



# Western Mountains Baptist Church News

## Pastor Tom's Corner



One of my favorite events in the church is when we get to celebrate the Baptism of a new believer, or even better, someone who has declared their faith for many years, but has not yet “taken the plunge”. Why is this such a time of celebration? I am glad you asked.

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change in our lives as believers. We are telling the world that we have come to understand our need for a Savior, and that this Savior is Jesus Christ. We are saying that we want to follow the example of Christ Jesus and do what Jesus did at the beginning of His ministry.

We are saying that we want to die to sin; that we want to die to self-rule and self-reign, and we want to instead rise again in newness of life. We want to be made ready to serve the God that saved us from eternal damnation – eternal separation from God.

We are saying that we want to be **obedient** to the many Scripture passages that say repent and be baptized – make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The symbolism of Baptism is pretty cool when you think it through. We immerse the body in water, as if going to the grave, like Jesus went into the grave. This water symbolically washes away the sins of the world. The water represents the blood of Jesus, shed to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Then we emerge from the water, symbolically cleansed and new, just as Christ rose and came forth from the tomb. When He rose, it was forever, never to die again. He was victorious over BOTH sin and death. We now belong to God – we are now part of the family of God, sharing in the inheritance of God – eternal life in heaven.

If you have been considering entering the waters of Baptism, please come see me, and we will talk it through. The water in Embden Pond is getting warmer every day!

## Elders & Deacons

Here at Western Mountains Baptist Church we have two Elders, Dean Stanley and Jean Boucher. We also have four Deacons, Bryan Fitch, David Fletcher, Jim Cockerham and Jeff Lecander.

Have you ever wondered what are the duties and responsibilities of our elders and deacons? Recently I sat down with Dean Stanley, an elder, and Bryan Fitch, a deacon, and asked them a few questions.

Q. What are your duties as an elder? (Dean)

A. I know what it involves but I’m still learning what that looks like. I see my duties primarily as trying to tend to the spiritual needs of the church, which means praying and preaching, when I’m called upon to do that. Also pastoral support, I’m here for Pastor Tom as well.

Q. How were you chosen to be an elder?

A. I was approached by Pastor Tom about being an elder. He asked if I would be interested and I was. And presumably there was a vote among the leadership and among the church.

Q. Is that how elders are typically chosen?

A. We don’t look at the leadership team as being carved in stone, it’s a fluid thing. I think all of us watch for gifting. For instance when we are selecting a new elder, the present elders and pastor would pray about it, discuss it and then vote.

Q. Have you had any formal training in theology?

*(Continued on page 3)*



Left to Right: David, Jean, Tom, Jim, Bryan, Dean

Jeff Lecander absent at time of photo.

Thank you for partnering with us!

**His Hands Support Ministries (HSM)** works alongside Christian brothers and sisters offering support and encouragement to others in impoverished nations. I would like to thank everyone at WMBC for prayers, financial support and sponsorship of children and widows.

In the last 3 years, I have enjoyed going to Haiti, Indonesia and Kenya. Currently, I am the coordinator for the Kenya program. This program ministers to widows who live in the outskirts of small villages and to children who need help to attend school.

Anyone interested in going to Kenya in August or serving in any of the other third world countries, please see me, I will be happy to talk with you. We always need help. If you are unable to travel, please consider sponsoring.

—Written by Shelly Zoebisch

*“As for me, since I am poor and needy, let the Lord keep me in His thoughts. You are my helper and my savior. O my God do not delay.” Psalm 40:17*



We love our **Youth Group** program here at WMBC.

Our main mission is to win souls to Christ! We always say "Know the King, serve His Kingdom!"

We welcome any and all

youth ages 12-17, who come through the doors. We invite them to learn & respond to the Gospel personally, to be involved in fellowship & community of the church, and to learn about serving one another in love.

Youth group meets every Thursday night from 6-7:30pm. We invite you to follow our Facebook page—Western Mountain Baptist **Youth Group**.

**Youth Group** nights may include, but not be limited to: worship, fellowship, prayer requests, food, games, movie night, contests, garden planting & harvesting!

Once a month we have a Special Thursday which could include: Pizza, Bowling, or a Field trip. We also do service & community projects.

Thank you for all your prayers & support to further our **Youth Group** here at our church. It's a blessing to watch the youth grow in Christ!

For more information call 860-6205 or email:

[westernmountainyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:westernmountainyouthgroup@gmail.com).

— Heidi & Ted Neil

### Did You Know?

The man behind the desk in the back of the sanctuary is Bryan Fitch. He heads up our **CD Ministry**, with his team of Pat, Meagan and Erin. If you miss Pastor Tom's message for any reason or would like to hear past sermons, please stop by the CD table to pick up your free CD. Some like the CDs in order to hear the message a second time or to share it with a friend or family member. Bryan also keeps a mailing list for folks who want to receive the weekly messages via mail---again at no charge. Recorded CDs are available immediately following the service. Another option to listen to a missed sermon is to check it out on our website: [www.westernmountainchurch.org](http://www.westernmountainchurch.org). If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or how you can help, please talk to Bryan on any Sunday morning or call him at home, 684-3000. He is always looking to add to his mailing list or to have others share in the responsibilities of running the **CD Ministry**.

*“I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.”*

— 1 Corinthians 9:23

Vacation Bible School was held June 24—28, 2019. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this a fantastic week!





