

The Lamplighter



First Baptist Church of North East

December 2016/January 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 48 No. 3

Church Celebrates 60th Anniversary

A special “thank you” from the 60th Anniversary Committee, to all who contributed and/or attended the celebration of the 60th anniversary of our church. The event was well attended and everything went off as planned. The service went smoothly and on time. The slide show, put together by Andy Wagner, was impressive. Pastor Steve Hokuf was the Master of Ceremony, as we emphasized the history of our church in 10 year increments, from the 1950s to the 2000s.

In the 1950s, we recognized the founding members. Ray Sommers gave his testimony for the 1960s. To recognize the 1970s, Connie Sommers provided special music and we had a musical tribute for the 1980s. Pastor Dan Mohler presided for the 1990s, and Bobby Hudler presented about Operation Christmas Child. For the 2000s, our daycare director Sandy Jackson presided, with special music by *Audience of One*. The message was given by Rev. Phil Meekins (a former member of our church) of New Beginnings Church and was well done.

After the program, we retired downstairs to a wonderful meal that was provided by the church. We want to thank the Social Committee, headed by Wendy Clough, for all the work done to prepare the meal for us. Also, we want to thank Linda Gocolinski and those who took time to decorate and set up the tables and chairs on Saturday. Another thanks goes out to Tom Hall, for all the extra tables. As we observed, there didn’t appear to be any empty seats. Sometimes we miss or forget to recognize someone who helped, but God doesn’t forget and you will be rewarded.

In closing, I would like to thank the 60th Anniversary Committee for their contribution to the planning and carrying out of activities. Committee members include the following: Ray Sommers (Chairman), Pastor Steve Hokuf, Pastor Dan Mohler, Edna Miller, Wendy Clough and Eric Jackson. Kathy Gray also helped at our meetings.



A Little Acorn

While working in our children’s program, I shared a story called “The Oak inside the Acorn” by Max Lucado. It was about a little acorn trying to figure out what he was supposed to be doing. I felt like that little acorn, not sure what I was to do. God knew.

I moved to Maryland in 1965; a young mother of two little ones, away from home for the first time. I have always gone to church and became a Christian at the age of 16. I watched this church building being built, and told my husband that I wanted to go there when it was finished. The first Sunday that I came to church, I had four little ones in tow. Two ladies, Dorothy Hudler and Jeanna McGhee, took my little ones and said they would watch them. I thought I had died and gone to Heaven! I found out that they had services on Sunday and Wednesday nights and started coming to all of them. On Wednesday nights, Patsy Delp would pick me up and

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We, the staff of the church, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. It is surely one of my most favorite times of the year. I hope I never let the hustle and bustle of the season steal away the joy and true meaning of the day. I imagine that is something we all need to guard against.





The 60th Anniversary celebration was so special. Everything seemed to go quite smoothly. Everyone worked together and had a lot of fun, too. Just about everybody stayed after the service and joined in the fellowship meal downstairs as well. Someone counted 144! A big thank you to Wendy Clough,

who organized, cooked and served all of that delicious food. She had a lot of help, especially from her mother Peggy, Bernice Jackson and Tim Bayer. Due to their responsibilities they were not able to be in the service upstairs, but we couldn't have done it without them. Praise the Lord for all who had a part in the proceedings. A special thanks to Ray Sommers, who chaired the 60th Anniversary Committee. I encourage you to read his article on page 1. Andy Wagner put together a wonderful slide show that many of you have asked about. He was able to put those pictures on our website, as well as other things relating to the celebration. Please take a few minutes to check it out at FBCNE.org.

We were especially blessed to have Pastor Phil Meekins, of New Beginnings Fellowship Church, as our keynote speaker. Brother Phil had been a vital part of our church for over a decade, serving as Sunday school teacher, youth director, trustee, deacon and other things along the way. For the past five years he has been a bi-vocational pastor, planting that church in our community. We were glad to hear an update of that work. They are now a fully constituted church, reaching many persons for Christ and are now a contributing and cooperating Southern Baptist Church. Praise the Lord. They have helped so many men and women struggling with addictions. They operate several half way houses for both men and women, and conduct a 12-step recovery program called *Celebrate Recovery*.

Now we begin on the next 60 years, should the Lord tarry.

I will be taking the teens to snow camp over the New Year's

as

as made by all who attend. 
May God bless you all this

Christmas and into the New Year.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steven D Hokuf

Acorn (continued from page 1)

Soon, I was asked to teach the 3rd grade class. I loved it and did it for years. My children grew, and I grew closer to God. In the 1970s, my children were all older and restless in adult worship. I prayed for there to be something for the kids. That's when Children's Worship was born. Earl Simmers came and trained a staff. I took the training but did not volunteer. My children loved it, and I loved sitting in adult worship. However, that didn't last long. I could hear the music and wanted to be downstairs. I volunteered to be a helper, "crowd control", encouraging the children to sit quietly.

Soon after that, our Children's Worship leaders resigned. I started to fill in with the help of our deacons. I worked with many wonderful workers; Patsy Delp, Hazel Manul, Kathy Gray, Ray Sommers, Robert Hudler Sr., and Elwood Foster. Soon I became the Activities Director, with Ray Sommers as our leader. Patsy, Kathy and Hazel were in charge of

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An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

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of North East

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Find us on Facebook

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Tim Bayer, Youth Associate

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Editor/Ministry Assistant

Mailing Assistants: Lois Bevins, Carol Evans,
Linda Gocolinski, Jimmy Hall, Bernice Jackson,



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS Sunday Nov. 20 @ 10 AM





December Events

- 24 **7:30 PM** Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
25 **Merry Christmas!!!**
10:30 AM Combined
Service. NO Sunday
School & NO Youth.
28 NO Kids Klub
30 **4 PM** Youth leave for
reBoot @ Skycroft.

