



WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 19 Fall 2023

PT Corner

Old Things Pass Away



I have said this before and I will say it again, Autumn is my favorite time of year. The weather is great, the bugs are mostly gone and the ever-changing color of the leaves is stunning in its beauty. One of the things I have heard over and over when I hear people talk about their love for different seasons is this: "Yes, the fall is great but it is also a reminder that winter is right around the corner." It is like Sunday night before a Monday morning....back to work and school. There is a sense of dread or foreboding in the air, knowing what lies ahead.

Although it is true that fall is the precursor of winter, I want us to consider another view of fall this year. One of the things fall represents is so much vegetation either going dormant or literally dying. I do not say this to make anyone sad; but to think about this. What is there in my life that needs to die in this season? Let me show you what I mean from Gods word.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans says this in chapter 8 verses 12-14.

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according the flesh 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

As we put our gardens to bed, pulling up all those plants that we have tended since Spring, I hope we also consider what we need to uproot in our own lives. As Paul puts it, putting to death the deeds of the body, the sins of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Pastor Appreciation Month
Our pastor is so special, Lord
You've groomed him from the start.
You showed him he's a sinner
He wanted a clean heart.

He invited you into his life,
As Savior and as Lord.
He grew and grew in knowledge
And obedience to your Word.

As he began his journey
With Betty at his side,
His life was full and happy,
And Allison blessed their stride.

He's always been so willing
To serve and teach and preach;
The Sunday School; the Youth Group;
All ages now, to reach.

We appreciate our Pastor Tom
He's devoted to your Word.
His messages encourage us,
Your outreach will be heard.

Thank you, Lord
AMEN

"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

Poem by Dot Lambert



Service Ministry

Support
Encouraging
Rewarding
SerVant
Unity
Caring
Fellowship



Janette Jackson's work party.



Deb Horne's work done.



May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us. Psalm 90:17

Wood Party at Carol Thomas's.

If you are in need of help, or would like to help, please see Bryan Fitch, Dave Fletcher or Jeff Smith.

River Rafting

It was a perfect day for the Annual River Rafting Event hosted by the Dunphy family. Canoes, rafts, tubes, floats and kayaks easily made their way down the high, current-swirling waters of the Kennebec River. Approximately 50 church-family members were represented in the flotilla with ages ranging from 1.5 to 89 years!



The best part of the day was the 9 baptisms of fellow believers who publicly stated their belief in Jesus Christ as the only way to heaven! Pastor then challenged us to love and encourage these family members who stepped up in faith. Congratulations to Debbie Horne, Janette Jackson, Yorn Hun, Patty Dunphy, Nathan Cornforth, Alyssa Babnaw, Lori, Chandler and Brooke Atwood.

All in all, it was a great time of food and fellowship at the BBQ that ensued afterwards. Thank you to the Dunphy family for this opportunity to enjoy such a fun event!

—Chris Gallup

Youth Group Update

Over the summer we had some fun together at an event called "Comedy & a Campfire" here at the church. We laughed together, ate nachos, roasted smores, and talked about how the world might see Jesus in us.

We had a large group outing to the Sugar Bowl and enjoyed some delicious food and made some good memories bowling together.

During our weekly discussions in Youth Group we finished up a study this summer titled "Foundations of the Faith." We've moved on to a more focused study on the book of James titled "James, a Guidebook to Spiritual Maturity," written by a personal friend and brother in Christ, Rand Hummel. Rand calls himself "a teenager with wrinkles" and has a passion for pointing teens to Christ by writing devotional studies and leading a daily devotional podcast for all ages, when he is not directing The Wilds of New England, a Christian Summer camp in NH. We are so encouraged by the weekly discussions we are having around this book with our teens.

We are thankful to have Karin and David Love, and Jim Cockerham willing to step in and teach Youth Group on the Sundays we are away or sick.

We are excited to start planning our annual New Year's Eve party hosted by the Youth Group. The biggest expense for this event is the fireworks display. Please see Jason or Marilyn if you are interested in donating toward that, or drop your donation in the offering box in an envelope marked "Fireworks." You can also mark your donation in this way if you give through the online giving platform found on westernmountainchurch.org. More (exciting!) details to come.

The school year has begun again for our young people. Whether home, private, or public schooled, there is normalcy and peace found in that familiar routine, but there are also many challenges. Would you please pray for our WMBC teens as they navigate school, extra-curriculars, the academic workload, and relationships with teachers and peers? Also pray that our teens might be set apart and a light shining for Jesus in whichever school environment they are in and be confident that God is real, loves them, and walks with them on a daily basis.

If you walk by a teen at church, ask how Youth Group is going! If they haven't been coming, please encourage them to. We meet every Sunday evening (that is not a holiday or fellowship gathering) at 6:30pm. We would love to have our Youth Room packed full on Sunday evenings. We are looking forward to a fun fall season ministering to our WMBC teens.

God Bless, Jason and Marilyn Robichaud

Now the Child continued to grow and to become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
Luke 2:40

Missions

Our missions ministry has taken on a number of projects. Here is a run-down of what has been done so far this year.

Early in 2023 we participated in a Baby Bottle Bank drive for 1st Choice Pregnancy Center. It was amazing how quickly putting change into those little banks added up. \$570.10 was donated to this mission.

Just before Easter, \$193.00 was donated to the North American Missions Board. This annual offering is named in honor of Annie Armstrong. She was instrumental in supporting missionaries who were commissioned to church planting throughout North America. That work continues today as the Southern Baptist support churches in critical need areas, until those churches are able to support themselves.

