

Deering Community Church

Newsletter

July/August 2009

Pastor's Corner

FRAGMENTS OF A SABBATICAL JOURNEY IN INDIA

How can I possibly share with you the amazing experience of three months in India? It really is an impossible task unless I write a book; so I share with you some fragments from my Journal with editorial explanations in italics. You may remember that my sabbatical goals were to deepen my spiritual life, learn about other religions, engage in a month long service project, as well as having fun and relaxation with my family. I will include here at least one example of each of these goals.

1-15 Neill and I arrived on 1-14 at New Delhi airport. An excellent start—fantastic breakfast in the hotel! Then to the chaos and excitement of the streets of Delhi. We got the usual rickshaw scam with driver taking us to places very cheaply so that he can get a commission from the shopkeepers. The traffic is like nothing I have ever seen. It reminds me of “Mr. Toads Wild Ride” at Disneyland: 5 vehicles wide in a two lane road: motorbikes, cabs, rickshaws, people, cows! Amazing! Didn’t see a single accident!

My favorite thing today was visiting the Sikh’s holiest Temple. Gurdwara Bangla Sahib was originally a bungalow belonging to an Indian ruler in the seventeenth century. In 1664, the eighth Sikh Guru Harkishan Dev resided here during his visit to Delhi. The Guru blessed the water of a pond situated nearby and it became healing waters, curing people suffering from cholera and small pox—(still exists). This place was filled with devotees and had no tourist vibe. Because we were tourists, we had to be escorted—with bare feet, and orange head coverings, we walked through water and were given a taste of semolina on leaving. Their emphasis is on service: healing the sick and feeding all. Beliefs: all are equal and welcomed.

The best part of our day was getting lost a few blocks from hotel and walking in an area where we were the only non-Indians. People stared at us more than we

at them. We ate some great lentils and puff pastries, 46 rupees for two plates, less than a dollar.

1-16 Early morning reflections from hotel: Employees sleeping on the floor, beginning to awaken. I feel my heart opening up in a new way. An amazing unexpected thing is my relationship with Neill—we are talking about deeper things, and I love seeing him more giving of himself to others. Last night at dinner we talked about our conflict of being so rich compared to people all around us here. We took half our dinner ‘to go’ and went outside and walked till we saw someone we felt called to share the meal with. It

was an old toothless man driving his rickshaw with bare feet. He was so appreciative. Without understanding each other’s language we communicated love.

1-19 Haridwar (located in the foothills of the Himalayas, filled with temples and ashrams): We are staying in such a lovely hotel: Haveli Hari Ganga. The place was set up in 1917 as a royal palace. It backs up to the Ganges River. Our tour today started by taking a cable car to the Mansa Devi temple, high above the town with a great view, many monkeys and a female priest. Mansa Devi is one of the famous Siddh Peethas (Holy Places where one's wishes are fulfilled.) Our guide



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introduced us to the priest, and she invited us to have chai tea. She very much believes all religions are equal under one God and manifest in different ways. After death, depending on your karma, you go up or down the ladder of rebirth. She believes that bad things happen to good people as a way of struggling to strength and goodness. Miracles come from all the good things one does. Fasting is one of her main religious practices. She is on a 108 day fast now as a way of sacrificing for others. Our guide feels he has had his life turned around from her interventions and guidance. He is a very devout and intense Hindu. He did many chants and prayers for us throughout the day. We also chanted together Om Shanti.

2-4-09 On plane to Chennai, Another leg of my adventure is about to begin.... A highlight in Kolkata was visiting with the Lal's, the



Johnson's friends. On Sunday I went to the end of a festival of the Brahmo Samadj with Mrs. Lal. Founded in 1828 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, this religious movement believes that there is one God, who is omni-present and omniscient. It initially evolved in India where it differed from existing practice as it did not believe in idol-worship or the caste system. Many of the early Brahmos came from the Brahmin caste, who wore a sacred thread around their body to signify their caste superiority. From the 1850's onwards, the renunciation of the sacred thread came to symbolize this break with tradition. Since no one person is considered to be infallible, the Brahmos hold all the great religious leaders of the world in respect, and believe that truth is to be gleaned from all the scriptures of the world.

