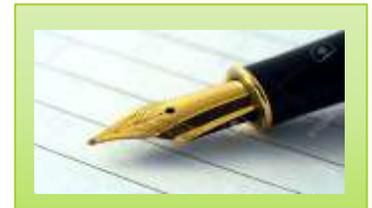


First Baptist Church of Hudson
An American Baptist Church
236 Central Street
Hudson, NH 03051-4446
Tel. 603-882-6116



October-December Newsletter

from pastor moa's desk...



The first Sunday of December marks the beginning of the season of Advent once again. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of going toward the coming again of the Messiah, a time of great expectation and great anticipation.

But what exactly is it that we anticipate this season?

What are we getting ready for this year?

What do we expect to happen?

Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world?

Or are we preparing for yet another month-long shopping spree that some have called “economic first-degree murder”—willfully and with malice aforethought murdering our bank accounts?

Or maybe we’re getting ready for the seven to ten pounds the average American will gain during the season?

Or are we preparing for the suicidal traffic jams at the mall, or the general atmosphere of surliness and desperation?

Are we getting ready for the depression, the anxiety, and even the rage that accompanies the secular holiday season?

For the many who faithfully observe the consumer Christmas, Advent is the inevitable prelude to disappointment.

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But the Advent we celebrate in the Church—the one that has nothing to do with the shopping madness—is altogether different.

Advent for Christians is the celebration about the coming and arrival of Jesus Christ—the bearer of good news of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE!

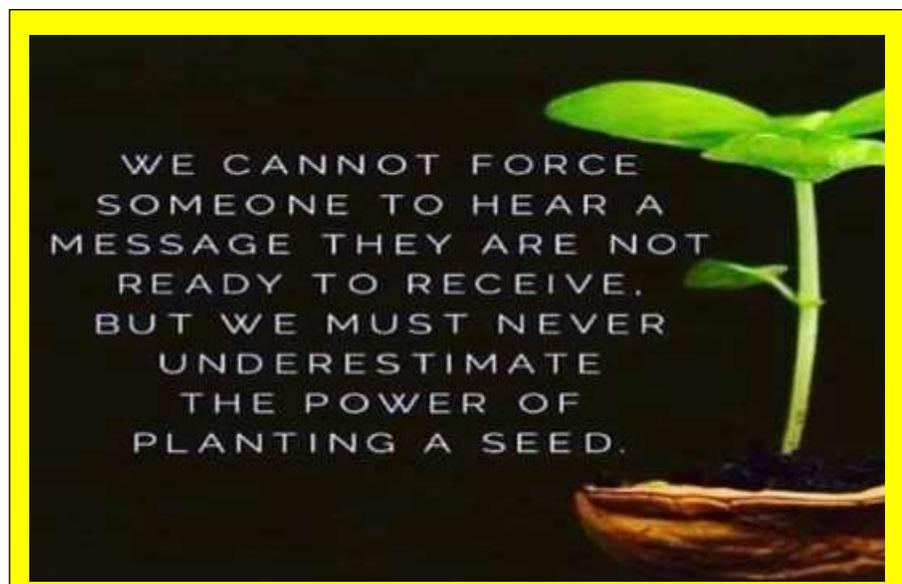
Here are some of the signs of the Advent spirit:

- ✚ A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- ✚ An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- ✚ A loss of interest in judging other people.
- ✚ A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- ✚ A loss of interest in conflict.
- ✚ A loss of the ability to worry.
- ✚ Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- ✚ Contended feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- ✚ Frequent attack of smiling.
- ✚ An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- ✚ An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it ourselves.

May we share this Advent spirit with everyone in the coming days!

Blessings!

Ma b
→



1. Give someone a hug or compliment	2. Let someone in front of you in line	3. Buy a friend or colleague coffee	4. Hold the door open for someone	5. Give a friend or loved one your full attention
6. Donate a Christmas present to someone in the church	7. Do something to make someone smile	8. Do something kind for yourself	9. Hide a happy note for someone to find	10. Donate something special to someone
11. Tape some money on a vending machine	12. Smile at a stranger	13. Get in touch with an old friend or relative	14. Let a car in front of you in traffic	15. Write or send a thank you note to someone
16. Smile and thank someone who serves you	17. Tell someone you love them	18. Pray for a stranger's family	19. Offer to help someone	20. Feed animals.
21. Donate your unused clothes to someone	22. Do something unexpected for someone	23. Give a threat to your postal carrier	24. Do something kind for a stranger	25. Reflect and record how much joy this season brought you



Leadership Team

Meeting date: November 9, 2019

Present: Donna Boucher, Pam Dawkins, Jane Demers, Charlene Forward, Pastor Moa Imchen, Dave Jelley, Meredith Mandeville, Phyllis Moore, Ruth Parker, Jan Russell, deb lavoie

Pastor Moa opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the October 12 meeting were reviewed and found to be acceptable.

Ruth presented the Financial Secretary's report. Attendance is still down a bit from last year.

