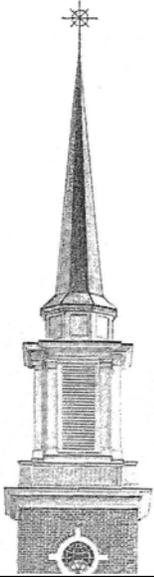


UNDER THE STEEPLE

December 2016

Volume 13, Issue 8



THE MAJESTY OF THE CHRISTMAS MANGER



Outdoor Live Nativity is on Saturday, December 17th

-Event times: 3:30 and 4:30pm.

-Rehearsal dates: Sunday, December 4th & 11th at 11:30-12:15pm.

-Sign up in Fellowship Hall on December 4th & 11th.

-Please contact Deedee Hammer with questions; 603-765-1857 or deehamma@comcast.net

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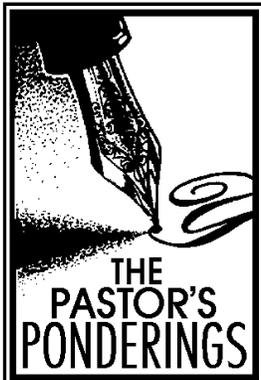
Church Office Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed
8 AM—2PM

Thursday—8 AM—12PM

Office closed on Fridays





We're excited to announce that our daughter, Elliot James Dunaway, was born November 23rd at 2:37 am at 6 lbs, 13 oz and 19 in. She's healthy, happy, hungry, and a little shocked at how cold this world is. Welcome to New England.

Elliot is named after Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, missionaries to the Huaroni people of Ecuador. Jim was killed in 1956 by the very people he was serving. Shortly before he died he wrote, *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*

After her husband was killed, Elisabeth lived a long life devoted to following Jesus and died in June 2015 in Gloucester, MA, just an hour from Portsmouth. She once wrote, "The deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by [God's] letting us have our way in the end, but by His making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to

honestly pray what He taught His disciples to pray: Thy will be done." Jaime and I pray that Elliot will make that prayer—Thy will be done—the theme of her life.

Elliot's middle name, James, is after her grandfather and Jaime's father, James Luther Cathell (known to most as Luke), who passed away from lung cancer on September 30, 2015. He would have delighted in being a grandfather.

Jaime and baby are doing well – thank you for all your prayers. The obligatory picture is below. For more pictures, you can follow Elliot on Instagram – [instagram.com/ejdunaway](https://www.instagram.com/ejdunaway)

Warmly,
Chris

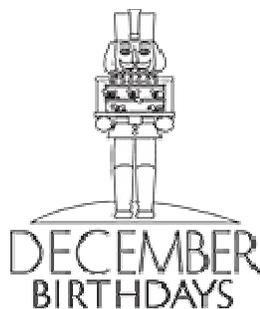


SAVE THE DATE

GRANDPARENTS

On Saturday, February 18th and Saturday, March 11th, Middle Street will host a two-part seminar called "Courageous Grandparenting: Unshakable Faith in a Broken World." The seminar will address the question, "How can we be effective grandparents in a world that is so different from the one we grew up in?"

The seminar is open to the public, and both sessions will begin around 8:30 am and conclude by 12:30 pm. Keep an eye out for more details to come!



- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Wayne Price |
| 3 | Louis Dow, Sr. |
| 7 | Dean Fields |
| 17 | Kim Bridge |
| 21 | Verne Anderson |
| 23 | Louise Ramsdell |
| 25 | Marilyn Gustafson
Lucien Wiggins |
| 27 | Richard Wilder |

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

14th	Judy and Gary Sama
	♥ 48 years

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

THE MISSION: Confront the 68 hours of hunger experienced by some local school children by providing bags of food that they can take home and eat over the weekend.

HOW WE CAN HELP: We will collect a designated food item for the bags every week. These items will be delivered to the drop off location for delivery of bags each week to the Portsmouth Schools.

DECEMBER 4TH AND 11TH REQUESTED FOOD ITEM: Boxes of toaster pastries such as Pop Tarts – usually 6-8 to a box.

DECEMBER 18TH AND 25TH REQUESTED FOOD ITEM: Containers of individual applesauce – packaged 6 to a sleeve.

