



# WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH



## PT Corner

### NEW LIFE

Summer in Maine is pretty tough to beat. From the perspective of our Church, it often signals the time of year when we celebrate New Life, through **Baptism**. 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 God has called us out of darkness, and into His marvelous Light! God has shown us our need for a Savior, and that this Savior is Jesus Christ. We are demonstrating 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. In fact, we can look to the Great Commission, found in **Matthew 28, verse 19**, where Jesus tells this to His disciples: **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

The symbolism of **Baptism** is quite descriptive 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!

## If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.  
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there,  
That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare!  
But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,  
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard -  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Would you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you -  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?  
Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table Grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,  
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,  
Or would you hope they'd stayed away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.

Author unknown

**So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” - Galatians 3:26-27**

## Maine Baptist Association Roof Project

MEBA is one of our regular **Support Ministries**. They were in need of assistance to complete the new roof on their church building in Augusta. Pastor Tom and several volunteers from WMBC as well as Pastor Paul King and members of Set Free Church in Skowhegan participated. Here are a few pictures . . .



## Ladies Sewing Class

The Tuesday morning sewing group presented Betsy with a one-of-kind, made-with-love quilt made by first-time and seasoned veteran quilters!

We meet Tuesdays at 9am with Kathy McClure—our resident expert extraordinaire! We would love to have you join us.



Back Row: Jackie Kennedy, Crystal Fitch, Janet Scolerio, Pat Pray

Front Row: Kathy McClure, BJ Smith, Kay Sawyer, Betsy DuBois

Missing: Jean Sawtell

Photo by: Elizabeth Davis



## Did You Know?

There are people praying for you during the Sunday morning service? Every Sunday, there are 2-4 people outback in the **Prayer Room** eagerly praying over the service, for our pastor and his family, for individual requests made known from the tear-offs on the bulletin, for our country, our president, military and anything else that is in their hearts. If you believe in the power of prayer and want to be included in the prayer team, please reach out to Bryan or Crystal Fitch to get signed up. Also, if you want others to join you in your personal prayers, please make it known by writing it out and placing in one of the two prayer boxes. Prayer requests can also be sent directly to Pastor Tom via the WMBC website, under the Contact Us tab, [www.westernmountainschurch.org](http://www.westernmountainschurch.org).

**“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,”**

**- Ephesians 6:18**

## New Members!

Please welcome Chuck and Chris Gallup our newest members here at WMBC. When you enter the church building on Sunday mornings you can find Chuck handing out the bulletins. He is also one of our newest Trustees (along with Milt Sinclair). Chris helps out with nursery on Sunday mornings and adds a helping hand to Fellowship meals as well as an addition to the Newsletter Team.



## Walk For Life

Several months ago, during one of our monthly ministry meetings, Jim Cockerham brought to our attention an organization that was looking for supporters—the **First Choice Pregnancy Center** in Waterville. To be honest, I didn't even know such an organization existed but I was instantly on board to come along side any ministry working to save lives from abortion. I was deeply moved by Wendy Merrill's presentation in January, and thanks to frequent travels to Waterville for orthodontist appointments, was able to deliver the baby bottles that our church members filled during our January fundraiser. Erin and I were given a tour of the facility, and although the building itself is quite small, this group of mostly volunteers has utilized the space quite well. I was moved by the work these men and women were doing, and I asked, "How can I be more involved? What else can we do to help?" I found out that they were in the process of organizing their annual fundraising walk in May, and were looking for walkers and sponsors. I had never been involved in anything like this before and there was a little trepidation on my part to sign up, but my girls had no such fears. "We want to do this," they said, "it will be fun!" I called Wendy, and she very graciously answered all of my questions, and by the end of that week, we were all signed up and ready to go. Now to find sponsors! This is where I am super thankful for the announcement guys on Sunday.



"Hey, Jim, (since this all started with him anyway) would you mind announcing this walk that's happening in May, and just tell people if they're interested, come talk to me?" So now it was just a matter of waiting for people to come to me, right? Enter Pat Pray. I learned quite a bit about Pat during this endeavor. She approached me the next Sunday and asked if I was still looking for people to walk with, and I said, "Yes! The more, the merrier!" I arrived at Bible Study the following Wednesday to find Pat going around the table with her sponsor sheet, asking for donations, and I jokingly was like, "Hey, what are you doing, taking all my sponsors?" Her reply was something like, "all's fair in love and war." I may not have that word for word but the meaning behind it was clear—if you want to beat me at this, you better get a move on! Challenge accepted! I'm honestly still not sure which of us ended up with the most, but it was a fun competition all the same!