Meredith presented the Treasurer's report. She reminded us that with the winter months fast approaching, spending will pick up. She has a bill for \$291 from Waste Management. November is our contract renewal month; if we just renew the existing contract, the monthly bill will increase 5% to \$250 per month. We can get a smaller (two-yard) dumpster for \$100 per month, or \$145 - \$150 with the "extras". The actual bill keeps creeping up from the original quoted price.

Pam suggested that recycling paper and plastics would be a good thing, but as of right now we don't have anything to put recyclables in so that they will be picked up. After a bit of discussion, the team voted to purchase a recycle bin and rent a two-yard dumpster. Pam also suggested that there should be receptacles for recyclables on each floor of the building.

For the Refurbishment Committee, Pastor Moa reported that there has been a generous donation of \$500 for the software that needs or needed to be purchased. This is in addition to the \$5000 that was donated earlier for audio/video equipment. We have already spent over \$1,000 of that.

Pastor Moa showed us the estimate he received from Magnolia Audio/Video (Best Buy) for the purchase and installation of two projectors. The total is \$7,375.68,

which is way beyond our means at this time. He walked us through it line by line, pointing out areas where that amount could be reduced. For instance, we could save \$2,000 by having church members who have some expertise in this area do the installation. (The names Greg, Roy, Tony, Richard, Byron, Dan, and Kenny were mentioned.)

Meredith reported that the Budget Committee is working on a proposed budget for 2020. That and the compensation of salaried church workers will be discussed next month.

The By-laws Committee has not met since our last meeting, but Ruth has written a new section to be inserted into the existing by-laws.

Pam reported that the stewardship letters were mailed yesterday (Friday, November 8). The campaign will run for the next three Sundays (November 10, 17, and 24). During that time, members of the church family are invited to share their testimonies on giving if they like.

Pam gave us a quote from Dependable Lock Service for the replacement of the locks on all exterior doors, 20 new keys, and the repair of the bulkhead door if possible. It comes to \$500. These keys will not be able to be duplicated just anywhere; one must go to Dependable. They are the only company in all of New England that carries this type of platinum cylinder. The team voted to approve the work and Pam will be making the arrangements soon.

Meredith contacted Dube Landscaping regarding snow removal this winter. They did a walk around and were shown the areas that will need to be done. Dube still offers the best deal, so we will stay with them for this coming season.

We are still trying to get a quote for pest control for the parsonage.

Pastor Moa will send an e-mail regarding job descriptions and evaluations. He did give us copies of the current job description for the church custodian.

Trunk or Treat went VERY well! We were blessed with good weather and a good turnout, and a marvelous time was had by all. Many thanks to all who helped in any way!

Jan has taken over the Angel Tree project from Lyn Tyler. She will get about 12 tags for members of the church family to take.

Tony Rice is working on the Boy Scout food drive. Food will arrive this afternoon and will need to be sorted and put away.

The ladies of BAFTA will be hosting the annual Christmas concert by the Alvirne High School choral groups on December 3.

As of right now, Jan has 21 names on her list of people who may need Thanksgiving food boxes this year. The donation box has been just outside the Greeley Street entrance to the sanctuary. LT members will gather in Memorial Hall to fill the boxes on November 23 at around 9:00 AM.

Ruth asked that people planning to attend the sing-along at her house tomorrow afternoon bring finger foods.

Pastor Moa closed the meeting with prayer. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 8, at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

deb lavoie, secretary

Worship

IS NOT A TWENTY MINUTE PERIOD
DURING A CHURCH SERVICE; IT'S A

Lifestyle

BAFTA: Be A Friend To All

BAFTA NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

October found us having a great social gathering in Memorial Hall. BAFTA invited the entire church and friends to join us for the Harvest Dinner and Auction on October 1st. Jackie Cole served a wonderful dinner. We started off with crackers, cheese and punch. Next a chicken dinner was served. Ruth Parker made cakes with various toppings for the guests to put on for themselves. Some of the guests brought desserts for the dessert table.

Ken Benger served as auctioneer and did a great job. This year he had an assistant, "Shy", to help him. Bidding was very good and sometimes quite fast. Everyone went home with something enjoyable. There was even a door prize for a lucky winner. The BAFTA treasury made close to \$700.00. Thank you to all who contributed and bought items.

This year we are doing something different for the November meeting. On November 10th, from 3-5 PM we plan to meet at Ruth Parker's home for a Sing-Along to enjoy songs with Jackie Cole playing the organ. There will be good old favorite hymns and Christmas Carols to get you in the mood for the up coming Christmas Season. Hostesses are Ruth Parker and BAFTA Ladies.

We are serving finger foods. Hope to see you there.

Ruth's address is:

11 Old Robinson Road

Hudson, NH 03051

Phone # is: 603-882-7506

November 17th, we meet in the library to evaluate our budget plans for 2020-2021 after church.

BAFTA DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

This year BAFTA held a different type BAFTA meeting in November. We invited the church family to join us at Ruth Parker's home for a "Sing a Long" with Jackie Cole playing on Marilyn's pump organ our favorite Hymns and Christmas Carols. The singing started at 3 PM and went close to 5 PM with everyone having a great time. After the singing refreshments were enjoyed by all. Thank you one and all who helped make this program such a success!