2-17 Service Project with Church of South India in Madras Diocese: I really enjoyed working with the older clients as they came for their monthly "rations" which included 50 rupees for pocket money. They received an excellent hot lunch, ten lbs. of rice, flour, oil, noodles—more than most of them could carry, so family came to help. After praying with one woman, a line started forming for

my prayers, women kneeling at my feet. What an experience! I definitely prefer praying to counseling as at least one of the party knows what I'm saying. (Earlier attempts at counseling through a translator did not work. Very few of the served population understand or speak more than a few words of English.) See Picture.



3-9 Shantivanam Ashram: What an interesting place this is. It is indeed the Ashram founded by Bede Griffith, a Benedictine priest, and has a mix of Catholicism and Hindu/Indian ways, including ending worship with red dot or white powder on forehead. In the afternoon Brother Martin holds a Q & A session. He says "We have to ask 'who am I'. We need to pray to become conscious of our Oneness with God. ...As soon as we say I am a Christian or American or Muslim, violence comes. Instead say, 'I want to go to God and I'm taking a Christian path to do so'. Christ is Universal Mind. Christ was in Hinduism long before Jesus was born as Christ, also in other faiths. Jesus is integrating what Christ manifested before Jesus was born." Heavy Stuff! I love it. (During this wonderful Ashram week I met with Fa Paul for Spiritual Direction and began meditating several times a day as well as attending worship three times a day, waking at 5 a.m. This experience definitely helped deepen my spiritual life.)

I have many more experiences to share: my 3 weeks at Tamil Nadu Seminary plus three weeks of fantastic fun and learning with my children in Chennai, Mahalapuram, Pondicherry, Kochi, Pune, and Mumbai but enough for one newsletter.

PEACE CORNER



Mani Bhavan Director Ushar Thakkar at the Museum in Mumbai



Pastor Barbara in Spinning Room

One of my favorite parts of India was exploring Gandhi Memorials in India. He has been one of my heroes for so long due to his nonviolence teachings and practices. I visited places dedicated to him in New Delhi, Madurai, Pune, and the one featured this month in Mumbai.

Mani Bhavan, originally the home of his friends the Manis, was the focal point of Gandhi's work between 1917 and 1934, and the place where many of his movements were launched. It now houses a

reference library of over 2000 books, photos of his life, as well as other memorabilia such as a spinning wheel that Gandhi used. He began spinning here in 1917. They have a wonderful website at <http://www.gandhi-manibhavan.org/> On my second visit I spent time with Professor Thakkar, a friend of the Johnsons and an Executive Secretary of the museum. She shared stories of some of the movement's struggles and gave me a book she had written about Women in India.

Information

We are the Deering Community Church, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Barbara Currie is our pastor. Her confidential e-mail is pastorbarbara2003@yahoo.com

Our phone number is 464-5643, e-mail address is deeringchurch@mcttelecom.com,

and our website is deeringcommunitychurch.org.

The UCC website is ucc.org.

Moderator's Musings

Stephen Waters

With this issue of the Deering Church Newsletter a new Editor, Barbara Glauner, is at the helm under the tutelage of her son David, as we begin publishing and mailing electronically, joining an increasing number of publishers nationwide. This method will save the church budget the cost of paper, ink, and especially postage. It will also allow for wider circulation at no additional cost. Our hope

is that you will embrace the new technology, recognizing and supporting the Church's efforts to continue to tell its story. Print copies will still be available for those who do not have internet access and for anyone new to town to pick up at the Deering Town Hall information table. The option to unsubscribe is available to those who no longer wish to receive the Newsletter by merely contacting the

church. The Newsletter will appear for the first time on our church website as well, (deeringcommunitychurch.org), thanks to Alben Roland, our webmaster. Many thank you's to Barbara, with David's help, for accepting the challenge of the editorship of our Newsletter.

After a joyful Welcome Back Dinner with Indian cuisine and entertainment, Pastor Barbara returned to our pulpit on May 3rd, following a sabbatical absence of four months funded by a Lilly Endowment grant. During this time of renewal – spiritual, intellectual, physical – Pastor Barbara traveled extensively in India, learning much of the culture and religions of that country as well as working with the poor for some weeks. In addition to her contribution to this Newsletter edition, she gave a full report of her experience following a potluck supper on Friday, June 12. One of the provisions of the Lilly Endowment grant was that a significant portion of the grant moneys be used for the congregation to experience some of the Pastor's journey. Thanks to Don and Jean Johnson's series of programs, we were able to learn much about Indian culture – its history, religions, and customs – and hence not only share in the Pastor's experience but gain in our understanding of a different culture, realizing that, despite our differences, we all share the same planet. We were most grateful for the interim pastorship of Rev. Peter Lovejoy, who enabled and encouraged us to continue the Lord's

work in our church community while Pastor Barbara was away. His experienced leadership, steady hand, and warm friendship kept us on track. Thank you, Pete, for sharing your gifts with us.

Congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to Chris Nase for conducting an especially meaningful program on Indian religions for the Sunday School students during Pastor Barbara's journey through India. We want to thank Don and Jean Johnson for their assistance and use of authentic materials, culminating with the Indian shadow puppet show and stories for the congregation on the Children's Sunday service.

On Tuesday, May 12, the Council gave over its usual business meeting to a presentation on stewardship by the Rev. David Williams, the UCC-NH Conference minister for stewardship. We were reminded that although support for the church to continue its existence comes from pledges, gifts for special purposes, and planned giving, stewardship itself, however, is not simply an annual appeal for pledge support, but rather one of sharing of our God given gifts and talents for the betterment of the community at large throughout the year. Our Church has much to be proud of in that regard.

Deacon's Report

Ruth Palmer Memorial Endowment Fund for Deering Community Church

Next time you enter the church, take a look at the Endowment Plaque behind the guest sign-in book. Each leaf on the plaque has the name of someone who is remembered and honored for their contributions to Deering Community Church. Each of these former members is honored not only for their financial contributions, but more so for the gifts of their time, their efforts and their talents.

With the recent passing of Ruth Palmer who was an inspiration to all who knew her, the Deacons, with the full support of the Church Council, have decided to spearhead an appeal to raise \$1000 for the endowment fund in her name. This will be a permanent record in the form of a leaf with Ruth's name on it to recognize her countless hours of work for the church community. Several donations have already been given by members of the church and by the guild. No amount is too small if you would like to support this effort. Please make out checks to Deering Community Church and specify in the memo box "Ruth Palmer Memorial Endowment Fund."



Jim Carpenter

Financial Bits and Pieces

Peter Cram, Treasurer and Suzanne Huggard, Financial Secretary

We've been cautious with our spending this year, and so far it has paid off. We are under budget for the year overall. Some points of possible interest follow:

So far, our payments toward fuel oil and furnace repairs are a bit over budget. We recently had some repairs done to the furnace. So far this year, those repairs have totaled over \$1,300.

Also, we recently had some repairs done to the church organ, which came to \$560. In the grand scheme of things, this isn't a lot to spend, however the budget for organ repairs for the year is only \$200. By comparison, in 2008, we were under budget for the year, and in 2007, we had no budget for organ repair at all. It makes sense that we'll see at least some expense in this area from time to time and this was just one of those times.

The church membership continues to be generous with their contributions to the Deacon's fund, food

pantry and other special collections. On the Treasurer's report, you can see the 'unbudgeted expenditures', and the running balances for the continuing special funds such as these.

Overall, money continues to be a bit tight, as we all wrestle with the difficult economic climate. We're almost halfway through the church year, and we still need to begin to pay our financial obligations of nearly \$3,000 for Outreach. Those payments will begin in June, and will be distributed between now and December.

Please know that the most recent Treasurer's report is always posted on the bulletin board in Sherwood hall. I would invite everyone to read the report and bring up any questions that you may have. For those who are familiar with its details, you'll note that recently we've begun posting the status of the Endowment Funds on the last page of the report.

Peter Cram, Treasurer

Six months ago during the cold dark days of January and February, we worked hard to adopt a bare bones church budget for 2009 in these difficult economic times. We finally voted to insert a "to be raised" amount of \$2235 to close the budget gap. This was to be accomplished by each of us giving an additional amount above and beyond our annual pledge whenever possible throughout the year.

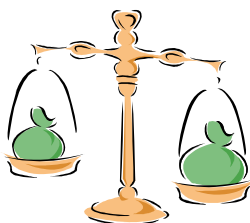
At this time we have received just about half this amount, or \$1100.00. Please consider what you might contribute to raising the balance of \$1135.00 of this congregational commitment in the coming months. Please clearly state "to be raised" on your check memo line. I'm sure we can all do this – and

probably even surpass the goal- this is a generous congregation.

