us how Christmas is celebrated in another part of the world!

December 2016

Weekly Meetings not listed			1	2	3		
AA – Mon, Wed, Fri 12:15 pm			Tai Chi 11:30				
AA, Alanon, Alateen – Tues 7:00 pm			Choir Rehearsal 7:00				
Boy Scouts – Wed 7:00 pm							
Food Pantry–Wed 5:30-7 pm, Sat 10:00-11:30 am							
Sunapee Singers–Monday 2:00 pm							
4	Second Sunday of Advent Choir Rehearsal 9:00 One Worship Service 10:00 <i>Service of Remembrance 1:00</i>	5 Tai Chi 11:30 Greens Dinner 6:00	6 Staff Meeting 9:00 NL Garden Club 9:00 Ladies Book Study 9:15 Prayer Ministry 1:30	7 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 am Deacons 5:00 The Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00	8 Tai Chi 11:30 Health Ministries 3:00	9 Poinsettia Set Up	10 Lessons & Carols Rehearsal 8:00 am
11	Third Sunday of Advent Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 The Gathering 11:00 Middle School Youth Group 12:15-2:15	12 Tai Chi 11:30 Cookies for Shut Ins 9:00	13 Staff Meeting 9:00 Prayer Ministry 1:30 Missions & Outreach 3:30	14 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 am Trustees 5:00 The Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00	15 Women's Mission Circle 9:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	16	17 Lessons & Carols Rehearsal 8:00 am
College Cram Nights 8:30 pm – 1:00 am							
18	Fourth Sunday of Advent Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 The Gathering 11:00 Lessons & Carols 4:00	19 Tai Chi 11:30 KREM 3:30	20 Staff Meeting 9:00 Prayer Ministry 1:30 Church Council 5:30	21 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 am The Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00	22 Tai Chi 11:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 & 7:00 p.m. Living Creche between services
25	One Worship Service Carol Sing 10:00	26 Church Office Closed	27 Staff Meeting 9:00 Prayer Ministry 1:30	28 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 am The Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00	29 Tai Chi 11:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	30	31



STONE SOUP



Come to feed
your body...
Stay to feed
your mind and spirit...

The Community Is Invited
to gather at First Baptist Church
every Tuesday in
Jan, Feb and March
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Choice of soup, bread, salad, dessert and beverage

Cost: A free will offering will be accepted. After expenses are paid, the proceeds will be designated for LSRVNA & Hospice. For over 40 years, this organization has been providing health care and hospice services to over 25 towns in the Lake Sunapee and Upper Valley regions of NH, fostering continuity of care & enabling people to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
January 10	Stephen Kantor, MD Orthopaedic Team New London Hospital <i>"Osteoarthritis ... Don't Let it Bring You to Your Knees"</i>
January 17	Joan Huber, MS,RN-BC,CNE Assistant Professor Colby-Sawyer College <i>"Presidential Medical Support"</i>
January 24	Kristi Saunders MS, MD Palliative & Hospice Medical Director John Monroe Cassel, MDiv, Spiritual Care Counselor <i>"Working Together Medically & Spiritually"</i>
January 31	Marc Boyd, AARP Fraud Watch Specialist <i>"Fighting Fraud both Locally and Nationally"</i>

Cancellation Policy: In the event the Governor declares a "State of Emergency" and everyone should stay off the roads, Stone Soup will be cancelled.

461 MAIN STREET, NEW LONDON
NEXT TO THE COLLEGE

www.fbcnlh.org
526-6511

First Baptist Church

461 Main Street (next to the College)

Worship ~ 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Communion ~ 1st Sunday

Nursery Available



Charles C. Gildewell, Pastor

Cindy Johnson, Associate Pastor

P.O. Box 336

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EDITOR: Stephanie Barton

PRODUCTION: Stephanie Barton, Kit Ross

WEB POSTING/E-MAILING: Stephanie Barton

FEBRUARY ISSUE

NEXT DEADLINE:

THIRD THURSDAY OF JANUARY

MAILING AND WEB POSTING:

FOURTH TUESDAY OF JANUARY

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
New London, NH
Permit No. 6

IN THE FAMILY



Birthdays

12/1 Jonathan Doheny
12/2 Dick Brady, Carolyn Hager,
Connie Leathers
12/10 Judy Fledderjohn, Barb Ranson
12/14 Don Weatherson
12/15 Chris Cundey
12/16 Peggy Prew
12/18 Will Del Giudice
12/20 Martha Cottrill
12/21 Joanie Weatherson
12/25 Patty Bechok
12/26 Debbie Hall
12/27 Pat Clark, Penny Fitts
12/28 Kristen Lidbeck, Muriel Tinkham
12/29 Wayne French
12/30 Matthew Churchwell, Don Maughan
12/31 Tom Cottrill

January

1/1 Glennis Woodward
1/4 Lela Moses
1/7 Joan Gould
1/8 Piri Thompson
1/11 Tom Coverdale
1/12 Sara Cottrill
1/16 Hod Moses
1/18 Kathleen Belko
1/22 Margrit Wunderli
1/24 Ginny Foose
1/26 Ron Dieter
1/27 Jacob Blake
1/28 Catherine Doheny
1/29 Wes Nichols
1/30 Tom Pike
1/31 Bill Ross

Anniversaries

12/17 Bob & Vicky Meck (56 years)
12/28 Graham & Jane Ann McSwiney
(48 years)

Wanted! The Living Crèche



Shepherds and wisemen,
Mary and Joseph, an Angel
and a few animals too.



Candlelighters

All students,
grades 7 – 12, are
invited to participate in the
Christmas Eve Service as
Candlelighters. All
participants will need to be
at the church at 5:00 p.m.
Please call Cindy or the
church office to let us
know if you will be
participating or for more
information.