Please put all items in the Big Red Box in Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hour Fellowship—2017

Dear church family,

I hope this finds you enjoying the Advent season with Christmas quickly approaching! I wanted to send a quick update and let you know about some updates to our coffee hour fellowship time next year.

In order to make this time a little easier to set up and clean up we'll continue to offer coffee and a cold beverage, but for the food portion we'll simply offer a light assortment of cookies, which the social committee will provide. This will make it easier time-wise and financially on our weekly volunteers. Of course, if you want to bake some cookies during your week to serve please do! Or if you feel led to pick up a few packages of cookies when you're doing your grocery shopping, we would love that as well.

Coffee hour will continue to be "staffed" by volunteers from the various church boards and committees throughout the year, and a new 2017 sign-up sheet is on the podium outside of the kitchen door. If you have not volunteered to serve coffee hour recently, we invite you to consider serving in this way, and we hope these updates will make it easier for you.

I look forward to continuing to grow and fellowship with you all in the coming year!

Sincerely,
Jaime Dunaway

Newsletter Going Digital

This is our last "hard copy" newsletter as next month we are going digital. If you indicated to us that you would like to receive a copy in the mail, you are on the list and it will still be mailed to you. We will still have a deadline and the newsletter will still be sent out the last week of the month.

I have been doing this newsletter just shy of 20 years and I want to thank the wonderful group of people who came faithfully once a month to help bundle them together for the bulk mail. People have come and gone over the years and I remember all of them fondly. It was great to see people, keep up with their lives, and have coffee and a snack with them.

So to Louis Dow, Bev Dow, Barbara Kirkham, Marilyn Gustafson, Peter Gustafson, Lois Nelson, Louise Ramsdell, and Elly Hayes, (my recent "newsletter mailers") THANK YOU so much from the bottom of my heart!

Bonnie

DAUGHTERS OF EVE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



All women are invited to come and find out how a group of women connect with their daily walk with Christ, learn more about one another, and have a great time together.

In September, we started a new Bible study, "Twelve Women of the Bible". The study guide and DVD are based on the teaching from Lysa Terkeurst and several other women. Each of the twelve sessions is focused on one biblical woman, to help women discover new insights and provide a powerful witness to God's gracious love.

Daughters of Eve meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm and the meetings are held at the church. This new program is a separate Bible study each month so even if you miss one, just come the following month! Each meeting we will watch the DVD together with a discussion to follow. Remember to bring your Bibles!

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, December 6th

"From the Heart" Christmas Program at Bethany Church. The speaker is Sheila Walsh, a Scottish author, and she will be sharing her story of hope. The doors open at 6:30 pm and the program begins at 6:45 pm. We will meet at Dinnerhorn Restaurant in Portsmouth at 5:15 pm. Please contact Janet Hand for tickets and to RSVP for dinner.

Tuesday, December 20th

Christmas Gathering at the Church—Come and enjoy a Potluck dinner at 5:30 pm followed by the program. We will continue in the book on session 4 about Hannah.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Janet Hand at 603-436-3051 or janetmhand@gmail.com.

✂



Order Your
Poinsettias

Deadline to order— December 12, 2016

Cost: \$13.00

Make checks payable to:
Middle Street Baptist Church
18 Court ST
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Please fill out the form below:

I would like to order _____poinsettias for personal use

I would like to order _____poinsettias for a shut-in

I can assist in delivering a poinsettia to a shut in

Yes ___ No___

My poinsettia is in memory/honor of:

Given by:

Name _____

Phone _____



ANN JUDSON FELLOWSHIP

Meeting: Ann Judson Fellowship will meet here at the church on Monday, December 12th at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be provided by members. We ask each lady to bring a package of men's socks (white) to be donated to the Salvation Army.

All ladies are welcome to join us. A Sign up sheet is on the podium by the kitchen.

Women's Fellowship Any questions call Jan Witham at (603) 436-7252.

MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES:

In response to International Ministries' request for individual American Baptist churches to step up and give aid assistance to our partners in Haiti, Cuba, and the Caribbean after Hurricane Mathew's destruction on Oct. 3 and 4, MSBC has sent \$500 to IM (\$250 from the Board of Deacons and \$250 from the Board of Missions). Please continue to pray for all these folks who have lost so much. May our small contribution, multiplied with all others, help these folks toward some stability.

