

DEERING COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner

May / June, 2010



Keeping the Sabbath

In my long recovery period, I certainly had many hours, days and weeks where I could not work. Was this a Sabbath for me? Most of the time I was not well enough to be intentional

about anything other than trying to regain my health. After the first six weeks—more or less—I was able to focus and concentrate better. I began having days when I not only did my usual daily devotions of prayer, Bible reading and journaling but I began thinking again about theology: the study of religion and the relationship of God, human beings and creation. I also began doing more challenging reading in this field. One of the interesting books I am currently reading is *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places* by Eugene Peterson, also the author of *The Message*, a translation of the Bible in modern language. Peterson's comments on the Sabbath motivated me to share this topic in my Pastor's Corner.

“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8) This is the 4th of the ten commandments Moses received from God on Mount Sinai. It is listed again in Deuteronomy 5:12. In both books the instructions are similar: neither you nor anyone in your household, including slaves, is to work on the Sabbath. So the very first part of this commandment tells us to “Stop!” The Hebrew word is Shabbat, which means quit; take a break (Peterson). Even though the instructions are almost identical in the two Biblical commands, the reasons for the Sabbath are different. The Exodus command says that God worked to create the universe for six days and rested on the seventh. Therefore, we should observe God's gift of rest from work on the seventh day also. Peterson says that the Exodus version supports a life of believing in God and getting in on what God does. The Deuteronomy

passage relates more to the life of the Hebrew people in Egypt where they were forced to work and work. It relates to justice in a reminder to these people to never oppress and abuse others in this way. Peterson relates this to liberation, coming out of bondage and to love for all those in the “neighborhood” including the Hebrew Bible slaves as well as animals. He says, “Sabbath-keeping is a way to love your neighbor, a simple act of justice.” We know from the Gospels that Jesus as a law-abiding Jew kept the Sabbath; however, he was less rigid than some of his contemporaries. When he was criticized by the Pharisees for plucking grain for his hungry disciples on the Sabbath or healing those in need, he countered with, “It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” (Mt. 12:12)

Many of you older readers probably remember being forbidden to do such things as dance or play cards on Sundays. In many of our puritanical New England states there were “Blue Laws” closing any commercial establishments on that day, allowing workers to keep their Sabbath. Now we have sports scheduled even for Sunday mornings, posing a problem for parents who want their children to both play sports and attend church. These days the economy necessitates that both parents work. The single-parent families and the absence of extended families also interfere with Sabbath keeping. For some workers, Sunday is the only time they have to do errands.



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So what does one do on a Sabbath? What happens when we stop our routine, our busyness? The first thing that comes to mind is that we then have more time to attend to the things of God—to listen, to adore, to worship. We have time to gather with others and sing and pray together. As some of you know, I try to take a Sabbath on Fridays. During that day I do extra spiritual practices, enjoy nature (weather permitting), engage in pleasurable things alone or with friends and family. The thing that is missing for me is worship with others. Besides worship, the Sabbath is a day when we tend to our souls in whatever way is helpful: a walk by the beach, enjoying one's hobby, taking a nap, or spending some contemplative time alone are all possibilities. The Sabbath is not a day to do productive things, but to relax and have fun. It is time off from the worry and tension of work that accompanies our need to be successful in the eyes of the world, and from our efforts to be in control of

our lives as if we were God.

Most churches, including ours, tend to schedule many things on Sundays after church. Whether it is a committee meeting or a Bible study, it can take away from those who want to keep the Sabbath. Most meetings I go to are not restful. So this is something for us to consider when we plan the church's schedule. It's often those who are on committees who most need a Sabbath break. On the other hand, eating, playing and taking delight in one another in the hours after worship would be wonderful ways for congregations or groups within them to keep Sabbath. (Dorothy Bass)

I would love to hear from you who already keep the Sabbath as well as those of you who are motivated to give it a try after reading this article. All of God's commandments are important. Let's encourage each other to remember the Sabbath and to keep it holy.

Services during our Pastor's Absence

Barbara Glauner

We have been very fortunate to have had church members and visiting ministers fill in for nearly three months while Pastor Barbara has been out on surgical sick leave. The Diaconate has worked hard to see that our services go smoothly. There are so many helpers to thank, but here are a few of them. Our member Jami Boyle gave the sermon and conducted communion for the March 7th service. It was her first chance to do a



communion Sunday service since she began studying for her MDiv degree. The communion table included a bread recipe from the time of Martin Luther, thick with honey and molasses. Adding to the atmosphere, was the smell of baking bread during the service in a small electric oven at the back of the church.



Others who took part in our services during the Pastor's absence were Neill Currie, Steve Waters, Sam Kelly, Authur Walmsley, Phyllis Evelyn, Jim Carpenter, Jeanne Bartlett, Kay Daniels, Betty Dishong, Pasca Ferwerda, Rev. Carol Mento, Joyce Lovejoy, Jami Boyle and our Sunday School children. Our choir kept the continuity flowing with their faithful, inspired singing each week. And Debbie Matthews kept our church office humming smoothly, working with the flow of new people each week. Rev. Gary Schulte and Rev. Richard Slater from our UCC Conference Center performed the April 25th and May 2nd services, with Pastor Barbara returning May 2nd to assist with communion.

