



# WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

## PT Corner

There is an old saying that I can relate to that goes like this – time flies when you are having fun. This September marks my 15<sup>th</sup> year as the Pastor at Western Mountains Baptist Church (hired as the interim Pastor in September of 2006). And in October, our church will celebrate 10 years in our building. And, though it has not always been easy, I can say that most of it has been FUN!



One thing I have noticed in all my years in church, we are not great at celebrating milestones. Even though the Bible describes many instances of celebrating milestones – such as the Feasts and Festivals set up in Jewish culture! The Bible sets before us this concept of remembrance. Yet, as a church we have not always celebrated the milestones that have been reached within this body of believers.

We plan to change some of that. This October, we will celebrate together the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our “new” location – our “new” building.



Think this through with me. A small congregation that had 40 to 60 people on a given Sunday, saw the need to be in our own space, and no longer in the Kingfield Elementary School. This small congregation, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, began to plan, to fundraise, and most importantly, to pray.



Property was purchased. Plans were drawn. Volunteer groups were secured. Money was raised. In the Fall of 2010, a driveway and parking lot was constructed, as was the septic system. In the Spring of 2011, a frost wall and slab were poured.

In the first week of June, Mobile Baptist Builders showed up with 70 volunteers from all over the Country. Construction was begun on Saturday morning, and by the end of the day, exterior walls were already up. By Tuesday, roof trusses were being set. By the end of the day on Thursday, the building was completely “in the dry”, with a roof on, and the windows and doors installed.



A week later, the foam insulation in the walls had been completed, and Builders for Christ from Maryland landed with 60 plus volunteers. These folks sided the building, constructed interior walls, and hung the sheetrock throughout the building.



Four more much smaller crews would come and help through the summer – one from Virginia, two from Massachusetts, and the last one from Connecticut.



Something close to 400 volunteers, representing 23 different states, assisted us in this endeavor. But the piece that I remember best is the time and dedication put in by our own people. From housing many of these volunteers from “away”, to spending time on the construction, to praying “without ceasing”, our congregation was fully engaged.



That is what we need to celebrate. A people fully dedicated to seeing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ spread through whatever means He has laid before us. 10 years ago, that was through a building that we said would be a hospital for the soul.

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## Annual River Raft Trip

Bright sunshine, crisp blue skies, gentle currents, great food and fellowship. It was a perfect Sunday afternoon for drifting down the clear waters of the Kennebec! We are so grateful for the generosity and hospitality of the Dunphy's for hosting the fifth annual river rafting event. **"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."** - 1 John 4:11-13



## Service Ministry

**Acts 20:35: It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

The WMBC Service Ministry, is currently under the leadership of Bryan Fitch, David Fletcher and Jeff Smith. It was established about 15 years ago to provide a variety of services to folks in the local communities. While attending a Men's Conference, Bryan and Jeff Lecander heard about other churches providing such services and decided to form a Service Ministry here at WMBC. As a type of outreach program, the Service Ministry offers assistance in many ways and not limited to: minor home repairs and painting, moving from one place to another, assistance with physical needs, meals if needed, snow removal as well as assisting other area churches with revitalization of their physical structure as a means of support for their community. The ministry is composed of a group of volunteers, some with carpentry skills, and others with skills who can put together a project from start to finish, and then others who bring it all together and complete the project. This time of year and right at the top of the Service Ministry "list of things to do" is to provide fuel assistance in the form of firewood to those in need. Firewood, to many of us who live in the western mountains of Maine, is not only the main source of heat in our homes but is also a backup source of heat in times of power outages. Not many of us burn wood for ambiance. The volunteer team cuts, splits (with two wood splitters) and stacks it, and if need be, delivers any donated wood to families who want firewood. Volunteers also help the Economic Ministry in Salem with their firewood needs which includes a community fuel assistance program. The firewood volunteer team enjoys this outdoor service ministry as it provides not only time together with members of the church but also as a way to reach out and connect with friends and neighbors in our local communities. In the words of Jeff Smith, "It's great to be able to draw on the skills and talents of the congregation. We are here to help so we hope people take advantage of this opportunity."



