



The West Hampden Baptist Church

MESSENGER

“Behold, I will send my messenger...” Malachi 3:1

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Pastor Michael W. Lynn

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SUMMER MESSENGER

Summer 2024

June 9, 2024

West Hampden Baptist Church
574 Western Avenue
Hampden, ME 04444

Dear West Hampden Baptist Church family:

After much prayer and heart-searching for Gwen and me, I am announcing my retirement from full-time ministry. As most of you know, it is now just over 10 months since my stroke on July 28, 2023. Though the progress has been remarkable, thanks to the Lord and the prayers of God’s people around the country, I realize it is time to step away from the full-time pastorate. The Lord restored my vision, and I have had improvement in my speech; however, I am not adequate or sufficient to continue the work I have enjoyed in the churches I have had the privilege to pastor. In consultation with the deacons and church leadership, I am willing to remain here at West Hampden through August. This time will allow for a period of transition and ultimately a new pastor.

Our retirement will allow us to move closer to our children and grandchildren, probably settling in Kentucky. There is much to do as we seek to sell our home and find a new home. I covet your prayers for our family during this time of transition for us. You have been more than generous to us as a family; we have appreciated your loving and faithful support. Thank you for making our years here at West Hampden Baptist Church a time of joy and blessing.

We will be praying for you as you wait on the Lord for your next shepherd. We trust the Lord will add many others to this ministry; however, your continued participation in this ministry is vital to a smooth transition for your next shepherd. May we all faithfully serve our Savior until He returns.

Because of Him,
Michael Lynn, Pastor

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant By Michael Payne

As you can see from the letter on the left, Pastor and Mrs. Lynn will be leaving our fellowship soon. I say soon, as the housing situation is once again the “long pole in the tent”. Our beloved Pastor Lynn was called to be our Pastor in the fall of 2011, but he was unable to leave North Carolina until April of 2012 because of a house transaction. While their departure is bittersweet, one has to question, do the Lynns do everything based on a house transaction? Anyway, I considered it a privilege to have been part of the four-man crew that went to Biscoe, North Carolina to pack and drive the family’s belongings to Maine. This began the formal relationship between Pastor and Mrs. Lynn and the West Hampden Baptist Church. And what a wonderful adventure it has been.

One of the things that I thought we should all review is that we are not the only ministry in Maine for Pastor Lynn. His career started in Gorham, Maine in 1978 in a small work that he built from the ground up. Can you imagine how some Downeasters would have taken to a “good ole boy” from North Carolina in his first church? With the Lord’s provision, the work grew. It would be safe to assume that the language barrier must have been breached. Pastor has shared with us on several occasions that starting out, he had to work part-time for a company known as Sears. I can only imagine that his love was not

for customer service work but rather preaching and sharing the Word of God to a lost community.

From Gorham, it was on to Sonora, Nova Scotia. I try to visualize Pastor in a kilt amongst the Scots in Nova Scotia during a formal event. It had to be interesting to hear Pastor say “Eh” after every sentence with his southern drawl. But above it all, I get the impression that again, the preaching and teaching was the most important mission while he was there.

From Canada, it was back to Maine, and the town of Stratton. Again, try to visualize Pastor on a pair of skis schussing down Sugarloaf, expounding Romans Road to all those around him. I got the feeling that he was very close to the members of the church when we went to visit Stratton on a Senior Saints Field trip. After many years, they loved him and opened up their homes to us for a pit stop.

From Stratton, the family moves to Telford, Pennsylvania. From the

<i>July</i>		
TBA	Deacon’s Meeting	6:30 PM
3	Missions Committee	6:00 PM
4	Fourth of July Holiday (Thursday)	
7	Financial Reports due Treasurer	
27	Annual Meeting of the Church	6:00 PM

<i>August</i>		
TBA	Deacon’s Meeting	6:30 PM
14	Missions Committee	6:00 PM

<i>September</i>		
TBA	Deacon’s Meeting	6:30 PM
2	Labor Day Holiday (Monday)	
11	Missions Committee	6:00 PM
8	Missions Conference Begins	

**Well Done, Good and Faithful
Servant**
(cont'd from page 1)

discussions that I have had with Pastor Lynn, this church sounds like something that might resemble WHBC in size and membership. Some of the things that I have talked with Pastor about this church gave me the sense that it was a testing ground for him taking on a larger church with all the good, bad and ugly things that go with it.

From there, it was off to Biscoe, North Carolina on the edge of Pisgah National Forest. As part of the process coming to our Church, we would send down men to pack and move the family to Maine yet again. This would be the beginning of our relationship with the family.