For those of you who do not pledge but would be willing to help maintain the church and its commitments to do good works in the community, we would be grateful for any contributions you might make. Your check marked "to be raised" in the memo line would be mailed to Deering Community Church, 763 Deering Center Road, Deering NH, 03244. Remember, all contributions are tax deductible and gratefully received.

We will keep you updated on progress in future newsletters.

Suzanne Huggard, Financial Secretary



Sunday School News

Chris Nase

The Sunday School Children continued to study two of the major Indian religions while Pastor Barbara was on Sabbatical. Their study culminated in their presentation to the congregation on May 3 for Children's Sunday. The service started with a guided meditation to help everyone relax and be open to this different service. Hailey Nase "taught" the congregation some basic facts about Hinduism and Buddhism. All attending had a hands-on experience as they were given a small piece of play dough taken from a large piece. The congregation was asked to create an object as an example of how these religious practices believe everything is part of the whole. The children then performed two skits based on Hindu and Buddhist parables and they used shadow puppets to reenact an adaptation of the *Ramayana*. The children enjoyed creating the service and being active participants in learning and sharing about these religions. We were very grateful for all the help Don and Jean Johnson provided in teaching us and letting us learn through using authentic materials.

During this experience the children made two Indian recipes that were sampled at a coffee hour. Here are the recipes as requested -

Barfi

1 cup + 1 Tbsp. whipping cream

½ cup sugar

1 ½ Tbsp. butter

3 cups powdered milk

1 tsp. cardamom powder

½ tsp. vanilla

Bring whipping cream to a boil.

Mix in the sugar and butter. Boil for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add powdered milk a little at a time. Add the cardamom powder. Remove from heat and add vanilla.

Pour in greased pan. Let cool and become hard.

Cut into diamond shapes.

Lassi

2 cups yogurt

¼ cup sugar

¼ tsp. salt

½ tsp. dried mint leaves

¼ tsp. ground black pepper

1 cup crushed ice

2 cups cold water

Combine the yogurt, sugar, salt, mint and pepper in a jug.

Whisk vigorously until the mixture is smooth.

Add the crushed ice and water and continue to whisk for 1 minute.

Served chilled.



Fast Facts

Hinduism –

Practiced since 3000 B.C.E.

900 million followers today

Believe in reincarnation and rebirth

Karma – how you live today will effect your future, how you will be reborn

Four Goals of Life –

Dharma – do your job well

Artha – be successful

Kama – have fun

Moksha – release from reincarnation

Buddhism –

Began in India about 520 B.C.E.

Based on teachings of Siddharta Gautama

About 360 million followers today

Four Noble Truths

Suffering happens

Suffering happens because we want too much

Suffering ends when we stop wanting

Freedom from suffering is possible by following the Eightfold Path

The Sunday School is now back to Christianity and learning about New Testament stories. Sunday School will end on June 21 and will resume on September 13.

World Service and Outreach

Jeanne Bartlett and Christine Marcroft

Part of our outreach program has been an ongoing women's prison project with the chaplain in the Goffstown, NH prison.

For Mother's Day, we collected over 150 cards to be given to all the women in the prison system. Donors would write something uplifting in each card. Some sentiments expressed were "I hope for the willingness to live this year in a way that will be gentle to myself", "Celebrate Mothers- Marvel at the miracle of creation because you are part of that miracle", "Spring is here/ Green leaves appear/Love is here/ Be of good cheer/God is nearyour friend", " Let your mind dwell on things warm and lovely Your friend", A Mother's Day thought: God could not be everywhere, therefore he made Mothers."

The Chaplain wrote this thank you note to our congregation: "The women truly loved the cards. I passed them out to all the women on May 9th – the day of the Mother's Day Event at the prison. For many of the women, their children came for a

cookout in the 'yard.' It is always a bittersweet day. It is especially hard for women whose children couldn't come. I generally spend my time inside with those women on that day. Your cards meant so much to them—to know that someone was thinking about them. I received many 'thank yous' to pass along to you and your church. Even the women who aren't mothers appreciated the cards. It always amazes me how the simple gifts make all the difference in someone's life. Please thank all the hearts and hands and prayers that went into making the cards. Blessings for this day ... Beth Richeson."

