

## God Stuff Happening In Our Churches – February 2012

### Mission Projects

- **The Federated Church of Sandwich** and community came together for a tremendous show of support and outreach to the veterans at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton. On December 22 a group presented the home with a check for \$1,189. They also brought bags and bags of Sunshine Cart items. They then took a very informative and interesting tour of the Home and met some of the veterans.

### Church News and Events

- **Wilmington Baptist Church** says “Thanks!”

To our wonderful friends of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire,

Thank you for your wonderful donation. We are indeed blessed to have sisters and brothers in Christ that care for others in our wonderful Christian community.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrated our first worship service back in the church since the flood. It was indeed a wonderful occasion and many members came to give thanks to God for bringing us back home. This could not have been done without the support and prayers from congregations like yours and others throughout the American Baptist family.

We have completely redone our electrical system as well as our heating facilities. The foundation has been restored and we now have a working bathroom. We still need to refinish our fellowship hall and kitchen area and are working hard to be ready to use them before Easter.

We are dedicated to rebuilding the Wilmington Baptist Church. By doing this we honor not only God, but our forefathers who toiled to build this great edifice to our Lord. It is through donations and love offerings like yours that we will be able to maintain its beauty and its historical importance; but most of all what it means to our community. It represents a light that has been burning for over 200 years. It is the same light that came into the world over 2000 years ago and still burns brightly in the hearts of the small group that still congregates there each Sunday morning. The light of Christ will always shine and we are determined that that “LIGHT” will burn brightly within the walls of our beautiful church in Wilmington as well.

Thank you so much for your generosity and your interest in our church.

Be blessed, Doug LaPlante, Pastor

- **Antrim Baptist Church** congratulates their pastor **Charlie Boucher** who was voted a 5 Star Professional in New Hampshire Magazine, an honor that less than 6% of realtors in NH receive.
- Congratulations to **Revs. Chris and Kathleen Blackey (FBC, South Londonderry)** on the birth of their son **Daniel** on January 19.
- **Pastor Sue Andrews** (at right) of **First Baptist Church, Brattleboro** teaching Cayden McTaggart that Jesus is the light of world in the children's story on Sunday, January 15th.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Margaret “Maggie” Lewis**, pastor of **First Baptist Church, Nashua** who was recently appointed as the new executive director of the Center for Career Development and Ministry, in Dedham, MA. She succeeds Rev. Dr. Stephen Ott, who retired after more than 20 years as the Center's Director. At the Center, Rev. Lewis will be traveling within the New England region to develop and enhance relationships with the various judicatories which the Center serves. In addition, she will work with the board to foster strategic planning and the development of funding sources. Rev. Lewis will continue to serve First Baptist Church, Nashua as pastor.



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- **New church at Stratton Mountain, VT.** We have a possible new church start in our Region: Stratton Community Church. For the past 49 winters the pastors of First Baptist, South Londonderry, have been conducting Protestant services at the Chapel of the Snows at Stratton Mountain from Thanksgiving through Easter. After a time of prayer, Revs. Chris and Kathleen Blackey are feeling led to start a more permanent church at Stratton Mountain. Neither the town of Stratton nor Winhall (at the base of the access road to Stratton Mountain) has a church.

This is what Chris and Kathleen have written about their desire to start a new church: “In the past the protestant services at the Chapel have been just that – services. They were a place to come, pray, sing, and read Scripture. While these services were nice and served as a church home away from home for many people over the years, we think God is calling us to do something different here at the Chapel. Instead of only being a place where people occasionally pop in to go to a service, we feel God is calling us to be a community. This community would be one that is made up of a group of people who, yes, come together for services, but also a group of people who come together to support one another and to reach out to the larger community at Stratton. This group of people would come together in order to grow in our ability to love God and to love our neighbor. What we mean by this is we want it to be a place where, even though people are not full time residents, they have relationships with the people they come to services with here.

“After much prayer and after talking with many others who serve resort areas in ministry we have come to the conclusion that what we are really doing is forming a church community. For that reason we are going to call it by a church name. The Stratton Community Church. We hope that our new church community will be made up of a wide variety of people, just like those who make up the wider community at Stratton. Some people will be full time residents of Stratton or the surrounding area. Some people will be second home owners who are here many weekends a year. Some people will be temporary employees of the mountain who are here for a season. Some people will be visitors of Stratton for just one weekend. We hope to be active in those things that go on at Stratton and to be people who reach out to our community with the love of Jesus Christ.”

- **First Baptist Church, Burlington** recently welcomed three new additions to their church family: Carol Hewitt, Floyd Sleeper, and Larry Hill.
- **First Baptist Church, Manchester NH** held a SURPRISE 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and Pastor Appreciation party for **Rev. John Cerrato, Jr.** (at right, enjoying one of his favorite pastimes) after the morning Worship Service on January 8. A slide presentation with photos of John growing up, enjoying hobbies and past times over his 80 years, at various times during his ministry, with and without facial hair, and John just being Pastor John were shared during the luncheon. As Pastor John Cerrato, Jr. begins his 10<sup>th</sup> year with Manchester First Baptist Church, the congregation wanted him to know how much they thank God for sending him to shepherd their flock.
- **The United Church of Penacook** resurrected a Psalty Christmas Musical, The children said the speaking parts and the choir sang the music. (They now have a beautiful Psalty costume if another church wishes to borrow it.) This year the various committees made a wish list of simple things needed in the church (tissues, pens, paper, paper towels, etc.) and put the wish list in the bulletin. People bought items off the list, wrapped them, and put them under a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary as “Gifts for Jesus.” Some people chose to give money envelopes. At Christmas the children opened the Gifts for Jesus in front of the congregation with the understanding that they were opening Jesus’ presents, not their own. A large birthday cake was brought forward and after everyone sang Happy Birthday to Jesus, all enjoyed cake and ice cream in the sanctuary. A Christmas to Remember.