The Christmas season is fast approaching and so are our upcoming BAFTA events.

Tuesday December 3, 2019 BAFTA hosts the annual Alvirne Christmas Concert with the B Naturals and the Alvirne Chorus. After the concert everyone is invited to Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship. Please plan to join us at the NEW TIME OF THE CONCERT 6:30 PM. This is a great way to kick off the Christmas season.

BAFTA members are asked to bring cookies and water for refreshments after the concert.

For decades our church has contributed to the St. Joseph Parish Nurse Program. We place a bassinet in the sanctuary at the Greeley St. entrance where members can place their donations. We collect items for infants that will help mothers that have very little for their newborns. We are looking for blankets, onesies, outfits, diapers, wipes, sweaters, hats, booties or anything else a new mom can use for her new baby. Please bring your donations for the bassinet for the month of December.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Beaverstock

ALVIRNE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

at

First Baptist Church of Hudson
December 3, at 6:30 p.m.

THOUGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

I wonder if we people know
Just why we're rushing to and fro,
Waiting in line, some bargain to buy
That inner craving to satisfy.

Let's pause a moment in our holiday haste.
Too much time on these things we waste.
The real meaning of Christmas we will find,
In part
By sharing Christ's love from within the heart.

Ruth E. Parker

*Ruth E. (Mrs. Charles) Parker loved poetry and loved
To write poetry; she would often include a jingle such
As this in her annual Christmas greetings.*

Unanswered Prayer

I asked for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for,
But everything that I had hoped for.

Despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered;
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

(Found in the pocket of an unknown Confederate Soldier during Civil War)

“I’ll be a witness for my Lord...”

The end of the Congregational Meeting today Pastor Moa prayed: “God give us one mind and one heart, for your glory.” During the meeting four needs of the church were mentioned. Two were answered right away:

- The need for someone who can climb up to the ceiling in the Sanctuary and put up 2 projectors
- The need for a television in Memorial Hall.

As I moved from the Hall toward the office, I was stopped by a person who answered need #3, the need for an “Easy Worship” license, which would cost approximately \$500.

Then Ken came into the Office with 3 bags. In them were 50 – 70-page notebooks and 20 rulers, a need I had only mentioned in church and at the meeting today. We have NO IDEA who hung them on the hooks in the Greeley Street entrance, but it was such a blessing to see them. More are still needed, but it put a giant dent in the need to fill the 104 school bags!

I am always amazed at God’s answers to prayer, God is working in our church. The people in our church are responding to the Lord and He is taking care of us in ways we will only see in Heaven, when we get there. We are certainly blessed beyond measure.

~~Kathy Bengner

Pictures from Church Events

We were Blessed with a warm and sun shining day for our Family Fun Day again this year, The Bounce House had lots of activity, Pastor Moa had the test run on the water slide to be sure it was ready for all our young and young at heart to get wet on. Ken's animal balloons were a big hit. Ain's face painting made all look lovely; our kitchen crew kept the hot dogs and drinks and other snacks well stocked. The cars and Pink Scooter were well liked. The THREE BEAR FAMILY kept an eye on all the proceedings and watched our Dave and his secretary last of her portraits now has a album to Our chairman newest Great (eleven eight month) portraits done with lots of patience from Dave. All the youngsters went home with Goody Bags and the young at heart also took a gift home as well if they wanted to A BIG 'THANK YOU' to all who came and all who helped to make this a FUN day for all. Praise the Lord for His help as well.



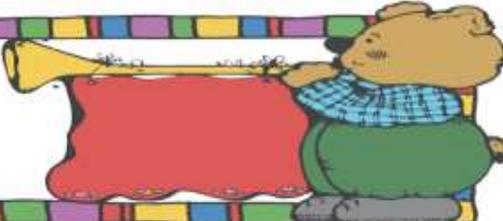
ARTISTE portraits Our church Pam had the family's done, and finished family show off. had her two Grands, month and



Trunk or Treat



Upcoming Events



December 24



Join us for
**Christmas
Worship
Service**

On December 22,
at 10:30 a.m.

**ALVIRNE
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT
WITH THE B
NATURALS
AND NOTHING
BUT THE
TREBLE**

**ON
DECEMBER 3,
AT 6:30 P.M.**

Celebration Calendar

ANNIVERSARIES

December:

- 4 Pastor Moa & Akum
- 14 Paul & Pam Dawkins
- 31 Gary & Lorna Granger

COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM **ONE BY ONE.**
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

BIRTHDAYS

December:

- 2 Meredith Mandeville
- 6 Catrina Ledoux
- 8 Kimberly Francis
- 9 Roy Bengert
- 17 Jackie Cole
- 18 Lois Boucher
- 24 Bruce Mostrom
- 26 Heather Alonis-Tyler
- 29 Nancy Kather
- 29 Joanne Sousa
- 30 Noelle Rollins