

Highlights

New Britain Baptist Church
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Who Needs Who?

For one of my Temple University classes my students read Michael Pollan's book *The Botany of Desire*. Pollan's thesis is clearly stated: he wants to consider the possibility that plants are designed to attract us, not the other way around. The apple's sweetness entices us to cultivate it's seed, just as the tulip's beauty inspires us to plant more bulbs. Pollan thinks that perhaps plants draw us to themselves in order to do what they can't do: move around by themselves, plant their seeds in new places, share them with others so that more of them will thrive.

Pollan's is an interesting premise and as I contemplate his thesis I wonder if it is not God's "thesis" as well! God does all God can to attract us to Godself: God creates a magnificent world filled with beauty and surprises that naturally generates the question of a creator. God lures us by loving us, by showing up in unexpected

places, through unexpected avenues, ever drawing us closer to Godself. God puts the invitation out there, "come to me all you who are heavy laden...." and waits for us to respond. God gifts us for service to one another in the world and waits for us to do God's work in the name of justice, mercy and love.

If the premise is true, that God does all God can to attract us to Godself, then the response is in our hands. God needs to hope and trust that we will accept the invitation; God is required to ask and wait to see if we will respond. Thinking about my faith in this way reminds me of how important humanity is to the work of God's reign, how necessary we are in order for God's will to be done. When I chose to walk away from God's invitation, when I fail to respond, God's ability to accomplish God's vision in the world is lessened...because of me.



February 2012

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"Like" us on Facebook at 'New Britain Baptist Church'.

"Our mission is to celebrate our faith in worshiping God through prayer, study, and fellowship; seeking to grow in faith and share Christ's love with the community and the world."

God wants to draw you to Godself, to be more than acquaintances that meet on Sunday mornings for a brief get-together. But rather God wants each and every one of us to accept God's invitation to a relationship that deeper, more meaningful, that requires our full attention each and every day. God needs your gifts, your abilities, your energy to transform the world. If we were not a part of the equation, don't you think God would have already gotten it done?!

As we approach the season of Lent, a time of introspection and con-

templation, allow God to draw you closer to Godself. Let that be your prayer and see what happens, who and what changes as together we love God and serve one another in the world.

In Christ,
Marcia

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship will meet on February 6 at 6:45 pm for a presentation by Byron Rimmer about Salt Lake City and Yellowstone National Park.

In March, we will meet on Monday the 5th. More information to come.

—Byron Rimmer, President



February Bible Study— “People of the Bible, People Like Us”



You are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for refreshments, prayer and bible study throughout the month of Feb. We are continuing our study of “People of the Bible; People like Us”.

Each week we look at a different biblical character and see how our lives are affected by the same challenges theirs were. Each week is a stand-alone conversation so come for one or come for all!

Jan 31 **Samuel** 1 Sam. 1-12

Feb 7 **Lydia** Acts 16: 11-15, 40

Feb 14 **Paul** Acts 7: 54-60; 8: 1-3; 9: 1-31

Feb 21 **Women in Ministry at Rome**
Romans 16: 1-16

JULIET

February 21: “*Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad*” - All are welcome!



March 20: Labrador - a slide show

April 17: Trip to Bowman's Wildlife at Bowman's Tower

May: Not scheduled at this time, more information to come.

June 19: “*Julia Child*” by Linda Kenyon

All events will take place at 1 pm. More information will be available as each event approaches. We look forward to seeing you!

YMCA Moving

On February 25 and 26, the YMCA will be vacating our facilities. We have asked that they wait until after 12:30 pm on Sunday the 26th to allow the congregation enough time for any church events. If there are any church committees planning to meet that day, please do so in the Library. The Y will need complete access during the allotted time-frames so please keep building use to a minimum if possible.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee, since formed in November 2011, has met six times. Rev. Dr. James McJunkin, Executive Minister of the PBA, was invited to a meeting in December to discuss what the PBA can do to help us in the search as well as what they need from us. The committee is currently compiling a profile of our church. It is important for our church to understand who we are now. This will enable us to match our needs with the profiles of prospective candidates.



We continue to ask the congregation for your prayers and patience. At times we may be asking you for your input on certain issues.

Your search committee,

Pat Coulton, Chairperson

Barry Coulton, Ron Hulslander, Rose Konyk, Dottie Rimmer

Historical Review Committee

The Historical Review Committee has been formed. They will meet once a month on a regular schedule. First on the agenda will be to sort through all records received from Doris Fadenrecht. We will begin to present items to the congregation at scheduled Fellowship Hours, after worship. Watch for the notices.



Members: Kathy Seymour, Historian, Malcolm Rollins, Jane Bleam

Annual Reports



If you missed our annual meeting you may pick up a copy of the 2011 Annual Reports in the church Narthex or in the church office. A copy of the new boards and committees will be published in the March newsletter.