Thank you to those who participated in October's annual World Mission Offering which benefits our missionaries in the field world-wide. MSBC's total giving to this vital offering was \$468.

NATIONAL NEWS:

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering:

December is traditionally the month that American Baptists honor their retired ministers and missionaries, and widowed spouses with a monetary gift that helps them with unexpected expenses. The small stipend that they receive is our way of saying "Thank You" for all their faithful labor in building God's kingdom. May we give generously to the RMMO in appreciation for all they have given to us.

LOCAL NEWS:

It is a MSBC tradition to participate in the Salvation Army Bell Ringers fundraiser during the Christmas season. MSBC's date to participate is Friday Dec. 2nd. There is a sign-up sheet on the podium just outside the kitchen, or see Jack Foster if you are able to give time for this community outreach.

Also, our participation in the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen each 1st Thursday and 1st Friday monthly remains ongoing and we welcome and need new volunteers to help.

Thank you to our November volunteers: Chris and Jaime Dunaway, Sharon Stone, Sarah Cooley, Al Gillette, Gary Sama, Peter and Marilyn Gustafson.

Until next month... Christmas Blessings to All,

Your Board of Missions

Sunday Music during the Advent/Christmas season



Sunday, December 4, The Second Sunday in Advent

Music of J.S. Bach and "Greensleeves" variations for violin and organ

Augusto Salazar, violin, teaches at Portsmouth Music & Arts Center (PMAC), and is founder of the Bow Street Youth Orchestra. He performs with his chamber music group, The Andrea String Trio, and conducts and plays with many area ensembles and orchestras.

Sunday, December 11, The Third Sunday in Advent

Middle Street Baptist Gospel Group playing carols & "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Sunday, December 18, The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Portsmouth Brassworks & Middle Street Baptist Choir—Carols for Brass & Organ, "And the glory of the Lord" from Handel's Messiah

PRAYER CONCERNS *Updated 11-29 2016*

Cards and notes of encouragement are especially important at times of major transition in people's lives – Just go ahead and send a word even if you do not know someone well. If you need an address check the church family directory or feel free to call or e-mail the church office.

Continuing Concerns

Lisa Beard, Cathy Davis, Amy DeStefano, Lyle Webb

Friends and Family

Robert Conroy, father of Bonnie Orr

Norma Estrada, friend of Rosalie Churchill

Spencer Davis, brother-in-law of Roxanne Ferrin

Rita Rozek, mother of Tamara Rozek

John Steere, grandson of Dottie Steere-Doyle

The family of Liva Webb

Dana and Mark Wise, brothers of Tara Wise

Our Soldiers in Service

Peter Clark, Army; Logan Lewis, Marines; Damon Doyle, Marines; Becky Resendes, Army; Joe Freda, Jr., Navy; Eli Sewell, Navy; Josh Reeves, Army

Our Friends and Members Based at Home

This list includes individuals and their family members whose mobility may be temporarily or permanently restricted. This may include long-term recuperation, a limiting physical or emotional condition, long term assisted living, or caretaking.

At Home

Victor and Helen Tine, 241 Drakeside RD, #1214, Hampton, NH 03842—(603) 926-5313

Assisted Living

Mark Wentworth Home, 346 Pleasant ST, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Carolyn Harvey ♦ Norma Lang ♦ Marjorie Little

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

Sandpipers—Seacoast Children's Chorus—Holiday 2016 Concerts

Saturday, December 3rd –7:30 PM—Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham, NH

Sunday, December 4th—3:00 PM—Middle Street Baptist Church, 18 Court ST, Portsmouth, NH

Suggested donation at door: \$10, general/\$5 students, seniors

Christmas Carol Sing

December 11, 2016—6:00 PM—First Baptist Church, 201 North RD, Brentwood, NH

Community invited, refreshments and Fellowship to follow.

A Merry Old Faire

First Baptist Church, 201 North RD, Brentwood, NH

Friday, December 2nd—2 –5 PM, Saturday, December 3rd—9 AM—2PM

(Fish Chowder luncheon, Saturday)

Home Baked Goods, Jewelry, Hand Crafted Items, Christmas Decorations

Gift Baskets , White Elephant Table

*proceeds to help with heating expenses for church