Approximately 25 women enjoyed a **Ladies' Spring Brunch** on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Besides good food and fabulous fellowship we were reminded by speaker, Kay Sawyer, that God never leaves us, even in our darkest of times. Everyone went home with a hand-crafted flower and an encouraging word.

*(Continued from page 1)*

A. I have not. I have been walking with Jesus for a long time and I've been reading the Bible for a long time. I had two Bible courses in college. One was called Old Testament Survey and the other had to do with the New Testament.

Q. What kind of concerns or questions can a person come to you with?

A. I would hope that people would come to me with any questions or concerns of any type. What I hope that they would expect is that I would be approachable. That I could keep a confidence and that I would not overreact to a situation. An elder should be able to be approached with any kind of question at all. If I felt it was necessary to discuss it with someone else, I would get their permission prior to doing that.

Q. Would you like to add anything?

A. I am so thankful for this church and I'm so thankful for our pastor. I love this place. I love these people and it's an honor to be able to serve in any capacity.



Q. What are the duties of a deacon? (Bryan)

A. We're here to take care of the widows and the orphans and to help those that are in need.

Q. And that means?

A. If somebody has a house that they need some help on, we go help. If they've got firewood to be done, we go help with that. If they need financial help we're here to help with some of that.

Q. So if someone contacted you, you would go to?

A. I would go to the other Deacons, and we'd pray and discuss what we had to do.

Q. How were you chosen to be a deacon?

A. That was God's calling. When we built the church Pastor Tom came and asked me if I'd be interested in doing that. I was shocked but I told him, yeah - I would, 'cause I was called to do what God told me to do. If that's one of my callings then that's what I'll do.

Q. What kind of questions or concerns can a person come to you with?

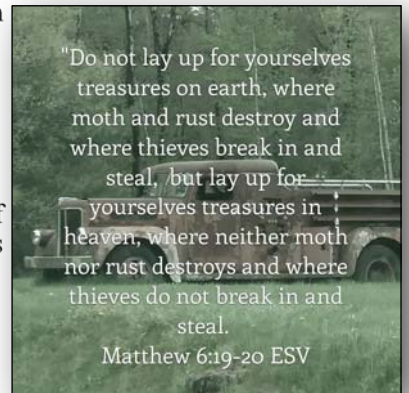
A. Just about anything. If they need help with the Bible, or financial help.

Q. Is there anything you'd like to add?

A. I enjoy doing what the Lord has me doing, helping those who need help. That was one of my callings long before I became a Christian, I was taught how to help my neighbor and reach out to people. I thank God for training me back before I was even saved to do stuff like that. That's a gift that He gave me before I got saved. Now that I am saved, I use it for His Glory, not my glory.

Thank you to our **Elders and Deacons.**

*Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. --- James 4:14*



— Interview by Pat Pray

## How to Stay Connected During the Week

### Small Group Bible Studies

#### Monday:

6:30pm—Men's Bible Study

#### Tuesday:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 5:30pm—Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship

#### Wednesday:

9am—Ladies Bible Study—On Break for the Summer

#### Thursday:

6-7pm Potluck Supper followed by 7pm Bible Study at Bryan & Crystal Fitch's home (207-684-3000)

6pm—7:30pm Youth Group (207-446-8082)

#### Saturday:

6pm Intercessory Prayer Meeting

*"Share each other's burdens and in this way obey the law of Christ. " — Galatians 6:2*

## What's Happening @ WMBC

### July

2nd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

6th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

7th—Lord's Supper

16th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

20th—Kingfield Days (9a-3p)

Bounce House, Popcorn, Sno-Cones on Depot Street

21st—Canoe, Kayak, Float down Kennebec River

27th—Bridging the Gap

### August

3rd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

6th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

20th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

24th—Bridging the Gap

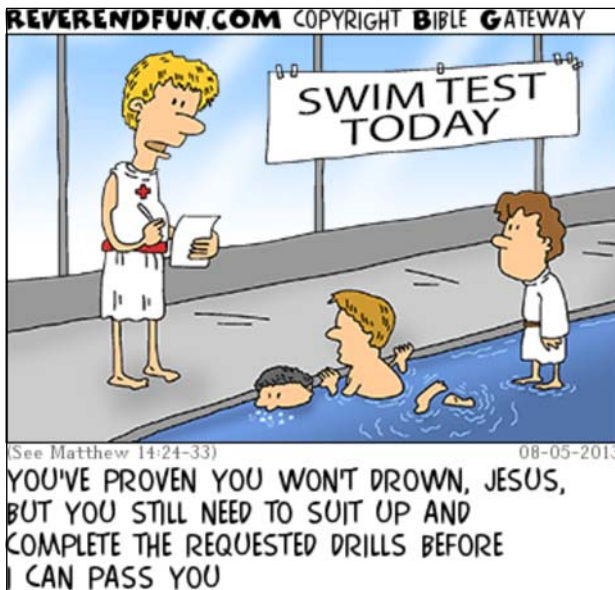
### September

7th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

10th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

17th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

28th—Bridging the Gap



We are looking for contributions & ideas for future newsletters. If you have ideas to share, please contact the Newsletter production team of Crystal Fitch, Pat Pray or Luci Milewski or email: [newsletter@westernmountainchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@westernmountainchurch.org)

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