

—Slug:.....COMM-0841.lon.church\_purchase  
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—For section..... Town and Village  
—Format..... News - no byline  
—Dateline..... Londonderry  
—Article Number:.....42612

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

- 1 First Baptist Church of South Londonderry purchases
- 2 Melendy property

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- 4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

- 5 First Baptist Church of South Londonderry recently
- 6 announced the purchase of the property at 53 Middletown Road,
- 7 which also includes a small cinder block building on Crescent
- 8 Street.
- 9 The house has fallen into disrepair and can no longer be
- 10 saved. In a news release, the church said it plans “to remove the
- 11 existing structures, clean and restore the land, and create a safe

12 and welcoming space for both the congregation and the wider  
13 community.”

14 This purchase marks another step in the church’s long  
15 journey of rebuilding following a devastating fire that destroyed  
16 its building in 2010.

17 “God has been faithful to us every step of the way,” said  
18 Pastor Chris Blackey. “This project isn’t just about taking down  
19 old buildings — it’s about continuing our journey of renewal. By  
20 caring for this property, we’re helping make our neighborhood  
21 safer and more beautiful while creating space that reflects God’s  
22 goodness and welcome.”

23 The church has set a fundraising goal of \$95,000 to  
24 cover the cost of removing the house and cinder block structure,  
25 restoring the property, and preparing the land for future  
26 community use.

27 Donations can be made directly to First Baptist Church of  
28 South Londonderry (designated for the Property Project), or  
29 through a GoFundMe campaign that allows neighbors and  
30 friends near and far to contribute and share the effort online.

31 To make a contribution, visit  
32 [firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org](http://firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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