

GREEN STEEPLE MESSENGER
First Baptist Church
81 Saint Paul Street Ste. 1
Burlington, VT. 05401

VOLUME NO. 1

January 1, 2025

GREEN STEEPLE, GRATEFUL PEOPLE, GROWING IN FAITH, PROCLAIMING GOD'S LOVE



CHRISTMAS 2024-25

It may be a quirk of the calendar but I feel it is providential that the 12 days of Christmas spans from one year to the next. The wonder and radical power of God's incarnation in Jesus our Christ can not be limited to one season or one year. The joy and generous spirit which fills the holiday season can be shared all year long. In fact, perhaps in January we can share of ourselves even more than in December when we are so busy with holiday preparations.

2025 will be an interesting year as we create new relationships within our new region and strengthen our ministries and relationships here in Burlington. Our study of Holy Currencies opened our eyes to new opportunities and resources both within our congregation and in our wider communities. As always, we will be called to model Christ's inclusive and generous love in a world that is struggling with division and fear. We will certainly face challenges. But with healthy communication, deep faith, and a willingness to try new ideas, we will discern God's guidance for the upcoming year and years to come. In all that we do, we will be buoyed by God's love and providence.

It is a tremendous blessing and joy to be in ministry with you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours, in Christ,

~ Karen

First Baptist Church Staff

Rev. Karen A. Mendes Pastor
Pastor Thee Say Karen Baptist Pastor
..... Interim CE Director
Adam Chamberlain Church Administrator
Evan Allen Organist
Anna Roy Chancel Choir Director
Brenda Perkins Youth Choir Director
The Karen Baptist Community Team Sexton
Dazzling Diadem Tech Support

Officers of First Baptist

..... Moderator
Mark Paulsen Assistant Moderator
Cindy Little Clerk
Beth Gamache Assistant Clerk
Chris Thompson Treasurer
Frank Swasey Assistant Treasurer
Marilyn Siple Financial Secretary
Marie Morton Asst. Financial Sec'y
..... Historian
Andy Farrington Parliamentarian

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR FEBRUARY
IS JANUARY 15th**

**GIFT OF TIME
VISITATION
AND
*Caring***

All of us are part of the First Baptist Visitation Team and can call or email our church friends or send a note or card.

Please take some time to reach out to the church members and friends who live in your town. You can access the church directory through Instantchurchdirectory.com or through the Instant Church Directory App. Try phoning someone you might not otherwise call, but miss seeing in church!

**CHECK OUT OUR
UPDATED WEBSITE
fbc Burlingonvt.com**

Many thanks to Carrie Perkins and Elena Littlebug.

Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:00

Office Phone: (802) 864-6515

Conference/Kitchen Phone:

(802) 864-4721

Office Hours: M, W, F (9-1) T, Th (9-3)

Email address:

welcome@fbc Burlingonvt.com

Web Site Address:

www.fbc Burlingonvt.com

Visit us on Facebook

First Baptist Church, Burlington, Vt.



SUNDAY WORSHIP **SERVICES**

Jan 5 - Epiphany Sunday

Matt 2:1-12

Herod, King of the Jews

Jan 12 - Baptism of Our Lord Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Heaven was Opened

Jan 19 - John 2:1-11

The Life of the Party

Jan 26 - Combined Worship

Luke 4:14-21

Good News

UPCOMING 2ND HOURS

Jan 5 - Epiphany Party
Jan 23 - Potluck Lunch & Annual Meeting



Jan. 05 – David & Chris O'Brien	51 yrs
Jan. 11 – Keith & Cheryl Lawrence	50 yrs
Jan. 23 – Larry & Penny Smith	54 yrs
Jan. 28 – Peter Garrecht & Nina Wu	27 yrs

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING

**There is more to Church than
Sunday mornings!**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will visit our homebound members with carols and holiday cheer on Jan. 5 starting at 1:30pm. Let Rev. Mendes know if you plan to sing!

