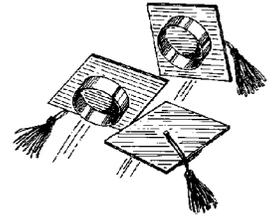




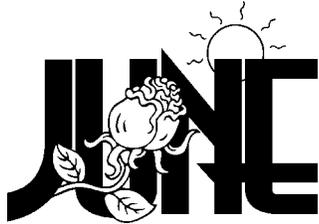
The

Antenna



June, 2008

News of the Bridgton Christian and Missionary Alliance



June Dates to Remember!

Sunday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. service
Honoring our Graduates

Sunday, June 15
Father's Day

Friday, June 20
Ladies Night Out—Movie Night

Weekly Meetings

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 am – *People in Prayer*

Mondays

6:30—7:00 p.m. *VBS Prayer Meeting* (begins June 2)

Wednesdays

5:30 am – *Men's Bible Study*
9:00 am – *MOPS*
10:45 am – *Missions Prayer Fellowship*
6:30 pm – *Bible Study @ Parsonage*

Thursdays

5:30 p.m. *Community Kettle at the Community Center*



Where the Rubber Meets the Road

I've been forced recently to ask myself a number of questions concerning the purpose of the church. Why does the church exist? What is its reason for being? Am I doing what I should be doing as part of the church?

A survey was done recently by Win Arn, a leading church consultant. He surveyed members of nearly a thousand churches asking the question, "Why does the church exist?" The results? Of the church members surveyed, 89 percent said, "The church's purpose is to take care of my family's and my needs." For many, the role of the pastor is simply to keep the sheep who are already in the "pen" happy and not lose too many of them. Only 11 percent said, "The purpose of the church is to win the world for Jesus Christ. That survey while not really surprising is nevertheless troubling. I feel very strongly that the purpose of the church is not to impact the church, but to impact the world.

I came across a quote recently that I think is particularly pertinent:

The church is not:

- * An ark for the saving of a select few.
- * A ferryboat to take effortless passengers to the shores of heaven.
- * A life insurance company, with no obligation on policy holders except the payment of a small annual premium.
- * A social set, welcoming certain people and excluding others from its fellowship.
- * A Sunday pleasure club for the providing of pleasant occupation on the day of rest.

The church is:

- * A lifeboat for the rescue of sin-wrecked and perishing souls.
- * A family, in which love and service are expected from each member to each member.
- * An organized community, with constant activities and continual growth and development.
- * A company of believers who have found the one way of life and obey the one Lord of life.
- * A union of those who love for the benefit of those who suffer.
- * A center of social worship, in which the spiritual life of each is helped by the spiritual life of his fellow.
- * The representative -- the "body" -- of Jesus Christ on the earth, reflecting his spirit and controlled by his will.

Over the past few years we have had many new people come to the church. It is a very comfortable feeling to have fine middle class people become a part of our fellowship. It can make us feel successful. Certainly such people are indispensable to the church. However, a couple of years ago, you may remember; I placed on the church sign

Continued on next page....

the following statements. One side said: "You are not too good to come to church." The other side said: "You are not too bad to come to church." Sounds good doesn't it! It's nice sometimes putting those catchy sayings on the sign and attracting attention. But it can be quite another thing actually living up to them. I had a number of comments on the sign, and several people even called and asked me if it was true. I assured them that it was. But now, here's where the rubber meets the road. People whose life styles have not always left us with that warm fuzzy feeling have taken us at our word and have attended. It's not my purpose here to go into the nature of the difficulties, but we have at times had to put deeds to our words. The temptation for some members at such times may be to withdraw behind our four walls, or to take off and run. There are times when our comfort zone feels encroached upon. We realize at such times how complicated life has become and how much we need the Lord's wisdom and direction in carrying out the mission he has given us.

Doug Murren in his book **Churches That Heal** states that one of the major factors that hinders the church from becoming a church that heals is the "Us versus Them" mentality. This mindset builds walls and barriers toward unbelievers. Our task as a church is to be the light and the salt to the lost world around us. We are to tell people about Jesus Christ and show them the way to eternal life, not hide from them. It is vital that we not forget our reason for being. Several years ago the city of Pittsburgh constructed a large, new post office at the cost of several million dollars. On the day of its opening, the Governor made a speech, the bands played and the people cheered. It was quite a celebration. But when the first man entered to mail a letter, to the embarrassment of the engineers, it was discovered that in the rush to meet the deadline, they had omitted the usual letter drop. Here was a costly new post office, but no place to mail a letter! It was a slight omission, but it negated the very reason for its existence. That brings me to the very point of this article: **WHEN ANY CHURCH FORGETS THAT IT IS HERE TO BE SALT AND LIGHT IN THIS WORLD, IT SURRENDERS THE VERY REASON FOR ITS EXISTENCE. SALT AND LIGHT is not a side line! It is the LIFELINE of the church.**

Chuck Colson in his book *Being the Body*, said this: "The church is like Noah's ark: The stench inside would be unbearable if it weren't for the storm outside. It's true—sometimes we stink and the world is stormy. But as imperfect as we are on this side of heaven, the miracle is that God in fact chooses to use his church—us, as His proclaiming love, truth, and hope." Bill Hybels adds these thoughts. "I believe that there is nothing like the local church when it is working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, and the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness. Still to this day, the potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close." These are indeed powerful words. The challenge is there. It is undeniably up to us to make sure that this is true.