When you think that Pastor Lynn started in 1978 as a young graduate of Bob Jones University, living by faith, loving his wife, and the children that God would bless them with, it has been a career that I think he can be very proud of. When one retires, one wants to look back at when they started, what life was like, and where they are now. Forty-four years in the ministry, and we were blessed to be just 12 years of that career. While with us, we have challenged our Pastor at times, but at other times, he has challenged each and every one of us. With 44 years of experience to draw from, I have come to cherish the sage wisdom that Pastor has shared with me. One of those wise nuggets is the proper way to eat grits.

I, for one, will miss the Lynns. Both Pastor and Mrs. Lynn were there when I or my family needed them regardless of the day or time. Pastor always had the right words to help us deal with the issue at hand. Pastor also knew when we needed a boot to get something done, but always had time for coffee and a donut.

It is my prayer that God will touch Pastor with His hand of healing and that at some point Pastor will be back to a full measure of health. Let us all pray for the Lynns as they walk down the road together to the next adventure that God brings before them.



TIME

By Gwen Lynn

What is time? Time is often thought to escape us. It is too often gone before we realize it. Time is the measure of one's existence. It is the duration with reference to finite existence as distinguished from eternity. Our years are spent as a tale that is told (Psalm 90:9). Our days are likened to a shadow that is declining (Psalm 102:11), a vapour that appears for a short time (James 4:14), a flying shuttle (Job 7:6), and a hand breath (Psalm 39:5). These comparisons in Scripture reverberate the brevity of our lives.

What am I doing with my life? Do I waste my years of days, or do I invest my years of days? As I recently attended my youngest sister's funeral, I reflected on this thought. All of us are given the same amount of time in each day; none of us are given the exact same tasks; none of us know how many days we will have to live. Do we invest our time or waste our time? Am I serving God or am I serving myself? The Lord has redeemed me from my sin and has given me an eternity with Him. Surely, I should love Him and serve Him with all of

my being.

My life should be spent ministering to others for the Lord, whether that be our spouse, child, parent, neighbor, or co-worker. My sister passed unexpectedly, as will many of us. We can and should be busy for the Lord. We can encourage others in our church family, home, or workplace. We can support others when they are going through a difficult time. A word fitly spoken may be the gold that one needs to hear. Writing a note, delivering a meal, a phone call, a hug, a helping hand, providing a need, sitting with someone, a text message, a visit, conversing with someone after church, sharing your abundance, giving a cup of cold water, and providing transportation are just some ways to minister to others. We can always pray for someone even when we are unable to do a physical task. No matter our age, retired or still employed, physically active or bedridden, we can still use our time to serve the Lord. How are you using your time? Are you investing it or wasting it? My prayer for us is that we would always serve the Lord with all our heart for all our days. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24)

Ladies Bible Study

By Sharon Pedersen

We have started our Ladies Bible Study on the Women of the Bible. The beautiful thing about God's Word is that He paints the lives of these women as they were with all their flaws and all that they have become through His grace. God extends that same grace to us. There is so much that we can learn from these women and from each other as we come together once a month. I thank the Lord for the sixteen ladies that have signed up. Life happens and I know that we can't all be here 100% of the time, but when we can, I am trusting God to give us His blessing and help us to mature in our relationship with Him. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:30.



The WHBC Library still remains open with 24/7 open door policy. We also continue to offer self checkout for your convenience.

The sign out sheet is on a clipboard with a 2 week checkout time and of course can be easily extended if needed. The library has a plethora of resources as well as novels, biographies just to name a few. It's our desire to fit all your library needs and welcome any and all suggestions. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have a specific request for a book not currently available. The ongoing spiritual development of all attendees of the church is important to us. It's critical as Christians to continue to educate ourselves in our knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We have added a few new books to the library which were recently donated by a long time church member.

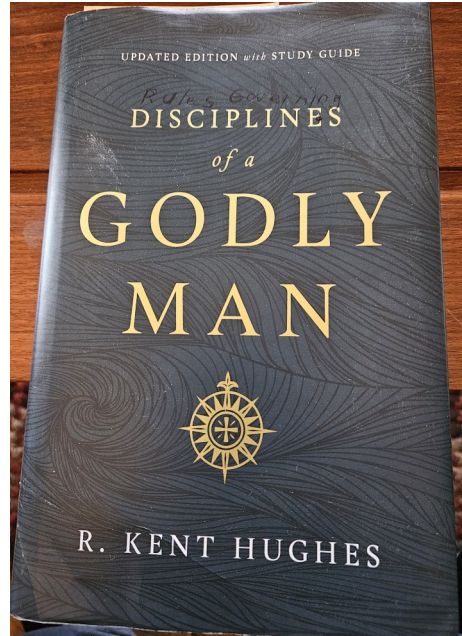
We continue to encourage children & adults to utilize the resources available.

