

Highlights

New Britain Baptist Church
P.O. Box 5147
Tamenend Ave & Rt 202
New Britain, PA 18901

A Warm Welcome

September 2011

A few years ago after I left my last congregation, our family began to visit churches in our area looking for a place to worship. What we discovered was the most important factor in feeling welcome and at home in any congregation was hospitality.

The first congregation we visited we really *wanted* to like! It was close to our kids' school, had people we knew, was American Baptist, and was close by. We went there several times, wanting to like it, but each time coming away more disappointed than before. Although there was a lively worship service, no one greeted us as we came in the door. Although there was a time of sharing, no one asked our names or introduced us as visitors. The words of the songs were printed but there was no actual music, so unless you knew the tune, you could not sing. It was

a very strange and alienating experience to worship among folks clearly open to God's Spirit and one another, but not to us.

Another congregation we visited, a UCC church, welcomed us at the door and showed us to a seat. (That saved us from sitting in "someone's pew".) After we'd been seated for a few minutes and had obviously been looking over the bulletin, a friendly face asked us if we had any questions about the service before it started. During worship we were greeted by the folks around us, who jotted down our names on their bulletin so they could introduce us when the pastor asked if there were visitors. Before we left, we were greeted again and given a gift bag of literature about the congregation and their ministries so we could read more when we got home. Two days later a follow up phone call came from the person who had introduced us, thanking us for coming and inviting us to come



Phone: 215-345-1535
Fax: 215-345-4768
Email: newbritainbaptist@verizon.net
Web: newbritainbaptistchurch.org
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"Our mission is to celebrate our faith in worshiping God through prayer, study, fellowship; seeking to grow in faith and share Christ's love with the community and the world."

again.

Two different churches, two different experiences! One that said, "We're so glad *we're* here!" and one that communicated, "We're so glad *you're* here!" To the visitor, that distinction makes all the difference as to whether they genuinely feel welcome and will come again. The gift of hospitality, considered an important spiritual gift in both the Old and New Testaments, was clearly at work in the second congregation. They took seriously the invitation to "welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed

you." (Romans 15: 7) With creativity, openness and intentionality, they genuinely expressed welcome, warmth, friendship and a desire to invite us into their community.

As we move into the fall, I want to invite each of you to consider whether God is calling you to express the gift of hospitality in our congregation. It is a responsibility and a joy that can be shared by all. Take a look around: what does a visitor see and experience when they arrive? Does our space look and feel

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“A Warm Welcome” continued...

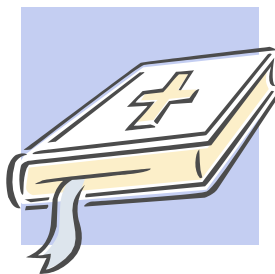
inviting? When a stranger enters, anticipate their need: do they have a child with them? Are they looking for a seat? Can you offer to take their coat? When we greet each other, make it your responsibility to go to the person you do *not* know first, ask their name, write it down, and share it with us when the opportunity comes. Can you follow up afterwards, invite them to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation as a way to say “thank you and come again?”

The ministry of hospitality is an important spiritual gift and an important ministry. It is because of someone else’s hospitality that we ourselves are here! As we continue to think about our ministry together, let’s be open and intentional about how we welcome others.

Fall Bible Study Resumes

As we move into the fall our vivacious and engaging Bible Study group will resume again, this time meeting on **Monday nights** (please note the change!) **at 7 pm**. Beginning on September 19th at 7:00pm, we invite you to join us for a series we’re calling “Reading Familiar Parables and Hard Sayings in New Light.” Together we’ll be studying some familiar parables along with some “hard sayings” of Jesus to see what today’s biblical scholars are saying about them in light of the current understanding of the economic, political and social realities of the first century. We’ll be looking at how these stories intersect with our own lives and how they invite us to faithful, justice-filled living.

Our time together begins with dessert and prayer, followed by conversation about the text for the evening. You can bring your own bible or use one of ours. We invite you to join our warm and open group as we deepen our faith together.

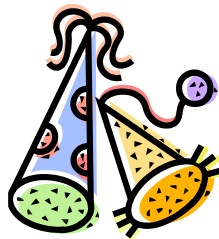


Celebrating Years of Membership



The Deacons invite you to join us for worship Sept 18th as we celebrate those who have 50 years of church membership or more! It’s a wonderful group of friends to honor for their love of our church and community over the decades. Light refreshments will follow worship so that we may linger to greet one another.

Ginny Rose’s 95th Birthday



Ginny’s daughter, Dottie Rimmer, would like to celebrate by having a card shower for her! Please send cards to Ginny to make her birthday as warm as possible!