-Ed Boon

Mark Your Calendars for

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held July 21-25. The theme is "Power Lab - Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power".

VBS Prayer Meeting

Vacation Bible School is the premier outreach event that we host each year at Bridgton Alliance. I believe that it is vital for us to pray for the VBS leadership: Cindy Ranco and Maggie Burhite as well as all of the people involved in the program. Most importantly we need to pray for our local community. Pray for the kids to come and respond to the message of salvation. Pray for the parents and families to be touched by this outreach and come to the Lord. We are planning for continued outreach to unchurched families who attend VBS after the event.

I believe that prayer can make a difference in the impact we will have on our community. For this reason, I invite you to join me Monday evenings in the Library from 6:30 to 7:00PM beginning Monday June 2nd.

-Jon Washburn



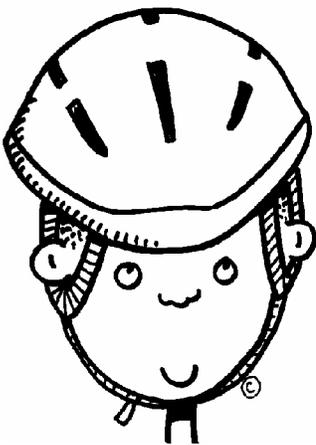
Prayer Requests From Our Congregation

Prayer requests are taken from the Sunday bulletin. Additional requests (and updates) are always welcome.

For privacy reasons, prayer requests are not published on the Bridgton Alliance web site. Members of the church who would like a copy of this month's prayer requests should contact the church office. Thank you!



Time to get fit...we are serving more than food at Community Kettle!



The Brain Injury Association of Maine (BIAM) has teamed with the Community Kettle to provide area children with FREE bicycle helmets. The event will take place on **Thursday, May 29, 2008 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm** at the Community Kettle, located at the Bridgton Community Center on Depot Street. There will be 100 helmets available to be properly fit and distributed to local children, ages 16 and under. The helmets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. This event will highlight the closing evening of the Community Kettle for this season.

Maine law MRSA, Title 29A, requires children 16 and under to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. If stopped by a law enforcement officer, first-time offenders will receive a warning; a second offense could result in a \$25.00 fine to be paid by the parents.

BIAM purports, in Maine, over 7,000 people currently live with a brain injury. With traumatic brain injury occurring every 23 seconds, this public health concern ranks as the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults. The Brain Injury

Association of Maine provides programs and support services that help families cope and adapt to the unpredictable situations and challenges presented to them when a loved one sustains a brain injury. For more information on BIAM's programs and services, please call their hotline at 1-800-275-1233.

For additional information regarding the upcoming event, contact Elaine Lemieux at 647-3774.



MOPS June Schedule

June 4 Car Seat Safety
June 11 Appreciation Brunch

MOPS will pick up again in the fall. We will try to get together over the summer for a fun day at the beach. I will call and let you know when, where and what. Until then, have a great summer!

Contact Debbie Dean at the church office for further information and updates.

Are your kitchen cabinets looking a little empty?

Perhaps it's because so many of your dishes are here at church! Please remember to stop by the kitchen and check out the dishes that have been left over from church suppers and pick up those that belong to you.

Editor's Note: I would encourage you to do so, even if you don't think you have anything here. I checked it out a few months ago, last time this notice ran, and to my surprise, I found one of my pie plates, plain as day, and I knew it was mine, cuz my last name was etched into the bottom! So take a look—you never know!

Information for the Antenna

Information for the newsletter may be emailed to Jamie Basile at jamiebasile@verizon.net, or leave the info in Box M03 at church. The deadline for the July edition of the newsletter is Tuesday, June 24.

Bible Discovery Zone for June:

The Blind Beggar & The Paralytic

Workshops in this lesson set:

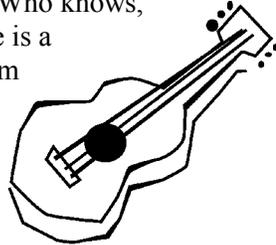
- Games: Trust game using drawing & variation on freeze tag.
- Video: "The Miracles of Jesus." The Animated Stories from the New Testament.
- Science: Two explorations on sight.
- Computer: "Life of Christ" CD
- Art: make a bed/stretcher
- Drama: Enact the story
- Cooking: "marvelous mud" and "bubblin' pool drink".
- Storytelling
- Lessons for ages 3-Kindergarten: numerous activities.

Memory verse: Luke 5:24 "But now you will see that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth." Jesus then said to the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk home."

-Jon Washburn

Guitar Lessons Offered!

Would you like to learn how to play acoustic guitar, electric guitar or bass? Alan Bean is now expanding his teaching schedule to accommodate more students. Give him a call at 583-2923 if you are interested. Who knows, maybe there is a worship team job in your future!



Be kind... remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.



College Student for Hire!

Samuel Veit is a college student for hire looking to do odd jobs, and work for people. If you have a job you would like to hire Sam for, please call 647-9027.

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

Bridgton Alliance Church

368 Harrison Road, Bridgton, ME 04009
647-2027—www.bridgtonalliancechurch.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service, Bible Discovery Zone and Nursery Care—9:00 a.m.

Staff

Pastor Ed Boon—pastor@bridgtonalliancechurch.org
Debbie Dean, Director of discipleship—discipleship@bridgtonalliancechurch.org
Pat Burgess, Office Administrator—info@bridgtonalliancechurch.org