Men's Bible Study

By Joe Parise

A new ministry has opened up at West Hampden Baptist Church, MEN'S BIBLE STUDY. The aim of this ministry is to provide Biblical principles to the men of West Hampden Baptist Church so they can in turn become a more effective witness for Jesus in their daily lives, and Biblical husbands and fathers to their family, and a solid testimony for Christ to friends and neighbors.

Our meeting schedule is flexible depending on the concensus of those attending.

**Notes from the Missions Committee**

By Hattie Stickney

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

Here we are at the start of the summer season. In June, Nancy Frost travelled with Grace Dental and Medical Missions to Colombia, South America. This 10 day trip took Nancy from Bogota to two missionary churches located in Cartago and Manizales, Colombia. Both of these churches are plants started by missionaries from Mexico. The prayer is that many souls will be reached for these churches through the medical missions work. With her return, Nancy will prepare a presentation at a later date.

As of this writing, our 2024 Missions Conference is coming together. We have firm commitments for the four Sundays. Our visiting missionaries will be Tom Gibbons (GMSA), Dave Rozelle (BMW), Don Nickerson (BMW) and Tim Heijer-

mans (BMW). We are still working on the mid-week services, but we have a plan. As soon as we finalize, we will share with the Church. We are looking at missionaries that are going to be home on furlough or are local to help fill out our schedule. At this point, we are striving to have in-person visits.

Another issue for us to discuss is our support for retired missionaries. Like our Pastor, missionaries are retiring. The two latest on the list are Jon Mahar and Cathy Hodsdon. We were blessed to host Cathy's retirement party last year, and last fall, Jon visited us during our Missions Conference. During his visit, Jon informed us that he was retiring. We have supported both of these missionaries and their spouses for many years. As a Committee, we agreed that we wanted to continue some level of support in their retirement years. As a Committee,



a proposal was prepared for the church members to approve the change in support levels for our retirees, and it was approved that we would give each retiree \$100 until we could no longer do so. As part of this, we were able to bring up the support for Margaret Holmes-Gualtieri, another retired missionary we support.

Early this spring, we heard from Chris Shull, serving in Greenland, that his wife, Carole, had some serious medical issues. As part of her treatment, she and Chris had to travel to Denmark for medical treatment. With all this added expense of two households, the Church took a special offering over two weekends, and I am proud to say that our church sent a check for \$2000 to help with some of their expenses. We also ask that you continue to pray for the Shulls, especially Carole Ann as she continues her treatments and for healing. We need to remember the children, the oldest are still on the mission field while the younger children are with their parents in Denmark.

In closing, I ask prayer for the Missions Committee, that we would be good stewards of the Missions Fund. Also, prayer for wisdom for the members of the Committee; Pastor Lynn, Angela Lundquist, Mike Payne, Sharon Pedersen and Hattie Stickney.



Summer 2024
Church Social Calendar

July

4	Fourth of July Holiday (Thursday)	
6	Bridal Shower for Kayla Wilson	3:00 PM
8	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
14	Church BBQ	After Morning Service
21	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
25	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
27	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM
27	Annual Meeting of the Church	6:00 PM

August

10	Hampden Children's Day Parade	11:00 AM
10	Wilson-Carter Wedding	2:00 PM
12	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
18	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
22	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
24	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM

September

2	Labor Day Holiday (Monday)	
9	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
14	Ladies Event at Fielders Choice	3:00 PM
15	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
26	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
28	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM
29	5th Sunday Ice Cream Social	Evening Service

Ladies Bible Study, held the second Monday of every month. We are studying women of the Bible, and how God's grace affected their lives. The meetings start at 10:30 and are scheduled for July 8, August 12, and September 9. All sessions start at the Church and we try to do a lunch following the session.

Bridal Shower for Kayla Wilson, July 6 at 3:00 PM, at the Wilson Camp on Brewer Lake.

Wilson-Carter Wedding, August 10, 2024 at 2:00 pm, at West Hampden Baptist Church. A Taco Bar reception will follow in the Church fellowship Hall. If you have not done so, please RSVP CHRISNKAYLA2024@gmail.com.

Ladies Event at Fielders Choice in Bangor, September 14, a day of miniature golf and ice cream, starting at 3:00 pm.

2024 Church BBQ will be held after the morning services on July 14, 2024. The Church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken, along with the beverages. We ask that those attending bring a salad or a dessert. The signup sheet is on the podium in the foyer. Please come and join us.

Men's Bible Study. Studying the book *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, written by R. Kent Hughes. The goal of the program is to share Biblical principles for men and how to become an effective witness for Jesus. Meetings are held after work hours to accommodate attendees and are fairly flexible depending on the men's schedules.