



# The West Hampden Baptist Church

## MESSENGER

*"Behold, I will send my messenger..." Malachi 3:1*

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### Pastor's Corner

#### *A Godly Heritage, II Timothy 3:15*

By Michael Lynn

Paul writes this second epistle to his son in the faith to encourage him in his ministry for the Lord (II Tim. 1:13-14) and to exhort him in proclaiming the message of the Lord (II Tim. 4:1-5). The third chapter begins with Paul explaining the conditions in the last days (:1-4). He then goes on to speak of the consequences of the last days (:5-13) before closing with the consolation for the last days (:14-17). This consolation to Timothy includes a reminder to Timothy of his godly heritage. As we prepare for the beginning of our VBS over Spring break, consider the importance of a godly heritage in reaching children for Christ. Paul points out 3 things for Timothy to consider in this matter of a godly heritage in verse 15: (1) the proper start, (2) the perfect Scriptures, and (3) the personal Savior. The goal of our VBS as well as our other children's programs follows these 3 steps. We desire to reach children by encouraging the proper start, by explaining the perfect Scriptures, and by exalting the personal Savior, Jesus Christ.

We desire to reach children by encouraging the proper start > *"And that from a child..."* The key thought here is that children are *tender*. The word *"child"* is used of an unborn child in Luke 1:41 and 44 as well as of a newborn child or infant in Luke 2:12,16 and I Peter 2:2. The teaching of children cannot begin too early. Why is that? In Matthew 18:3 Jesus said, *"Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."* Consider the child's humility before God and a teacher with their willingness to learn and be taught. Note also their hunger (for God and knowledge) by this eagerness to learn and to be taught. And also consider their honesty (to God and others) by their openness to learn and to be taught.

And then we desire to reach children by explaining the perfect Scriptures > *"the Holy ("sacred") Scriptures ("gramma" - the parts of Scripture; cf. :16, "grapha" - the whole of Scripture)..."* The key thought here is that the Scriptures are *true*. "The Scriptures we are to know are the holy Scriptures; they come from the holy God, were delivered by holy men, contain holy precepts, treat of holy things, and were designed to make us

holy and to lead us in the way of holiness to happiness..." (Matthew Henry). See also verses 16-17. The perfect Scriptures are inspired (God-breathed). Compare II Peter 1:20-21 with II Samuel 23:2, *"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue."* The perfect Scriptures are infallible, that is, without error. We see this in John 17:17, *"Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth"* and Proverbs 30:5, *"Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him."* And the perfect Scriptures are instructive, that is, profitable. Consider Acts 20:32, *"...I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified"* and compare Psalm 119:130, *"The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."* "It is a great happiness to know the holy Scriptures from our children; and children should early get the knowledge of the Scriptures. The age of children is the learning, and those who would get true learning must get it out of the Scriptures" (Henry).

And also we desire to reach children by exalting the personal Savior > *"Christ*  
*(continued on page 2)*

### April Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting  
12 Missions Committee Meeting  
16 Service at Stillwater Health Care  
27 Service at Westgate Rehab

### May Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting  
10 Missions Committee Meeting  
21 Service at Stillwater Health Care  
25 Service at Westgate Rehab  
29 Memorial Day (Monday)

### June Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting  
14 Missions Committee Meeting  
18 Service at Stillwater Health Care  
22 Service at Westgate Rehab  
25 Non Financial Reports Due

**Pastor's Corner**

**A Godly Heritage, II Timothy 3:15**  
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Jesus." The key thought is that He (Christ) is *trustworthy*. Salvation is not in a religion, a rite, or a ritual, but rather in a relationship. Notice first the promise of salvation > "able to make thee wise unto salvation..." (See Psalm 19:7 and John 10:9, "...by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved..."). Notice second, the plan of salvation > "through faith." (Compare Hebrews 11:6 with Ephesians 2:8-9). And thirdly, notice the Person of salvation > "which is in Christ Jesus." John 1:12 says, "But as many as received Him..." And note also John 14:6, "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

In conclusion, I challenge all parents, even grandparents, to reach their children and grandchildren with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How is this possible? You must give them the proper start, as you recognize their humility, their hunger, and their honesty. You must also give them the perfect Scriptures, which are inspired, infallible, and instructive. And you must introduce them early to the personal Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ by emphasizing the promise, the plan, and the Person of salvation. In this upcoming VBS and in each of our children's programs, our goal is to give children the proper start, share with them the perfect Scriptures, and introduce them to the Personal Savior, Jesus Christ. Will you be involved in some way? Everyone can pray. Others can help in the program. As parents or grandparents, let's be faithful in reaching our own families that we might influence the next generation for Jesus Christ, our Savior!