Window Replacement at Dunn's Corner



Moving the Hellie's



Painting at the Dunphy's



And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

To contact the Service Ministry team at WMBC, connect with Bryan, David or Jeff or the Deacon of the Month at 265-2557.

— Becki Brown

## From a Kitchen to a Sanctuary

by Dot Lambert

with Pat Pray and Chris Gallup



Western Mountains Baptist Church is celebrating its 10th anniversary in its “new church building”. It doesn’t seem possible but it’s been a happy journey.

In September 2002 a few local families from Stratton, Salem and Kingfield met at Webster Hall to discuss the beginning of a new church plant in the town of Kingfield. These families were attending Farmington Baptist Church under Earl Edgerly’s pastorate. We were blessed by this ministry and were wishing to have midweek get-togethers without driving to Farmington. Pastor Earl was willing to come to Kingfield and hold a midweek service around Dot and Maurice Lambert’s kitchen table. Pam and Luke Brochu offered their basement for youth group activities. Pam and Luke, Windy and Jean Boucher, Melanie and Roger Meldrum, Denise and Ryan Lilly, and Linsey Mallar took turns leading the weekly youth group that eventually grew to 50 participants.



Pastor Earl then agreed to hold Sunday Evening services at Kingfield Elementary School until a permanent pastor could be called. The group, known as the Kingfield Outreach Ministry, held their first service on October 13, 2002.

On August 24, 2003 Pastor Earl shared that he’d like to see us a little more organized. The following officers were identified: serving as elders were Richard and Maurice Lambert. (already serving at Farmington Baptist); deacons were Roger Meldrum, Jean Boucher, Jeff Lecander.; trustees were Jim McClure, Luke Brochu, and Maurice Lambert (treasurer); women’s ministry and clerk was Dot Lambert.



It was at this meeting that the question was brought up around the kitchen table “when do we want to incorporate to become a church “? We would be considered a sister church to Farmington Baptist Church. Pastor Earl thought Western Mountains Baptist Church would be a good name and that it would show our intention to be an outreach ministry. The membership voted and it was unanimous.

We met in several places, First Baptist, Kingfield Elementary Gym, and Webster Hall. Windy taught children’s church while Shauna Breglio and Clair Lambert provided worship music as the church continued to meet. Shortly afterward, Linda and Alan Stewart joined the worship team.

On August 14, 2004, after meeting for some time for weekly Bible study around the kitchen table, pastor Earl thought it was time to have a separate place to worship. People gave their input and a committee was chosen to find a building available.

On August 25, 2004 Maurice and Pastor Earl met with Superintendent Quentin Clark at his office. Mr. Clark gave the go ahead to prepare the building for a WMBC meeting place, rent-free for one year. Our first meeting at the Superintendent’s Building was on Sept. 5, 2004.



In May of 2005, the church voted to hire Aaron Shorey as the full-time pastor of WMBC. When the agreement with the Superintendent expired, WMBC returned to the Kingfield Elementary School gym. The first service occurred on 9/11/2005 with 51 in attendance, followed by a fellowship meal.



On this same day the following people became charter members of WMBC: Pam and Luke Brochu, Melanie and Roger Meldrum, Ellinda Meldrum, Jocelyn Meldrum, Silas Meldrum, Doris and Clifford Stone, Dottie Stone, Windy and Jean Boucher, Dorothy and Maurice Lambert, Denise and Ryan Lilly, Heather and Aaron Shorey, Kathy and James McClure, Linda and Alan Stewart, Bonnie and Duane Ellis, Christopher Ellis, Debbie and Nate Brochu, Gabrielle Brochu, Bob Baker, Heidi Baker, Jolie Baker, Michael Baker, Debbie Staier, Cheyra Staier, Brad Staier, Janet Scolerio, Tammy Thomas, Donovan Gaston, Sharon Olsen