On March 26, **Senator Jim Webb (D-VA)** introduced Senate Bill 714, the National Criminal Justice Act of 2009, to create a blue-ribbon commission charged with undertaking a full review of the entire criminal justice system. The intention is for the commission to propose concrete and wide-ranging reforms to responsibly reduce the overall incarceration rate, improve governmental responses to U.S. and international gang violence, restructure our drug policies, improve treatment for the

mentally ill, improve the ways prisons are administrated, and establish a coherent system to reintegrate formerly incarcerated people.

- The United States has 5% of the world's population, but houses 25% of all the prisoners in the world. Approximately 2.4 million Americans are currently in prison, and another 5 million are on probation or parole. This represents 1 out of every 31 adults in the U.S.
- **Over the past twenty years, our prison population has skyrocketed, driven largely by incarcerations for non-violent drug crimes and crimes instigated by drug dependence. In 1984, people imprisoned for drug offenses represented 10% of the inmate population. By 2002, they were 33% of all prisoners.**
- **Prisons have become warehouses for the mentally ill. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that about 350,000 (16% of the adult inmate population) suffer from mental illness, and the rate is higher for juveniles. Of the mentally ill, 4 times as many are housed in prisons as are housed in mental health facilities.**
- Another large group of inmates is what is now termed the "criminally ill": people who suffer from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis.
- The costs of incarceration continue to skyrocket for individual prisoners, and those costs have grown exponentially with vastly increasing numbers of prisoners. Prisons are seriously overcrowded, making administration difficult at best.
- Despite this, we are housing large numbers of non-violent offenders who need mental health or substance abuse care. This distracts from the proper incarceration of more serious and violent offenders.
- The mass incarceration of illegal drug users has not curtailed drug use.
- Rates of drug use and drug crimes have been shown to be virtually identical across racial and ethnic lines. Despite this fact, African Americans, who make up 12% of the U.S. population, account for 37% of those arrested on drug charges, 59% of those convicted, and 74% of all drug offenders sentenced to prison.

As we become more informed about our prisons here in New Hampshire, this proposed bill, sponsored by Senator Jim Webb, becomes an important issue. Please note the bold paragraphs above as this relates to the Women's Prison, especially.

Jeanne Bartlett for World Service and Outreach

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

Our April and May meetings were lively with Peter Lovejoy in attendance in April and the May return of Pastor Barbara from India along with our president Hazel Vogelien from the warmth of Florida. There were 10 and 12 members present and as always we had an enjoyable lunch with a delicious dessert provided by the hostess of each month. With the nice spring weather, members came out of hibernation swelling the ranks and it was nice to sit and chat with each other. Our non-

denominational group meets the first Wednesday of each month at noon in the parish hall. We welcome all women from Deering and surrounding towns to join our little group for fun and friendship. Please drop in, bring a bag lunch and join us!

We want to thank the Deering Church Council for updating the first floor bathroom to make it more handicap accessible using the Guild's Ruth Palmer Memorial Handicap Access Fund of \$500. Peter

Cram and Stuart Huggard bought a chair height toilet and wall mount grab bar, which were installed by Council members on a Saturday workday. The plan is to paint the room, add a nice wall mirror over the sink and a corner cabinet for supplies. About \$250 will be used for this project thanks to all the donated labor and paint. The balance of \$250 will go into a Ruth Palmer Memorial Endowment Fund set up by the church, to which additional sums can be added by anyone wanting to honor Ruth's friendship, life and good works for the church and community with their own donations.

At the May meeting, the Guild, along with Stuart Huggard started to organize the Deering Guild - Church Fair to be held on August 8th. We talked our way through the Fair Responsibilities chart, noting names of those who might help at each table or area, plus publicity, and any new fair ideas. Kay Daniels

has the raffle tickets for the quilt, which are available to everyone to sell from now until the drawing. Ellie handed out our membership booklets and the updated hotline chart. A financial audit of the guild books was completed previously and everything was found to be in order.

Our June 3rd meeting dealt with continued planning for the Deering Guild-Church Fair on August 8th. Our Guild's \$2000 Hilkka Swenson Memorial Scholarship Fund was awarded to Elizabeth "Libby" Dutton of Deering on June 4th. She is the granddaughter of Marguerite Dutton, who had been a longstanding member of the Deering Women's Guild. "Libby" ranked 8th in her graduating class. She excelled at basketball scoring 1000 points in her HD career, and was involved in many community and school activities. She will be off to Smith College in the fall and we all wish her well!