WINTER BOOK GROUP - We will read *The Divine Dance; The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14 at 7pm on Zoom. Books can be purchased from your favorite bookseller or we can order some as needed.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study meets in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom each Monday at 11:30am. We are reading the Gospel of Luke. The zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430309219?pwd=MFlvR2Rpem9qYi8vSVRoMndvMk1Sdz09> Meeting ID: 844 3030 9219 Passcode: 303940 To Dial in +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 844 3030 9219 Passcode: 303940

FBC ZOOM COFFEE HOUR
meets on Thursdays, from 10-10:30 a.m. All are welcome for informal chatting! The zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406?pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1VIdz09>

Meeting ID: 898 5556 4406

Passcode: 993539

To Dial in +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 26

Make plans to join us on January 26 for a potluck lunch after worship and then our Annual Meeting where we will hear about the ministry done in 2024 and our plans for 2025. A potluck signup sheet will be in the Narthex.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 10.

Please email them to
welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com.

STAFF THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift given to me. I so appreciate all the many ways in which we share God's love. You all are great blessings to me! Merry Christmas!

~ Karen

Dear FBC “Family”,
Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. Everyone has made me feel welcome and a part of the “FBC Family”. Marie is wonderful to work with, and I appreciate Cindy (also wonderful), filling in when Marie is absent. Special thanks to Stu and Frank for helping out with questions concerning some of the larger deposits. Thanks to Karen for letting me use the parking lot for downtown events and to Joan for always knowing it’s “me” when I call her every week. I’m looking forward to working with all of you in 2025.

Marilyn Siple
FBC Financial Secretary

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift, I really appreciate the kindness shown towards me and my work.

~Adam Chamberlain

DECEMBER UGB MEETING

12/16/2024 Minutes Summary

Review of the 12/10 ABCRGR meeting: The board called us courageous and healthy! They liked the packet we’d prepared and sent. The next step is to go before their Executive Board and then on February 2, 2025, we will be voted on at their Delegates meeting via Zoom.

Church yard security issues: There aren't as many people camping as there has been in the past. Burlington police have been seen driving through the parking lot.

Calendar Update: Advent and Christmas planning has gone well. The BHS Multicultural Club used the kitchen on 12/13. 20 students and 3-4 adults made cookies. They had a great time and it was a good connection between us.

Outreach (Mission) Team: See update in Mission News.

Fellowship Team: It was wonderful to have 8 new members join the church and we have ordered more sweatshirts for the ones we couldn't fill and also a few extras to have on hand. (We

thank Frank and Dave for opening up and also closing the baptistry.) Many thanks to Carol Gaylord for providing the Christmas tree and to those who helped green the church on 11/24 and on 11/26.

Education Team: Lois said the team has been active in supporting the Christmas Pageant preparations. Classes will resume in January continuing to use the Bible story curriculums. No plans have been made yet for a winter youth/family event like skating or sliding.

Property Team: The elevator did not work Sunday 12/16. KONE repaired it that week. Other jobs that were done on the building include: closing the vent in the attic to help keep heat in the sanctuary during the winter months. We are working on an idea for fixing some pew racks. In addition, we regularly clean up trash in the church yard. There are less tents but still a lot of trash and needles. We are consistent in our policy of asking campers to leave and serving trespass notices. The back porch bulbs have been replaced.

Parking Lot update – We received an email update from our attorney, Brooks McArthur. We are in the Discovery Phase of the lawsuit. The suit was filed on Oct. 3, 2024 and ICV filed their response on Oct. 28. Brooks will let us know when the court date is given.

New Members update – We welcomed 8 new members on November 24. 3 were baptized (2 adults and 1 youth). One potential new member was sick that day. We will reschedule with her.

Before adjourning, we decided the next UGB meeting will be on 1/13 so that we can get the printed Annual Meeting reports for those who would like to have a copy. Our Annual Meeting is set for 1/26/25.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Little, Church Clerk

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Carrie Perkins for directing our Christmas Pageant and to Charlie Roy for writing it! It was a glorious morning as the children and youth of our church shared the Christmas story with us. Thanks also to Cindy Little, Lois Lynch, Brenda Perkins, Karen Pope, and Penilee Saulnier for giving lots of support.