**Ginny’s address is not available in the web-accessible version of the Highlights for privacy purposes.*

9/11 Community Remembrance

On **Sept 11 at 4 pm**, members of the Chal-Brit churches will gather on the lawn at Chalfont United Methodist Church for a service of worship and remembrance. You are invited to bring your lawn chair (some seats will be available) and will be helped from your vehicle to find a suitable seat. Local first responders have been invited to be recognized for their community service and a combined choir from all the churches will sing. Anyone interested in participating in the choir can see Marge Felton for music; rehearsal is Sept 11 at 3 pm, immediately before the service. Join members of our wider faith community as we continue to seek God’s blessing and peace in the world.

Supporting the Larder Ministry

From July 31st to September 25th, the Food Larder will be collecting school supplies for the children of our clients. We need the support of everyone to make this possible. Items needed are as follows:

Pencils, composition books, pens, colored pencils, erasers, crayons, binders, rulers, scissors, glue, notebook paper, notebooks, computers, tablets, paperback dictionaries, markers, pencil sharpeners, lunch boxes, back packs, laundry detergent, shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant (men & women), bath soap, coffee & tea.



Board of Deacons

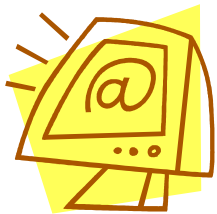
Marijo Highland needs help taking a worship service to Manor Care in Montgomeryville on Christmas Day. If you or your family are interested in providing assistance with transportation, music, and scripture reading, please speak to any deacon!



Men's Fellowship

The first meeting of the New Britain Baptist Men's Fellowship is Monday October 3rd. at 6:45 PM in fellowship hall. The speaker for the evening is Bruce Burkhart. Bruce will be speaking about the history of New Britain Borough, etc. The calling captains will be calling near the end of September to see if you can come. The calling captains are: Barry Van Luvanee, Paul Ely and Fred Eutermoser. Please set aside that evening and plan to attend. We will be asking what the members would like to have for other programs. By Rimmer, President

New Web Site!



Did you know that most people looking for a church will look first for a website? Long gone are the days of telephone book or local newspapers advertising when it comes to finding a faith community! In response to this reality, we have a new website

for our church! Jordan Walls, our secretary, has been hard at work this summer updating the information on our website and giving us a new look. It is still a work in progress, but we are looking good. A website that is welcoming, interesting and up to date tells people that we are alive and well, and invites them to check us out! Visit our new website at newbritainbaptistchurch.org!

JULIET

A look ahead for the next **JULIET** season:
Sept 20th, 1:00pm: Fordhook Farm, a trip to Doylestown to visit the house and the gardens of Burpee.



Oct 18th, 1:00pm: Historical Info about New Britain Township, Borough, and Chalfont presented by Bob Showalter. All are welcome.

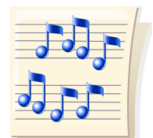
Nov 15th, 1:00pm: Spirituality & Aging: Finding meaning in our mortality, growing old gracefully in God's sight. Presented by Rev. Carl Yusonvitz, from Penn Foundation, Chaplin.

Musical Notes

For many of us, this summer is just flying and the bustling fall season is coming up soon enough. First, I want to take time to thank all of you who helped with the summer's "special music". It was so nice to have diversity of styles of music and types of various performance groups. It surely enhanced our worship services. I especially want to thank those who were not originally on the sign-up sheet, yet came through when others were not able to keep their scheduled time slot. Those who stepped in to help included Jan Rollins on piano, and Barry VanLuvanee and Jim Davis with their vocal contribution.

On September 11th, we have a nice event that's being planned for the Chal-Brit group. This is a special service to be held at 4:00. All who are interested in singing the anthem, "How Can I Keep from Singing", are welcome to attend the 3:00 rehearsal at the Chalfont Methodist Church. Let me know if you would like to participate. Participants do not need to be choir members. I am looking forward to participating in this meaningful service. I have ordered copies of the music which I will get to those who are inform me of their interest in singing in that service. I will also be available after church on the 4th for anyone who wishes to practice. (The anthem is a different arrangement than the one that the choir has used.)

Senior Choir rehearsals will begin on Thurs., Sept. 8th, and will continue weekly at 7:30. New members are welcome! We will also begin chime choir practice on that date at 7:00 **if** we can find an additional person to help. If you read music and would like to join us for the 7:00 rehearsals and occasional chime choir participation in the Sunday services, I will be glad to hear from you.