Deering Guild-Church Fair

Hazel Vogelien

The Women's Guild and The Deering Community Church will hold its annual Deering Guild-Church Fair on August 8th from 9 to 2 at the church. All the familiar offerings will be there. Raffle tickets for the beautiful "Timeless Treasures" quilt will be sold each Sunday after church service and at selected spots around the towns up through the 2 PM drawing on Fair Day. We welcome everyone's donations of culinary gifts to the Baked Goods table, which can be dropped off Friday or early Saturday on fair day. It is a tribute to our quality bakers that their offerings of pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, and muffins sell out early in the day. Our Plants table and Local Garden Vegetables table will be looking for your needed donations from our bountiful area gardens. These donation should be brought over either Friday or early Saturday morning. We will offer our famous Grafton Village Cheese table as well as our table of delicious homemade jams, jellies and pickles to stock your larder. Our popular muffins and coffee/ tea corner with sit down tables for immediate enjoyment of a homemade treat will be there again. The handmade crafts and gifts table with its wonderful array of offerings will have a new area with a table raffle of themed baskets. As always, face painting for children of all ages will round out the Parish Hall

offerings.

Since our last "Attic Treasurers" sale, we expect that you may have a new supply of "treasures" around your house, basement, or garage looking for a new home. We hope you will help us fill the Sunday school rooms with interesting and useful offerings. If you have some "treasures" already, you can call and leave them at the Vogelien's or Huggards. Also, look for later notices about drop off times at the church for your treasures as the fair date draws near.

There will be hotdogs, snacks and drinks sold outside and rumor has it that the Sunday School members may have a lemonade stand and possibly ice cream for sale!

Please Note: The Deering Guild-Church Fair is the only fundraising activity for the Guild and the Church this year. The Guild's share goes to a monthly pledge to the Church and to various community charitable organizations. The Church's share of profits is used to help meet Church expenses. Let's all work to make AUGUST 8TH the best fair day ever! Save the date on your calendar and pitch in to make this a success for us all! Our church is counting on everyone to do his or her share!

Timeless Treasures Quilt

Barbara Glauner

A quilt called Timeless Treasures has been produced for the Deering Guild-Church Fair raffle by Kay Daniels, who is known for her lovely handmade quilts. This year's offering is no exception in beauty and workmanship! The spectacular queen sized quilt is predominantly a rich red and black with many other beautiful colors in the nine-patch design. In addition to the picture here, the quilt can be seen displayed in the parish hall.

The raffle tickets have arrived and it is time for everyone to pitch in and start selling tickets now for the quilt drawing at the August 8th Fair. This raffle has produced the largest single dollar amount for the fair in most of the past years and could produce much more if everyone in the church got behind the selling of tickets. Previously, only the Women's Guild has been selling raffle tickets, but they can no longer do it by themselves. This Deering Guild-Church Fair is a whole church event to raise money for our operating budget so the more we can generate, the better off our financial picture will be!

Ticket booklets will be available after Sunday church services in the parish hall to either buy or to



take and sell to others. Kay Daniels is in charge of the tickets, which come in books of three and are \$2.00 per ticket or 3 for \$5.00. We will also need volunteers to help sell tickets to the public for a few hours on some weekends at Butler Park, Shaw's Market and other spots. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time to raise a lot of money! Let Kay know you can help and she will coordinate a time spot that's good for your schedule. Please donate your gifts of time and talent to help your church.

Geese

Angela MacConkey

I heard this lovely story the other day about geese, and it reminded me of our vision of oneness within the church, the community at large, and the world. This notion of "oneness" was also put forth eloquently by our guest from Zimbabwe on May 31st as he spoke to us after service. Here it is:

"As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. Lesson: People who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they're going quicker and easier because they're traveling on the thrust (and trust) of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take

advantage of the lifting power of the flock Lesson: Stay in formation with those headed the same way as we are. Be willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose takes over. Lesson: It's good to share leadership and take turns doing the hard tasks (the antithesis of the 80/20 rule). As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique gifts, talents and resources.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed. Lesson: Words of support and inspiration help energize those on the front line, helping them to keep pace in the face of pressures and fatigue.

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation to catch up with their group. Lesson: It's up to us to stand by each other in difficult times, not just in word but in deed, and to

be loyal to each other as church members."

This story is attributed to Dr. Robert McNeish, a science teacher from Baltimore.