It was in March 2006 that Pastor Aaron announced his observation that this church needs to move forward with a new leader. He was leaving to work in Bangor for Free Indeed Ministries full time. Sept. 10, 2006 a vote was taken by secret ballot and 20 votes were cast unanimously to call Tom DuBois as interim pastor. It was less than a year later (April 2007) that the WMBC members voted to call Pastor Tom as their new pastor. The church was still meeting at Kingfield Elementary School.



In the spring of 2009, through much prayer, WMBC decided to form a Building Search and Planning Committee. Church membership had grown to 65 with an average attendance of 80. Members of the committee included: Kathy and Jim McClure, Crystal and Bryan Fitch, Dee Meneer, Melanie and Roger Meldrum, Annette and Dean Stanley, Dorothy and Maurice Lambert, Ron Staier, Jean Boucher, Donovan Gaston and Pastor Tom. Also, Pam Bare was instrumental in the kitchen and interior design.



By April 2010, WMBC purchased land on Route 27 in New Portland. The "Building Up, Reaching Out" Capital Campaign, led by Jim Cockerham, kicked off in May 2010. Many dedicated people from the congregation, the community, local businesses, local churches as well as churches from states



across the country volunteered countless hours (see Pastor Tom's article). The building was completed in time for WMBC to have their first service on September 18, 2011 with over 100 people in attendance. The Dedication Service followed on October 8.

It's been an effortful but joyful journey from the kitchen table at the Lambert's to our current home on Rte. 27 in New Portland. Come celebrate the Lord's faithfulness with us on October 24, 2021 at 10:00 am as we reflect on His goodness. All are welcome to attend a "Giving Thanks" feast after the service.

**"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5**



## Kid's Corner — Testing, Testing



Do you know what this is? It's not really a spider; it has a special name. It's a daddy longlegs.

There is something special about the way daddy longlegs walks. The next time you see one, watch it very closely.

You see, daddy longlegs has eyes on top of its body, and it looks up rather than forward. It can't see where its going. So, it usually walks quite slowly.

But God gave it special testing legs. If you would look closely at it, you can see that one pair of legs in the front is longer than all the others. These legs are very sensitive; they help daddy longlegs feel, smell, and taste everything around it.

When daddy longlegs walks, it puts out this pair of legs first. It tests everything nearby with these legs. If it touches something that is not good for it, it avoids that thing. If it touches something that it knows is good, like good food or a sturdy place to walk, it will hang onto that good thing. Watch daddy longlegs walk sometime, and you'll see it testing everything with those special legs.

And as you watch, you can think that that's the way God wants you to test things. God tells us to test everything, to hold onto the good and avoid bad things. God gave us special testers, too, didn't he? He gave us brains, and he wants us to use them to test things.

We can test people. Think a minute about one of your friends. Is it someone who helps you do good things? Good! Or is it someone who gets you into trouble?

We can test actions. A playmate says to you, "Let's go play in the street." Think a minute. Is that a good or a bad thing to do?

We can even test ideas. I'll give you two. We should love people. We should be mean to people. Think a minute about which idea is the best. Now you tested two ideas. You should throw out the bad one and hold onto the good one.

That's what God wants us to do in all things. Keep testing, testing, testing. Hold onto what is good. Avoid whatever is bad. Just like daddy longlegs tests everything it touches, so we should test everything that touches our lives.

— George Woodford

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What will it be in our near future? To what will we dedicate our time, our talents, and our resources? Friends, the needs are great! Ministry to our young people needs volunteers to lead our Youth Group to new heights. Our Sunday School needs helpers at all levels, and a teacher for the third through sixth grade class. We need to disciple our young people!