December Birthdays

- 1 Wendy Clough
Ellen VanSice
3 Ronald Johnson
Jason Weicksel
4 Dave VanSice
7 Olivia Blades
8 Evelyn Neaves
9 Darrell Hamilton
Ken Hodanics, Jr.
Grace Shores
10 Eden Marvel
12 Kevin Gill
14 Joshua Baez
Peggy Clough
15 Rebecca Bibey
16 Carol Loving
Blake Milburn
Violet Osborne
18 Mararita Jackson
Samantha Johnston
Lucias Sanders
19 David Naggie
Ashley Sexton
20 David Arthur, Jr.
Wayne Lannen
21 Sylvia Hobson
23 Joseph Clemons

- 24 Bessie Finnefrock
25 Stephanie Roman
26 Richard Meekins
27 Katie Ayers
Dean Finnefrock
Tina Gibson
Sharon Hodanics
Melissa (Perry) Lannen
Robert Roman
Angela Whitmore
28 Donald Boan
Craig Hudler
Eric Jackson
Kayla Lewis
Kelly Meekins
29 John David Hamilton
30 Vicki Chestnut
31 Karen Brown

December Anniversaries

- 5 Gregory & Danita Walker
6 Dorsey & Jane Brandenburg
9 Brad & Jessica Holland
10 Larry & Linda Thornton



- Duane & Faye Combs
Craig & Audrey (Beman)
Hammond
18 Timothy & Amanda
(Leffew) Smith
21 Mike & Cheryl Marvel
29 Andy & Jess Wagner

January Events

- 1 **Pastor Dan Mohler**
preaching @ both services.
9:30 AM Breakfast.
12 PM Youth return from
reBoot @ Skycroft.
4 Deacons Mtg following
6:30PM Prayer/Bible
Study
8 Communion Sunday
11 Business Mtg following
6:30PM Prayer/Bible
Study
22 February *Lamplighter*
articles due.
29 **7:30 PM** Deacons Mtg
Video #5 *Pentecost* from
The Mission of Jesus

January Birthdays

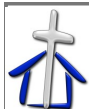
- 1 Dorcas Deaver
2 Don Lawrence
Asia Lewis
4 Ed Evans
Ben Hokuf
5 Rosetta (Ewing) Barnes
Amanda Hobson
9 Michele (Chesnet) Beck
Sarah Cain
Amber Rhoades
Stacie Marie Rhoades
11 Sandy Jackson
12 Brad Holland
13 Melissa Deaver
Aaron Simpkins
Mike Strohecker
14 Wanda Hollerman
Folashade Johnson-Aremu
Jess Wagner
15 Abigail Hilaman
16 S.J. Hall, Jr.
17 Carl Davis
20 Sophie Hodanics
Tony Murray
21 Harold Harris, Jr.
22 Devon Short
23 Dwane (Tony) Taylor

Acorn (continued from page 2)

Our pastor had a heart for mission work and planned a trip to New York. I felt God was leading me to go, but did not know what to expect. I came home feeling more blessed than any blessing I could have been to others. I was hooked! It opened doors for me to lead mission teams to Canada, working with the Arabic Church and Pastor Walid. Each year, God provided a wonderful group of adults to go and help. I also led teams of youth to Ocean City, Maryland's Campground Mission. After 10 years, I felt God closing the doors to these ministries.

What now?

A friend advised me to take some time to "rest and pray." So that is what I did. Not knowing God had a new husband for me and after 7 years as a widow, I decided to start dating again after 40 years. Beware when asking God for a new ministry. Jim says he is my new ministry. We both love the Lord and seek his leadership. This "little acorn" has grown up and hopefully helps other "little acorns" realize that there is "great oak" inside of them, waiting to be what God has made them to be.



First Baptist Church of North East
206 Mechanics Valley Road
North East, MD 21901



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

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★ Non-Profit Org. ★
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★★★★★★★★★★

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES/EVENTS

Sunday

8:30a **WORSHIP**
9:20a **Breakfast** (1st Sun, monthly)
9:30a **Bible Study/Sunday School**
10:30a **WORSHIP/Children's Worship**
6p **Monthly** Last Sunday **WORSHIP**
6p Youth Ministry Mtgs.

Tuesday

11a Worship Committee Mtg. (4th Tues)
6p Praise & Worship Team Practice

Wednesday

6:30-7:30p Kids' Klub—grades 2-6
6:30-8p **Prayer/Bible Study**
BUSINESS Mtg (2nd Wed—after Prayer Mtg)

Thursday

10a Choir Practice



Budget/Attendance Analysis

Budget/General Fund
Weekly Average as of
12/11/16(50 wks): **\$3,697.**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,603.**

Budget Status: **\$6,130.**

PARKING LOT FUND
received to date: **\$33,640.**

We have 3 revised parking lot
fund goals: **\$20,000** (Praise
the Lord); **\$30,000** (Glory
to God); **\$40,000**
(Hallelujah!).

Average morning worship