

DEERING COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

March, 2010

Pastor's Corner



THE LENTEN SEASON, A HOLY OPPORTUNITY

By the time you get this Newsletter, the season of Lent will have already started. Ash Wednesday came this year on February 17. Lent proceeds for

40 days, excluding Sundays, culminating with Easter, this year on April 4th. These 40 days correspond to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness toward the promised land.

The season of Lent was originally conceived as a time to prepare for baptism. In our denomination that has not been a common practice, although in some churches this remains the time when those youth and adults desiring to be baptized undertake a period of study and preparation for their baptism on Easter Sunday. The word Lent is from a Middle Eastern verb meaning to lengthen, and the season corresponds with the lengthening of our days in late winter and early spring.

For us in the United Church of Christ, the season is a time when members are encouraged to do some self-examination in terms of their journey with Jesus. For some it is a time of fasting, giving up favorite foods, increasing time spent in prayer and meditation, and increasing random acts of kindness and other loving deeds. For myself, I have always wanted to use the time during Lent to add something as opposed to taking something away. Sometimes I add time to my daily devotions or do some specific spiritual reading. Lent can be a time when we intentionally slow down and pay attention to "the sacred potential of the ordinary" (Mary Luti). I challenge each of you to do something regularly during the rest of this Lenten season that will help you grow spiritually. Maybe you can pare down your usual schedule and do more of the activities that nourish you and that you love. Some of these activities could be reaching out to others,

such as a visit to a shut-in or someone in a nursing home. What about reading the Still Speaking Daily Devotions? You can sign up for a free devotion emailed to you each day at <http://i.ucc.org/>

FeedYourSpirit/Subscribe/tabid/101/Default.aspx. Or this might be the time to get into reading and reflecting on the Bible on a regular basis.

Maybe it's time for you to reconcile with someone you don't like or feel has neglected you. Do whatever seems right to you to prepare yourself for Easter.

Speaking of Easter, many of you know that I am recovering from surgery that was performed on February 10th. I am anticipating being back at the church by Holy Week, preaching on Easter. I look forward to seeing many of you on that special day in the life of Christians, the great Festival to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Easter is filled with symbols of life and abundant living. We sing praises to God for God's glory and peace to all on earth. Scriptures and sermons proclaim God's love for humanity and God's promises of eternal life. The Church celebrates the Easter season for 50 days up till Pentecost Sunday. So God willing, I will be back for the celebration of Easter and sharing God's love with all of you. Have a Holy Lent and a Joyous Easter.



Inside this issue:

Peace Corner	2
Balance Chibangwa	2
Moderator's Musings	3
Sunday School News	3
WSO Potluck & Fun Time	4
WSO Holidays & Poem	5
Fire at Jami Boyle's	5
Guild Gleanings	6
Musical Notes	6
FYI	7
March Calendar	8
April Calendar	9

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

THE CHARTER OF COMPASSION

Karen Armstrong, a former Roman Catholic nun, has written more than 20 books about Christianity, Judaism and Islam, often stressing what they have in common. In 2008 when she won the TED prize, her wish was for help to create a Charter of Compassion. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, and they award annual prizes of \$100,000 (supported by the Fetzer organization) to talented individuals, plus they help the winners fulfill their "One Wish to Change the World."

The Charter, which can be downloaded at http://charterforcompassion.org/docs/cfc_dl_english.pdf, is based on the Golden Rule which is so basic to all religions. On the Charter of Compassion's website: "The Golden Rule requires that we use empathy -- moral imagination -- to put ourselves in others' shoes. We should act toward them as we would want them to act toward us. We should refuse, under any circumstance, to carry out actions which would cause them harm."

The Charter is not simply a statement of principle but a summons for creative, practical, and sustained action to meet the political, moral, religious, social and cultural problems of our time. People from all over the world had input into the Charter, which was written by a multi-faith, multi-national council of thinkers and leaders.

I was fortunate enough to attend one of my daughter's Harvard classes with Diana Eck, just before Thanksgiving. Karen Armstrong and Diana Eck are old friends and so Karen was in her class that day, talking about this Charter. It was a delightful experience for me to be part of. I went home and Googled the Charter of Compassion and signed on. This article is in the Peace Corner, and my belief is that there's nothing any better than compassion to bring real peace to our world. Please go to <http://charterforcompassion.org/> to further inform yourself and to sign on if you wish.

May peace and compassion be what you give and what you receive until we meet again.

In Memory of Balance Chibangwa, Rimbi, Zimbabwe

We wish to report the tragic death of Balance Chibangwa, who was killed while a passenger in a minibus accident with a large truck. He was on his way home from South Africa after buying goods for his shop.