MISSION NEWS

2,000 SHOES FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOMA, DRC, AFRICA

Check out our mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. In one of the newsletters from Ann Clemmer, there is a picture of the shoes worn by the children in Goma. First Baptist gave \$425 toward the purchase of shoes for the children at Christmas time.

THE SHARE

Our Share committee (Lois D. and Beth Gamache) are in need of more soup makers and two more people to help coordinate and feed the homeless at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), Sundays from 4-5:30. A

commitment of once a month is recommended. If soup makers bring their receipts to our church, they will be reimbursed for expenses. Signup sheets are on round table in the Narthex.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

With food and money offerings on Thanksgiving Sunday, a meal bag with turkey was given to two families, a Hannaford Thanksgiving meal to one family, and two turkeys with leftover food was given to Aunt Dot's Place food shelf in Essex, Vt to help them provide Thanksgiving meal bags and turkey to 90 families. Leftover money was given to Feeding Champlain Valley food shelf.

MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Your mission team met recently to decide how to use our 2024 unspent mission income. A decision was made to give \$500 to the Association of Africans Living In Vermont (AALV). They help immigrants and refugees transition into American society by connecting them with social service providers in Vermont and offer two workforce development

projects, in agricultural enterprise and allied health job skills training. (New Farms for New Americans project where refugees and other immigrants are farming 3.5 acres in Burlington's Intervale District.) A decision was also made to give \$500 toward camping fees for foster children. The money was given to Tatum Totes, a non-profit accepting donations for DCF (Department of Children and Families). The Share will receive the remaining \$200 in our mission budget for Share.

THANK YOU LETTERS

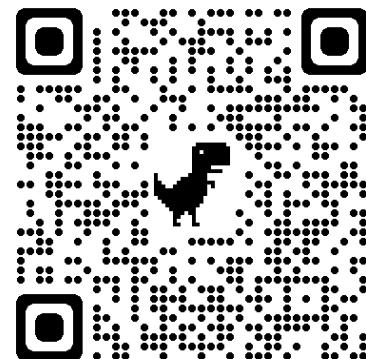
We have received thank you letters from JUMP, Anew Place, Aunt Dot's Place Food Shelf, and our global servant, Ann Clemmer. They are posted on our mission bulletin board.

MISSION TEAM MEMBERS

First Baptist mission team members are Stu and Jeneva Burroughs, Jamie Burke, Betty Capponi, Lois D'archangelo, Beth Gamache, Deb Holonitch, Bill Mason, Karen Pope, Joan Taylor, and Sarah Wright.

MAKING YOUR FINANCIAL DONATION

If you are unable to attend worship in person, you may mail a check to the church office or give electronically through the donate button on our church website: <http://www.fbcburlingtonvt.com> or through **the smartphone app called Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**. Our ministries depend on the generous gifts of our members and friends. You can also give using this QR code.



Thank you for your participation in sharing the love of God in our community and our world.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

All are invited to provide flowers for a worship service. This can be a meaningful way to memorialize a loved one or commemorate an important event and bring God's beautiful creations into the sanctuary to enhance our spirit of praise and joy in worship. Please call the church office to sign up for a particular Sunday.

PAST WORSHIP SERVICES...

are available on our website and our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vIptkSAyIRbAilfDbGFIw>

THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR JANUARY ARE -

M/W/F 9-1 T/TH 9-3

Wednesday, January 1st, the office will be closed for New Years Day.

Monday, January 20th, the office will be closed for Martin Luther King day.

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

The church office (Adam Chamberlain)- welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Karen Mendes - revkamendes@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Evan Allen - eallen@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Anna Roy - aroy@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Treasurer - treasurer@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Financial Secretary - financialsecretary@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Karen Baptist Community - KBC@fbcburlingtonvt.com