Thoughts and Experiences

Corbin Griest

Dylan and I have been involved in many service projects. whether they were from National Honor Society, church, or our own interest in helping people. One of the projects we've taken part in every year since 2007 is a trip to either Mississippi or New Orleans. We go down to these locations to help rebuild people's houses after Hurricane Katrina. My neighbor, Peter Cram, first asked if my brother and I were interested in joining him and we were hesitant at first. We're so glad we chose to go with him because it was one of the best experiences of our lives so far. This service affects the people we work for, the community as a whole, and us personally.

The people we work for are affected the most. They're the most grateful people we have ever met. The first year we went down, we worked for an elderly couple. They would check up during the work day to see if we needed anything. When we had lunch, they would join us and socialize with us. They told us what happened to them during the storm and how appreciative they were. The woman even showed me how to hoe properly while we were working on her flowerbeds and walkway up to her house. She thought it was very funny that I had no idea how to hoe. This elderly couple just couldn't believe that teenagers would give up their vacation from school to come down to help them out. On the last day of work, we took pictures with the couple and said our farewells. The woman was so overwhelmed with the work that she started to

cry. It was then that we realized that we would be coming back the next year and any of the following years we could.

The larger community itself was affected by our presence in helping this elderly couple. When we were working, people would walk by and ask how they could get help too. If people didn't want help, then they just said how much they appreciated our presence and what we were doing. They saw what we were doing as a showing of our benevolence. They also saw that as more and more was being done, the community was starting to look like its old self. The people of the community were always welcoming and caring. During our time there, the community had prepared a dinner for us. This just showed us that these people actually cared that we were doing all we could to help them and that was one of the best feelings in the world.

We've learned so much about ourselves in the three years we've been going down to help people. We felt gratitude and that was something we hadn't felt before then. The elderly woman was so kind to us as we worked on her home. Through her we gained compassion. We have a need to help people and this was one way we could channel that need. We now know the value of every little possession that we have. The way everyone responded to us helping out was overwhelming. Their appreciation, gratitude, and hospitality was more than we could ever ask for.

Congratulations to Corbin & Dylan who will graduate from high school this year.



Community Corner Events

HILLSBOROUGH-DEERING COMMUNITY CHORUS EVENT

Jane H. Waters,
Music Director

MUSIC AS LIVING HISTORY

How often do we hear and sing familiar tunes without realizing they are a product of the social and political values of the time in which they were created? An important contributor to our American musical heritage was Francis Hopkinson (1737-1791), a friend of Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin, and most importantly, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He is considered to be the first native-born American to attempt musical composition. A surviving group of published songs titled "Seven Songs for the Harpsichord" was dedicated to George Washington. One can't help but believe that Hopkinson's status as first Secretary of the Navy, ardent advocate of independence, active pamphleteer, essayist, even known as the singular designer of the American flag, influenced his using the words "My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free" in the song for which he is most remembered.

As an introduction to the Living History events, songs drawn from colonial days through the 1940's will be offered by the Hillsboro-Deering Community Chorus, sponsored by the Hillsborough Main Street Program and Hillsborough Historical Society, August 21, 22, and 23. Stay tuned for more about the music to be performed.

Tickets are available to the Living History Events. For more information, go to www.LivingHistoryEventNH.com.

E-mail address: [LivingHistoryEvent @ tds.net](mailto:LivingHistoryEvent@tds.net).

**THE SIXTH ANNUAL FREE
DEERING CHICKEN BARBEQUE
COME ONE, COME ALL**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009, 2 TO 5 PM

WEST DEERING FISH AND GAME CLUB

SPONSORED BY DEERING COMMUNITY CHURCH

**PLENTY OF CHICKEN, CORN ON THE COB, BAKED
BEANS(?)**

If you wish to bring a dish to share, we would appreciate salads, vegetables, and desserts (but not required!)



FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Questions? Call the church at 464-5643.

For Your Information

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries.

Hillsboro: Although there has been a request for peanut butter for July and small cans of meat for August - such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc. - each week you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have. The Food Pantry is still in need of large brown paper bags.

Weare: Donations of all types of food and personal care products are sorely needed.

The July 5th and August 2nd food donations will both go to Weare.

Cash donations are always welcome. Please make checks payable to Deering Community Church and note "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Periodically, accumulated cash donations are divided and half is sent to each of the above food pantries.