We met him in 2005 and then again in 2006 when he traveled as part of a church delegation to NH. Jeanne Bartlett knew him the longest, as she was the one who started our church partnership with Rimbi in the late 90's.

Balance was a leader in the church, working with the Christian Youth Fellowship since he had a passion for ministry to young people. His death is a great loss to our communities. He was married and had children. You can send prayers and condolences to Balance's mother, his wife Tariro, and their children at bchibangwa@yahoo.com.



Moderator's Musings

Steve Waters

As I write these mid-winter thoughts, our beloved Pastor Barbara is undergoing a serious operation with the results unsure and a lengthy recuperation expected. While she will not be with us for some weeks, our prayers, thoughts, and eventually visits will be of some sustaining power. In the meantime, our fellow congregants are stepping up to the plate to fill the gaps in our Sunday services and committee work continues unabated. Our good friend, the Rev. Peter Lovejoy, has agreed to be available for emergencies.

Some thirty members attended the annual meeting on January 24. The varied and amazing outreach projects and activities of our church were reviewed and applauded. I do not use the word 'amazing' lightly. The positive influence of the Deering Church may be felt from Rimbi, Zimbabwe to our own town, whenever we are able to reach out to those with difficulties in their lives. Settling a Bhutanese family, supporting women in prison, delivering welcome baskets to newcomers in town, and providing musical performances and forums to feed the mind as well as the spirit, are among the major efforts coming from our tiny church. We may be small in number but we are large in answering God's call, and I continue to believe this is truly amazing!

I want to use a few sentences to recognize the work of Priscilla Beaudrault. She has been archiving church records, keeping the history of Deering Church up to date. This activity goes on quietly and without notice. If the value of our work is noteworthy, it is good a record be kept. And when the next history of our church is written, these records will provide essential material for the historian.

At the annual meeting the business of the church was carried out, including the electing and reappointing of various officers and the passing of a budget. This year the budget was passed with a line item called "needed to raise" of \$4128, nearly twice that amount on that line in the previous budget. To make ends meet, we will need to work through the year to find that \$4128.

Finally, a plea to those who have made a financial pledge for the year. In just the first month, there is already an \$800 gap between expected income and what has actually come in. Please be punctual in paying your pledge.

Blessings and Good Wishes to you all.

Sunday School News

Christine Nase

Recently, the Sunday School participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This national program began with the thought that on a day when most of the nation is consuming excess food while watching the Super Bowl, we can first think of those less fortunate and collect money for local charities involved in hunger relief.

The recent earthquake disaster in Haiti prompted the Sunday School children to dedicate this Souper Bowl collection to helping Haiti. In the weeks leading up to the collection, the children performed skits, made announcements and helped put together hygiene kits for Haiti. On, Sunday, February 7, 2010 they collected about \$475 plus enough supplies to make 20 hygiene kits. Great effort!



World Service & Outreach

Jeanne Bartlett, Christine Marcroft

Variety Show, Open Mike and Potluck Supper Feb. 13 @ 6 PM

The idea was conceived; announcements went into the local newspapers, the church bulletin and were posted on road signs in Deering.

A long line of people formed, plates in hand, to select a wonderful variety of food at a buffet table groaning with delicious dishes. Chicken divan, baked stuffed seafood, quiche, salads, even Kentucky fried chicken, and French bread with dipping oil, to name a few. Coffee, cookies and heart cupcakes put us in a fine mood for the ensuing program.

MC, Don Johnson, rivaling Jay Leno, opened with

some very funny comments about those near and dear in our community. One by one the poets, the writers, the musicians and comedians came forth, some with their original work in hand. Jane Waters, dressed in a nun's habit, gave a delightful prelude, for the upcoming musical, *Nunsense*, which will be performed in Hillsborough by the Hillcat Summer Theater the evenings of Feb. 26 & 27. Marion Baker played her banjo and sang a song in the Swahili language. Sam Kelly played banjo and sang a plaintive cowboy song.

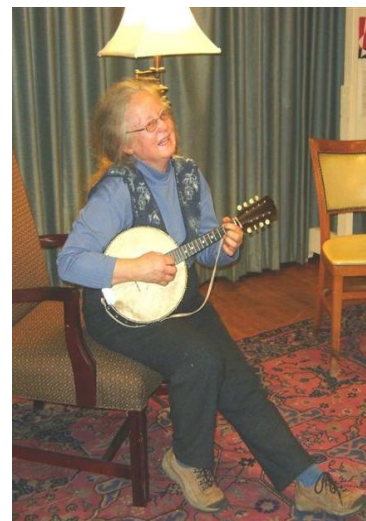
We are looking forward to the next potluck, variety show already. Don't miss it!