Thank You

Dear NBBC members and friends,
I would like to thank you for your gift to me at Christmas. I hope you all know how happy and excited I am to actually do my job when there are children in church on a Sunday!! I continue to pray that having children on Sundays becomes more of a regular occurrence. How exciting that would be! Thank you again and God bless.

—Donna Hafner

Food Larder

We continue to be very busy in the Larder. Donations have slowed, but have been more than in previous Januarys. We are still sorting food by items and dates that came in during the holidays.

We had quite a few children come in on Martin Luther King Day with donations. We allow them to put their items on the shelves and tell them how people who need food come in and receive it. They always tell us they will be back next year to do the same.

We also have a class from Plumstead Christian School coming. We tell them how the Larder helps families and they will stock shelves for the hour they are there. This will be the 3rd class coming from Plumstead.

Again we want to thank all our volunteers who work the Larder. We appreciate all the hard work and hours some of you put in there.

—The Food Larder Committee



Musical Notes

The clock and calendar demand that we move ahead into 2012, back to routines and back to big goals for most of us. I also am still reflecting on the past Christmas season, since we always put much into the many aspects of celebrating the Christmas season. Once more, I want to thank all who were involved in the musical presentations throughout December, including the readers, all my coworkers, and of course the choir and chime choir. And, in giving thanks, I certainly do not want to ignore the congregation since without them, we would be nowhere. It was such a good feeling to hear of the enjoyment that was experienced. I greatly appreciate the generosity throughout the year and at Christmas time.

I always considered it a privilege to work on the music for the worship services, and working with the choir has been a very joyful challenge. Thank you so much.

Marcia tells us of how we have a large blank 2012 calendar ahead of us, and asks us how we will fill it. Of course in my department, I think of how to fill it musically and inspirationally. I still strive to incorporate a variety of anthems into our worship services. I look forward to the joyful challenges that 2012 may bring. Lent begins in three weeks and the music chosen for this time period is “general” in nature. This variety includes folk music, gospel, majestic, and praise music. I hope all are inspired by the mixture. I continue to wish all of you a happy and healthy 2012.

—Marge Felton, organist



From the Graveyard

We have had five inquires via email from families looking for information about their relatives buried in our cemetery. It has been quite interesting. One inquiry was from William Piper looking for his great-great-great-grandfather, David Evans (1794-1856). This is what I found:

“David Evans married Mary Rowland (second marriage, first Elizabeth Lunn 11/14/1820). He lived in New Britain. David was a carpenter by trade and became a lumber merchant in Philadelphia. In 1850, they lived in Doylestown Twp. with their nine children: Edwin, Amanda, Elizabeth, Catharine, Ellen, Charles, Annie, Gwenny and Isabella. David was a farmer and a supervisor of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal. His obituary also had Esquire after his name. He died suddenly on May 6, 1856 at the age of 61, at a public house in Point Pleasant, PA. He left a wife and eleven children. He is buried with the son (wife Augusta). There is also a reference about Civil War Soldiers.”

William emailed back, saying he was absolutely delighted to receive the information. He knew some things, not that his family was a second marriage and that his relative worked for Pennsylvania Canal and was probably an attorney. I invited him to visit NBBC if he comes to the area, and he accepted with pleasure.

—Kathy Seymour, Historian

Operating Fund

Treasurer's Report

Year to date—December 31, 2011

| | Actual | Budgeted | Difference |
|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Total Inc. | \$131,993 | \$104,250 | \$27,743 |
| Total Exp. | <u>\$135,015</u> | <u>\$149,931</u> | <u>\$14,916</u> |
| Net Income | \$ (3,022) | \$ (45,681) | \$42,659 |
| | | | less than budgeted |

Prayer List

Church Family: Andy Bean, Marti Groman, Ed & Irma Webster, Dan Reiniger, Jan Rollins

Our TLC Ministry: Kathy Coulton, Thelma Euter-moser, Bob Maxton, Robert Oswald, Dolores Ransford, Ginny Rose, Nancy Schnell, Ann Smith, Ruth Taylor, Lillian Taylor, Gail Wallis

Family and Friends of Church Family: Landon Thrash, Danielle Snavelly, Jim Macort, Bruce & Paula Coulton, Sue Wilsey, Margo Mallory, Jerry McGee, Carol Schumacher, Donna A'Cierno, Keith Rile

Pastoral Search Committee: Barry Coulton, Patricia Coulton, Ron Hulslander, Rose Konyk, Dottie Rimmer

Happy Birthday

2/01 Kathryn Coulton
2/14 Thelma Bagg
2/19 Julie Coulton
2/22 Walter Bagg
2/28 Barry Coulton



Happy Anniversary

2/01 By & Dottie Rimmer
2/08 Barry & Pat VanLuvanee
2/09 David & Zsuzsa Hasel



In Remembrance

Jerrie Haldeman

March 25, 1922—December 29, 2011

Office Updates

- Articles for the March Highlights are due to the office by Monday, February 20.
- 2012 calendars are available in the narthex!