Wendy Merrill - Executive Director

Marie Meagher - Client Advocate

The morning of the **Walk for Life** finally arrived. The forecast was calling for a beautiful day, and my girls and I got up early, wolfed down some breakfast and hit the road, then picked Pat up in Madison. We arrived at the Getchell St. Baptist Church around 8:30 and headed inside to get registered. Upon entering, we were greeted by two young ladies who handed each of us a gift bag with some refreshments and **First Choice** merchandise. We were quite early and made our way to the sanctuary to wait for it all to begin. There were approximately 70-100 people of all ages, men and women, several with infants in strollers and wagons, all showing up to show their support for life. After opening in prayer and a few announcements, Wendy stood and reminded us from God's Word of the importance of what we were doing. **Genesis 1:27 "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"** - all human beings were

created in the image of God. **Psalm 139:13 "You formed my inward parts, you wove me in my mother's womb"**—all human beings, from the moment of conception have the right to life. **Proverbs 6:16,17 "Six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him...hands that shed innocent blood."** And should we not be protecting the innocent from those who would shed their blood? She reminded us of where our government stands on this issue, quoting our own governor, who has made it clear that one of her goals in her administration is to provide easier access to abortions and to "protect a woman's right to choose." She encouraged us to continue the fight against these atrocities, **2 Corinthians 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God..."** **Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."** **2 Corinthians 4:16,18 "Therefore we do not lose heart...We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."** There were several moments of prayer throughout this time, prayers for those serving on the front lines, prayers for the young women who are facing these choices today, prayers for healing and forgiveness for those who bear the scars of abortion, pray-





ers for our government, and prayers of encouragement to not lose heart, to continue on with what we know is right.

And then it was time to walk! What an encouragement to be in the midst of a large group of people, proudly wearing their "Discover Hope" t-shirts as we paraded through downtown Waterville. As we walked, we discovered that someone had gone ahead of us the night before and had drawn encouraging messages on the sidewalks throughout our route. "Rejoice in the Lord always" one said, while another said, "Grow in His Word." As we continued on it started to get hot and we wondered if we were almost there yet, we found other messages that said "Don't give up!" "You're almost done!" and the last one, as we turned back onto Getchell Street and the church was finally in sight "Thank you for walking!" We did it!! We completed our Walk for Life! We then went inside for a quick picture and then headed for home, a little tired, but feeling encouraged and blessed by the experience.

We found out later that the grand total of funds raised was \$25,300, the greatest amount ever raised at any of their walks! The best part of the whole experience was being surrounded by other believers from all over the state of Maine and being an encouragement to each other, knowing we are making a difference in someone's life, whether it be through the money raised, or just by walking down

the street and shining the light of Christ. If it means that one person comes to know the Lord or one more innocent life is saved, then it was definitely worth it, and an experience that I plan on being a part of next year, Lord willing.

So, here's my challenge. Is there some ministry or mission that God has laid on your heart that you have a burden for? What one step can you take to support it? Sometimes it's donations, sometimes it's prayer, but sometimes it's stepping outside our comfort zone and doing something we've never done before. If God has laid it on your heart, step out and do it! You never know how it will touch someone else's life and I guarantee it will touch yours!

When writing this article, I reached out to Wendy Merrill and asked if there were any specific things they needed right now that we could help with. This was her response:

**Prayer Requests:**

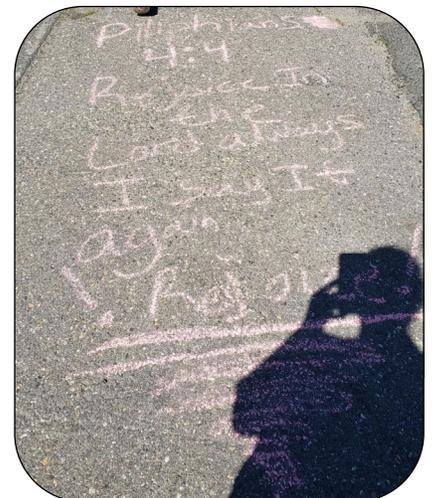
- God to lead us to a new location in/near downtown Waterville in order to be more visible and reach more abortion-minded people.
- Wisdom as we add STI/STD testing to our services (this is likely several months away) • We need more regular volunteers
- For open doors as we (once again) venture to go into schools to teach Sexual Risk Avoidance (abstinence!). We have done this before a few times but the people who were trained to do this have moved away or aren't able to do it any longer.
- Please continue to pray for this organization and the ongoing effort to preserve the sanctity of life.