In honor of Mother's Day, we had a second Baby Bottle Bank drive for 1st Choice Pregnancy Center. This time our donations totaled \$1013.00! How wonderful!

In June, some of our missions funds were used to purchase a plane ticket for Carol Thomas, so that she could volunteer with the Mobile Baptist Builders in Alabama. I am sure you all enjoyed her article in our last newsletter.



Also in June, my sister and I had the privilege of visiting one of the churches that the mission board supports in Anchorage, Alaska. Two Baptist churches within Anchorage were on the verge of closing their doors permanently. The elders of the churches had died out and there were no younger people to pass the torch to. Thirty percent of Alaska's Southern Baptist Churches had closed within just 6 years.

The North American Mission Board sent missionaries Philip and Andi Coleman to combine what was left of the two churches into one. With God's help, the church came back to life. I am happy to report that God has rewarded our offerings and prayers.

The True North Baptist Church was filled with people of all ages, but especially young families with children. They also have a weekly service now for the Somali community. It was a great blessing to see what God is doing in Anchorage. I am confident by the numbers in attendance and their enthusiastic attitude that they will likely be self-funded soon.

It is great when God's people are able to help fund any of these endeavors. However, we understand that sometimes financial circumstances make monetary donations impossible. Please know that there are other ways to help. Get involved in a project, but most important of all, pray! Pray for our missionaries, pray for the churches that are being planted. Pray for God to touch the hearts of those hearing the Gospel.

"Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4



—Rosie Bates

A Potluck Picnic



The true potluck is usually a bit risky, but when people are sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit, we end up with a beautifully balanced meal with plenty of everything including fresh fruit and vegetables. That's what happened Sunday, August 27, after church at our potluck picnic on Gilman Pond. The weather was pleasant with enough sun and shade for everyone. We had a few takers for kayaking, and many people wandered down to the dock after lunch to enjoy the scenery. We marveled at the beautiful clouds that day, and were reminded of **Psalm 19:1.**

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork." Even Elizabeth Davis at age 89 made it down to the water's edge to get her feet wet. She was thrilled that she had come and seemed to be thankful to be alive after her experiences this summer with Covid and shingles.



A few days later, I talked with a few people who shared their impressions of that afternoon. Pat Sanders said "the food was good and it was serene and peaceful. I talked with several people that I don't usually see much of". Dot Lambert said "It was peaceful and I enjoyed the fellowship and food. I even overheard several women sharing recipes". Janette Jackson had this to say "It was so much fun! The food was delicious, everyone was in a happy mood and had a good time." John and Kathi Bennett had gone down to the dock to take pictures. They said, "We enjoyed spending time in a different setting, relaxing and getting to know people." Looking back on that afternoon Chris Gallup simply said "It was a blessing." Carter and I agree. Living near the shores of Gilman Pond has given us a respite since retiring from our stressful jobs. We thank God for his creation and opportunities to spend time enjoying nature and building friendships with fellow believers. We were happy we could share a bit of the blessing with others that day. Let's do it again some time!

—Jean Sawtell

Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

Sunday @ 9am—Sunday School—all ages

Sunday @ 10am—Church Service

Sundays @ 6:30pm—Youth Group

Mondays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

@ 6:30pm—Men's Bible Study

Tuesday @ 9:00am—Ladies Sewing Class

Wednesdays @ 9:00am—Ladies Bible Study

@ 3:00pm—Adult Bible Study (Freeman Twp)

@ 6:15pm—Discipleship Studies

Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

Women's Conference



Twelve ladies from WMBC attended the Revive Retreat at Sunday River Resort on September 15-16. There were over 200 ladies in attendance and 10 different churches represented. The theme of the weekend was Identity in Christ. It was an uplifting time full of spiritual encouragement and fellowship with other sisters in the faith.

—Mindy Rowland

Pastor Appreciation



Pastor Tom once mentioned that it would be nice to have a bunch of crocus blooming around the cross at Easter. Jean Sawtell ordered a mix of bulbs this summer when they were on sale. If anyone would like to help out in any way please see Jean or show up on Saturday, October 21st at 9:30am to help plant.



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What's Happening @ WMBC

October

1st—Lord's Supper

1st Fellowship Lunch after church ~ Woodlands Pastor to meet with CLT afterwards

3rd—Church Leadership Meeting @6:30pm

6th—Drive in Movie @7:00pm

7th—Wood Party at Salem Economic @ 8:00am

10th—Women's Ministry Meeting @ 1pm

10th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @6:30pm

12th—WMBC Seniors Ministry Meeting @ 10am

13th— Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

17th—Rug braiding class begins for 6 weeks until Nov. 14th from 9am to noon

20-21—Reload Men's Conference at Sunday River

24th—Women's Ministry Meeting @1:00pm

24th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

28th—Bridging the Gap ~ meals delivered to elderly

November

4th —Men's Breakfast @ 8am

5th — Lord's Supper

7th—Church Leadership Meeting @6:30pm

10th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

11th—Veteran's Day

14th—Women's Ministry @1pm

14th —Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

18th—Bridging the Gap ~ meals delivered to elderly

18th—CPR (9-noon) and First Aid (1-3pm)

23rd—Thanksgiving

28th—Women's Ministry @ 1pm

28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

December

2nd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

3rd—Lord's Supper

5th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

8th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

12th—Women's Ministry @ 1pm

12th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

25th—CHRISTmas

30th—Bridging the Gap ~ meals delivered to elderly

31st—New Year's Eve Party hosted by the Youth Group