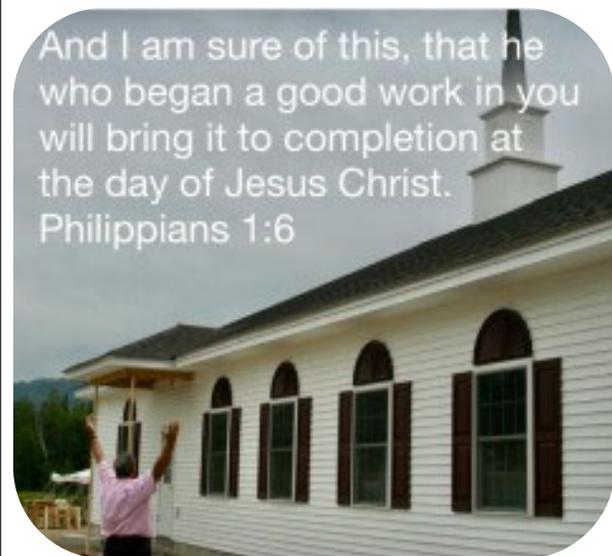
What can we be doing to disciple the parents of smaller children? What can we do to minister the elderly, beyond Bridging the Gap? How can we challenge our people to roll up their sleeves and get involved? What can

we be doing to evangelize Kingfield, New Portland, Carrabassett Valley, Stratton, Freeman, Salem, Strong, Phillips, New Vineyard, and communities beyond?

What will we do tomorrow, that we can celebrate it in ten years? And what will be your role in it? I look forward to collectively putting our shoulders to the plow, and doing what God is calling us to do, together.

From **John 4:35** *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."*

And from **Luke 10:2** *"And He was saying to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"*





### Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

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

### October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Let Pastor Tom and Betsy know  
that they are appreciated!

Sunday, October 24th, WMBC is hosting a **10-Year Anniversary Celebration Service and Luncheon**. Everyone is invited to help celebrate the construction of the church that happened 10 years ago. There will be opportunities to learn the history of WMBC from its beginning in 2002, current happenings, a building tour, activities for children, plans for the future and a “Giving Thanks” luncheon! There is no charge to attend. Once a schedule for the day is completed, you will be able to find that information on the WMBC website calendar.

### Did You Know?

In addition to the physical library here at WMBC, we have an abundant of video resources available to anyone affiliated with Western Mountains Baptist Church. **RightNow Media** is a “streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible study videos.” Study topics include apologetics, parenting, marriages, women and men’s Bible studies, plus more. WMBC pays a small yearly fee to enable us free access to a large variety of online education, support and encouragement. There is no cost to download **RightNow Media**. Go to [westernmountainschurch.org](http://westernmountainschurch.org) and you’ll find **RightNow Media** under the Media tab.



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, Chris Gallup or Luci Milewski or email:  
[newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org](mailto:newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org)

### What’s Happening @ WMBC

#### October

- 1st—Drive-in Movie “*The Ultimate Gift*”
- 2nd—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 3rd—Lord’s Supper during regular service
- 5th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 9th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 12th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 23rd—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 24th—10-Year Anniversary Celebration Service & Luncheon—theme “Giving Thanks”
- 26th—Pastor, Elder’s, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 30th—Bridging the Gap

#### November

- 2nd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 6th—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 7th—Lord’s Supper
- 9th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 13th—Ladies Fall Tea @ 1pm
- 23d—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 25th—Thanksgiving
- 27th—Bridging the Gap

#### December

- 4th—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 5th—Lord’s Supper
- 7th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 11th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 14th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons
- 18th—Bridging the Gap
- 25th—Christmas
- 28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons

### Western Mountains Baptist Church

928 Carrabassett Rd (Rt 27), New Portland, ME 04961  
PO Box 264, Kingfield, ME 04947  
207-265-2557  
[www.westernmountainschurch.org](http://www.westernmountainschurch.org)  
[pastorwmbc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwmbc@gmail.com)