**"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;" Jeremiah 1:5**

— submitted by Nicole Fletcher



\$365.55 raised in our May "Mother's Day" fundraiser!



## Kid's Corner - Play Ball !!!!

Do you like to play ball? There are many kinds to play: baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, basketball, and so on. But when we hear the words "Play Ball", we think of baseball. This is the season for the game. Everyone from 3-year old Johnny to the major league players on TV are enjoying the sport.

I got to think how playing baseball is like being a follower of Jesus.

There are many kinds of ball players:

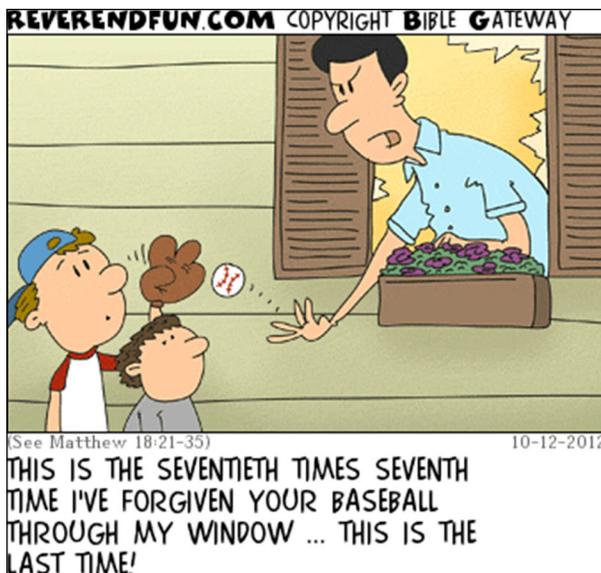
- Ones who don't care about playing baseball but do it for their parents or friends.
- Ones who make you think they play because they know about baseball and might even wear a baseball jersey.
- Ones who watch a lot of baseball on TV, go to the local games, and know all the facts about the game.
- Ones who actually put on the glove and go play ball.

Now lets take those four kinds of "players" and see how they are like some followers of Jesus:

- Are you one of those who go to Sunday School or church because your parents make you? You don't pay attention and aren't interested in learning more about Jesus.
- Do you dress the part and make everyone think that you love Jesus because you know some Bible stories?
- Do you love Jesus but sit on the sidelines watching? You don't tell others about Him. You never get into the game.
- **Be a player!** Get into the game and tell others how much you love Jesus and want them to know him too.

Enjoy baseball this summer and be the best player you can. Also ask God to help you be a faithful, active follower of Him.

— George Woodford



Congratulations to our  
2021 **Graduates!**



Ethan Cockerham  
Lilian Bertl Cui  
Declan Stanley

## WMBC Scholarship

Congratulations to Declan Stanley, son of Dean & Annette Stanley and grandson of George Woodford and Cecile Stanley. Declan is the winner of the 2021 **WMBC Scholarship**. He graduated from Mt. Abram High School on June 12th in the top 10 of his class and will be attending UMO in the fall.





### Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

- Mondays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors
- Mondays @ 6:30pm—Men's Bible Study
- Tuesday @ 9:00am—Ladies Sewing Class
- Wednesdays @ 6:00pm—Adult Bible Study
- Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors
- Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

### Exciting News!

**Nursery & Children's Church** is once again being offered during the 10am service beginning June 19th.

Nursery: ages birth—3-years old

Children's Church: age 4 to 3rd grade

See Betsy DuBois or Annette Stanley for more information.



When you walk  
with God,  
the impossible  
becomes possible.

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@westernmountainschurch.org](mailto:newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org)

### What's Happening @ WMBC

#### July

- 3rd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 4th—Lord's Supper during regular service
- 4th—Happy Independence Day
- 6th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 10th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 20th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 24th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 25th—River Rafting—after church
- 31st—Bridging the Gap

#### August

- 1st—Lord's Supper
- 3rd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 7th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 14th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 17th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 28th—Bridging the Gap
- 28th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

#### September

- 4th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 5th—Lord's Supper
- 6th—Labor Day
- 7th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 8th—Women's Bible Study resumes @ 9am
- 11th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 21st—Pastor, Elders, Deacons 20th—Father's Day
- 25th—Bridging the Gap
- 25th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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