Jane Waters as Sister Amnesia



Jeanne Bartlett reading her poetry



Marian with her banjo



Sam Kelly Singing a Ballad



Laurie, Stephanie, Ben, Jean, and others



Don Johnson & Neill Currie

WSO

Jeanne Bartlett & Don Johnson

Christmas at the Goffstown Women's Prison

Greetings on this cold morning just eight days before Christmas. Cold outside, yes, but warm in my kitchen as I count the Christmas cards that have come in from the church family. 160!!! Thanks to a warm, compassionate congregation, the women at the Goffstown prison will feel a little richer this season.

Prison Christmas

On a sadly bleak December day
With many things to do,
I paused awhile to ponder
Pastor Beth's wise Advent words
of waiting, waiting, waiting
For our newborn Lord to come.

The women attentively gathered
In shirts of green and red,
Joyous Christmas colors; waiting, waiting.
While the rising moon's light glistened
Off the steely razor-wire fence.

Hymns led, scriptures read, prayers said,
The women's green and crimson sea
Departed into smaller pools
To talk of more confining things.

A woman with a haunting smile
Told of her bosses' pledge
To hold a job for her and
How she would one day, leave
Her city life where temptations
Tumbled from the night,
To live along a tree-lined road
In a smaller, simpler place,
Where folks would say hello.

I, who rail against the seconds wait
For traffic lights to change,
Could only stand in awe,
Before one whose burning spark of hope
Might transform her fourteen years
Of waiting, into just one tomorrow.

Don Johnson

WSO Survey Results: The results of a written survey taken at church on January 24th is posted on the bulletin board in Sherwood Hall. The questionnaire covered the various projects undertaken by our WSO, church members opinions and level of support for them, and any suggestions about WSO activities.

Fire at Jami Boyle & Jon Brook's Studio

Barbara Glauner

Jami Boyle and husband Jon Brooks, a well known artist, lost Jon's art workshop and their little guest house which Jon had built.

In the middle of the night of January 18th, they were awakened by the crackling sound of fire outside. Their home nearby did not burn, but unfortunately they learned too late that the workshop was not covered by their homeowner's insurance. They lost everything, including all of his artwork and special wood, along with almost all of his specialized tools, current projects, and his sketchbooks and journals of a lifetime. Friends from around the world have sent him some tools to help rebuild his collection. Jon's brother Phil, a general contractor, will help to clean up the site and rebuild. Jon Brooks is a well known

wood artist whose whimsical style includes sculpture and furniture. His work is on display at major museums across the country including the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. His signature style includes tall chairs with wavy backs, undulating benches, and wood sculptures. His work can be seen on his website at <http://www.jonbrooks.org/>.

His wife Jami is our newest church member. She is working on her MDiv degree at Andover Newton and has been a substitute preacher for Pastor Barbara. Their address is Art Soul, 81 Pine Road, New Boston, NH, 03070, and e-mail is jamiboyle@jonbrooks.org. We keep Jami and Jon in our prayers as they work to start over again.

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

During the cold and at times snowy January and February, the Guild has continued to meet, although our January meeting was postponed to the 20th due to illness among three of the officers. We really enjoyed our little gatherings as a break from cabin fever and the stark landscape outside, to sit around and chat with each other. Each month we ate lunch, had delicious cake and beverages, followed by interesting meetings. In January, we decided to take up the church world service project to help the survivors of Haiti with 4 baby care kits. We decided to have fun by buying and / or making the required items, rather than paying for readymade kits. After all, how often do we get to buy or make baby things anymore!! At the February meeting, we all brought in what we had either made or purchased, and set

about checking over the list of requirements so that we would know what we were missing. In March, we will bring the remaining items in and go about packaging them up for shipment. We did the usual things of voting in our officers for 2010, paying our dues for the year, and looking at a budget, which will be finalized at the April Meeting. We missed seeing a few of our members who tend not to come out in the cold, snowy or slippery conditions; and our President, Hazel, who has flown south to visit her daughters for now. Dorothy Wood is at Hillsboro house at the moment and is a bit lonely, so would love to see visitors. We are all looking forward to spring and daylight savings time, which is just around the corner!