**Missions Committee Update**

By Hattie Stickney

As we look ahead to another year, the Missions Committee of the West Hampden Baptist Church is very appreciative of your continued giving to the missions program. Without your support, we would not have a missions program at our church. We prayerfully ask that you continue to pray with us for our missionaries that we support. Each one of us here in the homeland realize the high cost of living for us. What must it be for our missionaries on the field?

We also ask that you pray for some of our own traveling this year on separate missions trips. Nancy Frost will be going with Truth for Today Medical Missions to Honduras as a nurse this spring from April 20th to the 29th.. Later in the Spring, Fletcher Frost will be travelling in a teaching role with Make a Timothy Today Ministries in Singapore. His trip will be from May 19th to June 22nd..

If you would like to give to either of these trips, please give your gift during the church offerings, and we will ensure that the gift if passed on.

Please pray for your committee Pastor Lynn, Peter Corey, Angela Lundquist, Sharon Pedersen, Mike Payne, and Hattie Stickney.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Lynn as he continues to fill in the schedule for our Missions Conference in the fall. Thus far, we have heard from the Mahars (Japan) and



our other firm speaker, Robbie Prater, who is on deputation to Paraguay. We have the Peronts, who are serving in South Africa, and Karen Hall, who is in Papua New Guinea, both will be home. At this time, we have not been able to firm up their schedules. There will be more information as Pastor finalizes the schedule.

**MY TO-DO LIST**

By Gwen Lynn

Do you like to make a list of things you need to accomplish? Do you make a shopping list? Do you make a list of gift ideas for your family? Do you make a list of seeds to get for planting the garden? Do you have a list of projects that you need to get done around the house? Do you have a list of phone calls you need to make this next week? Do you have a list of places you want to visit some day? Do you have a bucket list for your life?

What's involved in making our lists? We have a reason for the list. We need paper and a writing utensil or a note app on our phone or a file on our computer. We make lists so we will not forget items

or appointments. We need help to remember!!!

The apostle Peter reminds us in II Peter that we need to remember what Christ has done for us and how He wants us to conduct our lives. Our lives are but a vapour that appears for a brief time and then vanishes away (James 4:4). We do not know what tomorrow may bring. Through some incidents recently, that has become very real to me. I need to live today as if it is my last day on earth. However, like you, my list needs to be turned over to the Lord. He needs to direct my steps if I am going to honor Him with my life. What's on your list? Does He need to revamp it so your life will honor Him?

**Library News**

With Sandi Parise & Alma Rickards

I take this opportunity to remind folks, we have a wonderful library available here at West Hampden Baptist Church. We have an open door policy; which means the door remains unlocked so folks can access the library when it is convenient for them. We also do a self-checkout. On the desk, there is a clipboard with a sign out sheet. We ask

that you please return borrowed materials within two weeks. However, if you need more time, just check it out again. If at any time you need assistance, please speak to either of one of us.

I would like to bring your attention to the many titles that we have from Answers in Genesis. There are great resources to expand our knowledge of Creation and the Bible. Additionally, we have many children's

books; they inform and entertain children as they grow in the Lord.

So the next time you are in Church, please stop by and see what treasure might be of interest.



**The Lift! The Lift!**

By Michael Payne

Recently, there has been some talk about an elevator in the church, or the more official title, a Vertical Platform Lift. While it may seem relatively new to many of you, I did some research in the Meeting Clerk's notes, and found that first formal discussion about a lift can be found in the 2011 Annual Report. It shows up as item 13, "Install a Handicap Lift System". While the comment on that line states that this item has been discussed for "several years", this is the first formal written notice of a need for the lift. I am pretty sure that this need arose because several of our Senior Saints had fallen on both sets of stairs leading to the Fellowship Hall. For the next several years, we were unable to proceed because other projects took precedence over the lift. Who can forget the huge project to replace our roof, or to pave our driveway and parking lot, and at the time, the need for a larger "Teen Room".

As you can see, I am afraid that as members, we did little to promote the need. In fact, the first time we see anything formal regarding financial support for the project is at the 2013 Annual Meeting. During the Meeting, the Trustees brought forward the need to the lift as being "critical" to help our folks get up and down the stairs. The Deacons acknowledged this, but again funding continued to hamper the project. It is in this year that we see the first signs of a designated savings account for the Lift, and as of June 2014 (Fiscal Year 2013), the account

had a balance of \$2,797.17. In the formal Trustee Report of that year, it states:

*"Install a handicap lift system. For several years, this has been under consideration and a cost estimate has been obtained. Given recent events where our seniors have suffered falls resulting in injuries this project has been given a higher priority. Some funding has been set aside but much more is needed to make this a reality."*

From this point in time, the project stays on the books, and people over time designate small amounts of money to be applied to the "Lift Fund". In their 2015 Annual Report, the Trustees add "*We have a little less than 20% of the required funds currently set aside for this project*". In that year, the Treasurer reported that the fund had a balance of \$3,684.94. That represents a \$887.77 increase from the previous year. In this particular year, security issues, the ramp and egress steps, and the beloved teen room took precedence.