Food Pantry donations are part of our outreach program to help others less fortunate. Please help if you can.

THANK YOU!

Suzanne Huggard,
Financial Secretary



JULY

Timothy Basha , July 7th
Margaret Colburn, July 13th
Donald Johnson, July 14th
Neill Currie, July 15th
Elizabeth Dishong, July 16th
Christine Hague, July 19th
Bruce Couturier, July 26th

AUGUST

Leroy Marcroft, August 10th
Sam Griest, August 25th
Corbin Griest, August 26th
Dylan Griest, August 26th
Kay Daniels, August 26th
Robert Fuller, August 27th
Krista Couturier, August 27th

Happy Anniversary

JULY

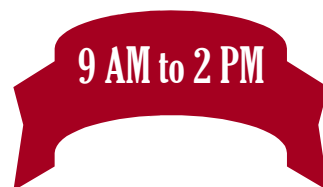
Lauren Warner
Keith Robinson
July 6th
Summer & Toby Smith
July 19th
Christine & Paul Hague
July 20th
Marjorie & Henry Weeden
July 29th

AUGUST

Jane & Stephen Waters
August 8th
Jean & Donald Johnson
August 13th
Carrie & Chris Basha
August 24th
Suzanne & Stuart Huggard
August 25th

Deering Guild- Church Fair

Saturday August 8th 2009



Details on Page 9!

Old Time Country Fair
Quilt raffle, crafts & food
Attic Treasures & More

Tel: 603-464-5643



July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 12:00 Guild 7:00 p.m. Deacons	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>  Independence Day
<i>5</i> 10:00 Worship with communion & deacons fund offering	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Council	<i>8</i> 7:00 p.m. World Service & Outreach	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m. Monadnock Music Concert	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 10:00 Worship With Food Pantry Offering	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>15</i> 7:00 p.m. Trustees	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 10:00 Worship Food Pantry Offering 3:00 p.m. PFLAG in Concord	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 10:00 Worship With Food Pantry Offering	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 7:00 Breakfast & Work Day
<i>2</i> 10:00 Worship communion & Deacon's Fund offering	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>5</i> 12:00 Guild 7:00 p.m. Deacons	<i>6</i> Hiroshima Day of Re- memberance	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>  Deering Church Fair 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
<i>9</i> 10:00 Worship With Food Pantry Offering	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Council	<i>12</i> 7:00 p.m. World Service & outreach	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 10:00 Worship Food Pantry Offering. 3 pm Pflag Concord	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>19</i> 7:00 p.m. Trustees	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Ramadan begins
<i>23</i> 10:00 Worship Food Pantry Offering	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:00 a.m. Yoga	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>  Deering Chicken Barbeque 2:00–5:00 p.m
<i>30</i> 10:00 Worship Food Pantry Offering	<i>31</i>					

**Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244**

We're on The Web!

deeringcommunitychurch.org

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSPAPERS

by Pastor Barbara

As some of you may know there is no longer a printed *United Church News*, which had been sent to us every other month from our denomination's office. Included in each issue was a 4 page *Quarry*, the newspaper from our NH Conference. Each of these newspapers are now available on line. For the national newspaper, go to <http://www.ucc.org/ucnews/>. Likewise, *The Quarry* may be read online at our Conference website, www.NHCUCC.org. Scroll down until you see the link to *The Quarry*. In addition our NH Conference sends out *The Weekly News* to anyone who wishes to receive it. To subscribe to this online publication, call Helen McGlashan at 888 642-8229, toll free in NH. You may also send your email address to Helen--hmcglashan@nhcucc.org. As you can see the change over to electronic news is happening in many places, not only our Deering Newsletter. I know for you who do not use the computer, all of these changes may be difficult. I'll be glad to be of service in obtaining printed copies for you of church related materials if you will let me know your desire.

GENERAL SYNOD

The national office of our denomination, United Church of Christ, holds a bi-annual meeting of delegates from all churches and conferences that make up their membership. Two years ago the general synod, held in Hartford, Ct. was a celebration of 50th birthday of the United Church of Christ. Several of us attended from Deering Community Church. This year the location is in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from July 26-30th. As far as Pastor Barbara knows, there is no one attending from this church. You may keep up with the proceedings by checking the UCC website at www.ucc.org/synod/.



Come to our Church Fair!

Saturday, August 8th, 9am to 2pm

See Page 9 for details!