Musical Notes

Barbara Glauner

Our Music Director, Jane Waters, is busy studying for her role in Nunsense with the Hillcat Summer Players for a February performance, so I thought I would take the opportunity to highlight our fabulous choir with a recent photo. We are fortunate to have had the Edith Daniels Piano repaired recently. The “guts” are back in the piano case and it is being used for choir rehearsals in

Sherwood Hall, although I am told it may need a little fine tuning yet. We are fortunate to have such a fine choir of blended voices. Choir members are Director Jane Waters at the piano, Betty Dischong, Jeanne Bartlett, Bryan Terry, Christine Marcroft, Sam Kelly, Stuart Huggard, Peter Cram, and Stephen Waters. We thank you for your wonderful gift of music!



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable items for the Weare and Hillsboro Food Pantries.

March 7th and April 4th items will go to Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: Although there has been a request for **personal care items for March**, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, **and small cans of meat for April**, such as ham, tuna, chicken etc., you are encouraged to bring whatever items you have. Money is also welcome. There is a need for large brown paper bags.

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

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



MARCH

Courtney Dumais, Mar. 1

Esther McLain, Mar. 11

James Dumais, Jr, Mar. 24

Timothy Ferwerda, Mar. 31

APRIL

Laura Woodland, Apr. 4

Cynthia Ward, Apr. 11

Jeanne Bartlett, Apr. 16

Judy Wood, Apr. 19

Ruth Robinson, Apr. 25

Jane Spragg, Apr. 28

Tyler Wood, Apr. 30

Happy Anniversary

MARCH

Barbara & Neill Currie

March 20th

PEWTER UPDATE

Jon Gibson has done a beautiful job restoring the pewter communion set that is part of the history of the Deering Community Church. The pewter is ready to be used once again to serve communion to the congregation. The plan is to have a "history" Sunday during the summer when our summer friends are here and can participate. The restoration work has been made possible by donations made in memory of Bev Yeaple. The cost of the repair work was more than expected, so if anyone would like to make a donation toward this effort in memory of Bev, it would be welcome. We are also grateful to Jon for his donation of time and talent that made it possible.

NEW WEBMASTER

David Glauner has accepted the job of being our webmaster.

In the coming months, he will be getting our site up to date and revising some of the pages. If you have information or suggestions for the website, please contact him at dglaurer@comcast.net.

The website is at

www.deeringcommunitychurch.org.

Here is how it's done! Stuart Huggard is replacing a chandelier light bulb using a very tall ladder! Thank you Stuart!!



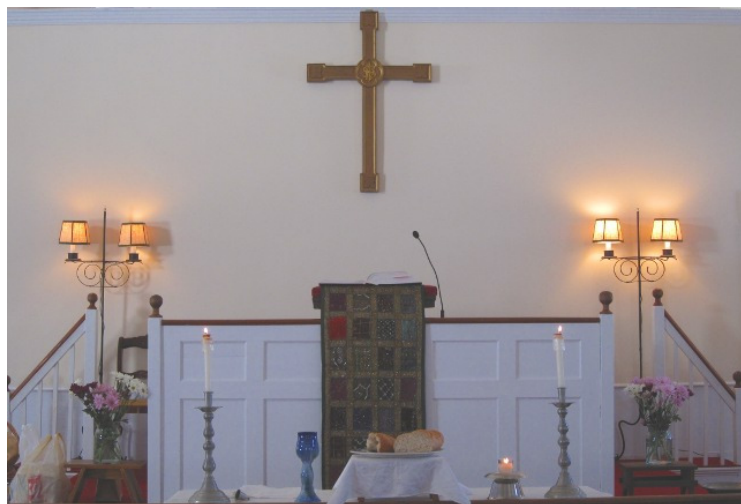
March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9 am Yoga	3 12 noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6 7 am Breakfast & Workday
7 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund offering & CE	8	9 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	10 7 pm World Service & Outreach	11	12	13 Move Clocks Forward Sunday at 2 am
14 OGHS Sunday 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Food Pantry gifts & CE Daylight Savings Time Begins 2am	15	16 9 am Yoga	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 7 pm Choir	19	20 First Day of SPRING! 
21 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Food Pantry gifts & CE 3 pm PFlag in Concord	22	23 9 am Yoga	24 7 pm Trustees	25 7 pm Choir	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Choir, 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts & CE	29 Passover Begins	30 9 am Yoga	31			

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Choir	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 Holy Saturday 7 am Breakfast & Workday
4 EASTER 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacons Fund Offering & CE	5	6 9 am Yoga	7 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	8 7 pm Choir	9	10
11 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts & CE	12	13 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	14 7 pm World Service & Outreach	15 7 pm Choir	16	17
18 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts & CE	19	20 9 am Yoga	21 7 pm Trustees	22 7 pm Choir	23	24
25 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts, No CE	26	27 9 am Yoga	28	29 7 pm Choir	30	

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



We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