Now, zoom ahead to July 2022. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the Church Treasurer reported that the Lift Fund had a balance of \$26,825.79. That Fiscal Year Total began with the 2021 Fiscal Year balance of \$6,544.72. Gifts and donations that fiscal year brought in \$19,269.90. In addition, the Treasurer consolidated several designated savings accounts that had balances after their intended projects were completed for a total amount of \$1,011.17. Then, this Fiscal

Year (starting July 1, 2022) to date, we have received an additional \$16,463.96, giving us a working total balance of \$43,289.75 at the end of February, 2023.

So why all the numbers. We need the lift, and it needs to be the priority that it once was given. As of this writing, the Deacons and the Trustees are confident that we have almost all the funds we need to do the project. Almost, because we need to heat and cool the entry way because of the lift. That is an extra \$3,645 to put a heat pump in the entry way. The Deacons and Trustees have done their due diligence, and the actual install of the lift will be done by Maine Accessibility Corporation, a local handicap equipment provider. The infrastructure to support the lift and landings will be done by the Trustees and any volunteers. The permitting has begun, and Hampden has instructed us to approach the State Fire Marshall's Office for permission to proceed. That contact has been made and the Fire Marshall's office is currently reviewing our application. Once we receive that, we will do the final coordination with Hampden to get the Permit, and then it is off to the races.

As a senior myself, and as an emeritus member of the Hospitality Committee, I so want this lift. I see so many of our members avoid an event in the fellowship hall because of accessibility. This project will fix that. We hope to have some pictures and plans soon that we can mount on frames and share with everyone. In the meantime, know that the Pastor, the Deacons and the Trustees have heard you, and we are going to make this happen!

**Vacation Bible School**

April 17-21

Journey with Joseph



West Hampden Baptist Church

574 Western Ave-Hampden

9am-Noon

Pre-K to Grade 6

Register: <https://westhampdenbaptistchurch.net>

For Transportation call 862-6070

**Spring Break Vacation Bible School**

Journey with Joseph  
April 17-21, 9 am to Noon  
Pre-K to Grade 6

How do you respond when you are mistreated? Is it easy to forgive others when you have been wronged? Are your attitudes towards others always pleasing to God? How can we have victory over temptation? Do you always treat others the way that would please the Lord? God has the answers and help we need!!

As we go on our "Journey with Joseph" at our VBS this year, we will find the way of victory that can be ours if we follow God's Word.

Our daily schedule will include a Bible lesson, songs, crafts, snack, missionary story, and games. If you can help in any way, please see Gwen Lynn. A list of items needed for snacks is posted on the bulletin board. If you want to help with providing other materials, see Gwen.





### *Social Calendar*

#### April

- 1 Spring Clean Up for Easter 8:30 am
- 7 Good Friday Service at Bucksport Bible Church 6:30 pm
- 9 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am
- 9 Easter Services
- 17-21 Vacation Bible School—9:00-noon
- 16 Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 27 Service at Westgate Rehab 9:45 am
- 29 Men's Breakfast
- 30 Fifth Sunday Singspiration, Evening Service

#### May

- 13 Ladies Event with Yvonne Blake 12:00 Noon (Saturday)
- 14 Mother's Day
- 20 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am
- 21 Service at Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 26 Service at Westgate Rehab 9:45 am
- 29 Memorial Day (Monday)

#### June

- 11 Senior Saints Luncheon after Morning Service
- 18 Service at Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 18 Evening Service with Mariano Proto, GMSA
- TBA Graduation Sunday Service 6:00 pm
- 22 Service at Westgate Rehab
- 24 Men's Breakfast
- 30 Maranatha Heritage Singers Performance  
Friday Night, 6:30 pm

#### *Calendar Highlights*

**Easter Weekend: Friday, April 7**, Good Friday Service at Bucksport Bible Church, that will be followed by refreshments. If you will be attending, a signup sheet will have a list of food items that we can take with us to help Bucksport. **Sunday, April 9**, Sunrise service at 7:30 am followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School, the Morning Service and the Evening Service will be held at the usual times.

**Spring Break Vacation Bible School**, April 17-21. This year, we are going to look at the Journey of Joseph. Each day begins at 9 am and ends at noon. If you can help and have not already committed to the program, please see Mrs. Lynn.

**2023 Ladies' Luncheon**, Saturday, May 13 starting at noon. Our theme this year is **Vessels for the Master's Use**. Come and join us as we enjoy this time of fellowship together. Yvonne Blake, from Bucksport Bible Church, will be sharing the Word of God with us. Yvonne, an artist and author, will certainly encourage you in your walk with the Lord as she shares some lessons the Lord has taught her. Please invite a family member, co-worker, or a friend to attend with you. RSVP by May 6 please.