I have some definite plans for the Christmas season. Due to a lack of large numbers of choir members, we will not plan a Cantata. However, on that 3rd Sunday of December, the 18th, I have planned to have "The Christmas Story Through Hymns and Anthems". My plan is to have music as the major part of this worship service. Depending on the number of participants and their availability and willingness, this plan will be adapted. Also, it can work well as an evening service, when modified, so that will include participation by the congregation. This will be somewhat similar to our previous "Old Fashioned Carol Sing". I will look forward to having extra volunteers join the choir for these seasonal services. It would be a great time to include instrumentalists, so please volunteer if you play an instrument or if you can recommend instrumental volunteers.

Thank you for everything! Marge Felton

September 2011

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 1-5pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Karate - FH	2	3 10:00am Karate - FH
4 10:00am Worship Grant Ward 11:00am Fellowship Hour	5 Labor Day Food Larder Closed Office Closed	6 Troop #41	7 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm Bulletin deadline	8 7:00pm Karate - FH 7:00pm Chimes Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir	9	10 10:00am Karate - FH
11 10:00am Worship 11:00am Deacons 4:00pm Community Service of Remembrance	12 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm	13 Troop #41	14 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm Bulletin deadline	15 7:00pm Karate - FH 7:00pm Chimes Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir	16	17 10:00am Karate - FH
18 10:00am Worship 50 Year Member Recognition	19 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm 7:00pm Bible Study Highlight Articles due	20 1:00pm JULIET Fordhook Farm Trip Troop #41	21 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm Bulletin deadline	22 7:00pm Karate - FH 7:00pm Chimes Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir	23	24 10:00am Karate - FH
25 10:00am Worship	26 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm 10:00am Advisory Council Mtg 7:00pm Bible Study	27 Troop #41	28 Food Larder 9am-12pm; 1pm-4pm Bulletin deadline	29 Rosh Hashanah 7:00pm Karate - FH 7:00pm Chimes Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir	30	

Important Dates for September 2011

Birthdays

Individual names are not listed in the web-accessible versions of the Highlights for privacy purposes.

Anniversaries

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Special Events

9/04 Worship by Grant Ward
 9/11 Community Service of Remembrance
 9/18 50-Year Member Recognition
 9/20 JULIET - Fordhook Farm

Church Events

9/04 Fellowship Hour
 9/19 Bible Study Begins
 9/26 Advisory Council
 9/26 Bible Study

Sponsored Events

9/01 Karate
 9/03 Karate
 9/06 Troop #41
 9/08 Karate
 9/10 Karate
 9/13 Troop #41
 9/15 Karate
 9/17 Karate
 9/20 Troop #41
 9/22 Karate
 9/24 Karate
 9/27 Troop #41
 9/29 Karate

Giving Opportunity

9/01-9/25 Support the Larder Ministry

Office Deadlines

9/07 Bulletin for the 11th
 9/14 Bulletin for the 18th
 9/19 Highlights for November
 9/21 Bulletin for the 25th
 9/28 Bulletin for Oct 2nd

Holidays

9/05 Labor Day, Church Closed
 9/11 Twin Towers Anniversary
 9/11 Patriot Day
 9/11 National Grandparents Day
 9/17 Constitution Day
 9/23 Fall Season Begins
 9/28 Rosh Hashanah Begins
 9/29 Rosh Hashanah

Food Larder

9/05 Closed
 9/07 Open Regular Hours
 9/12 Open Regular Hours
 9/14 Open Regular Hours
 9/19 Open Regular Hours
 9/21 Open Regular Hours
 9/26 Open Regular Hours
 9/28 Open Regular Hours



ART GENTILE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers work to re-store WWI Memorial

“Bruce Burkart and other volunteers are working to restore the World War I memorial, which was built in 1931.”

-phillyBurbs

Operating Fund

	Actual	Budgeted
Total Income	\$70,656	\$61,446
Total Expenses	<u>\$76,848</u>	<u>\$89,227</u>
Net Income	(\$6,192)	(\$27,781)

Year to Date: July 31, 2011. We celebrate the increase in our giving and the good work all are doing to hold expenses to a minimum. Please remember to continue to pay your pledge even if you are away! We will continue to need your financial support!



Church members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with our TLC Ministry at the “Church to Go” event on July 28. Ginny Rose was also recognized for her 81 faithful years of membership to NBBC.

Quote of the Month

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”

-Aristotle

Prayer List

Our prayers are with you all in the month of September!

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Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to all in the month of September!

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Happy Anniversary



Happy Anniversary to all in the month of September!

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Office Updates

- We are currently **redoing the New Britain Baptist Church website**. Please send any updates and/or requests to Jordan at the church office, preferably via email.