Don Johnson's wonderful sermon for Palm Sunday was full of historical notes of the times, and included modern day comparisons. Copies are available on the table in the parish hall at the request of parishioners.

Peter Lovejoy deserves a big vote of thanks for conducting all of our Easter week services, including Maundy Thursday, the Sunrise Easter Service on Bear Hill and the regular Easter Service in our church. The church was beautifully decorated with flower contributions from members, and were purchased and artfully arranged by Suzanne and Stuart Huggard. (see picture, back page 10) Also on display was our newly restored, cleaned and polished antique pewter communion set. (see details, January issue, page 5)

A big thank you is given to all named and un-named people who stepped in to carry on our church life during the absence of Pastor Barbara.



Moderator's Musings

Stephen Waters

For me, perhaps the best to come from our regular Council meetings is a reminder of all the blessings that flow from the spirit of Deering Community Church. We learned this month that the Bhutanese family, new to America barely a half year ago, is now independent and settled in their own home. An extraordinarily beautiful quilt, sewn by our own Kay Daniels, is hanging in Sherwood Hall, ready to be raffled off at this summer's Guild Fair. Kay has raised the standard of excellence for quilts. The call has gone out for 140 Mother's Day cards for the ladies incarcerated in the Women's Prison, a goal set and met last year at this time. This gift is so very much appreciated and strengthens the spirits of those who receive the cards. We gave thanks for the willingness of parishioners and outside friends who helped fill the gap during Pastor Barbara's medical leave of absence, and for the beautifully decorated church for Easter, again the work and artistic eyes of Suzanne and Stuart Huggard. Perhaps the greatest blessing for our meeting was the presence of Pastor Barbara, back among us though not yet full-time.

Jami Boyle, new to our congregation in this past year, is studying to become an ordained minister. She has chosen the Deering Church to fulfill the requirement of church membership and is in the process of applying to us to be a Student In Care. She will present her formal application at the May 11th Council meeting. As her 'home church', we would provide opportunities for participation and leadership as well as ongoing support. Jami has

already preached and been as active as she can with a heavy academic load and family responsibilities.

On our recent trip we had the chance to spend an evening with Lynda Hernandez and her youngest son, Joey, past members of our congregation. Lynda sang in our choir. She and Joey have begun a new life in Flagstaff, AZ, where we caught up with them. Lynda is happily employed in a Head Start program. Her employer thinks so highly of her that they will be paying for her to earn a Bachelor's Degree, a long held goal of Lynda's. Joey attends a Charter school for leadership and the arts. With small classes and the opportunity to pursue his own interests, he is thriving. We learned that Tom, the oldest of the three boys, has returned to college in South Dakota, and George is in his 2nd year at Annapolis, doing well, loving it, and singing in the chorus. The spirit of Deering Church is spreading far and wide.



World Service & Outreach

Christine Marcroft

Subcommittee UKAMA

Lee and Christine had the joy and privilege to visit with two delegates from Zimbabwe, Mrs. Memory Matuvhunye and Mrs. Daizy Thabedhe at our Board meeting on March 24. (See pictures). Mrs. Matuvhunye is the wife of the UCCZ president. They were visiting the New Hampshire and Vermont partner churches for two weeks. At the meeting, the women talked about the stressful times in Zimbabwe and thanked our partner churches for the prayers and material support that they have received. Christine also received a lovely and newsy letter from Mrs. Gladys Kashangura, whom many of you will remember from her visit last year with her husband John at our church in Deering. We always feel so humbled by their strong faith during these tough times filled with political



unrest, hunger and poverty.

Among many opportunities to get together with these two delegates at various church potlucks and teas



was one at First Church in Concord on March 27. Mrs. Matuvhunye was the honoree there and Mrs. Thabedhe was at another function that day. Lee and I were able to attend and had a wonderful time sharing with Mrs. Matuvhunye and also the people who had been hosting her during her stay in New Hampshire. I gave her a package of the letters written by members of our church and \$120 collected for Balance Chibangwa's family from a number of partner churches, ours included. She was so thankful and promised to write and tell me that everything was delivered successfully. Rev. Kim McKerley reported at our business meeting that the boxes which were sent last Fall had arrived and were distributed among the partner churches. It is good to know that all our 17 boxes - save two, filled with office paper - got shipped and were taken to Rimbi. Thank you all again for your generosity and helping with packing and delivering.



In August, about 12 delegates from partner churches in New Hampshire will be traveling to Zimbabwe to share with and learn from our sisters and brothers there. We look forward to hear about that journey after their return, and we are sure there will be a lot of pictures!

Mother's Day Cards for the Goffstown Prison Residents

Angela MacConkey

Last year's effort to provide Mother's Day cards to the Goffstown Women's Prison residents was so appreciated and we received many thank you messages. We decided to do the same thing this year — 140 cards are needed for this undertaking by the week before Mother's Day. Note: We have been advised that the prison will not accept cards with glue or stickers on them, so that presents a new challenge to our creativity. Bring your cards to church and leave them on the entryway table or in the parish hall. Thank you for your generous help for these women.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

The Guild met on the first Wednesdays of the past two months to enjoy luncheon, conversation, and conduct business meetings together. With the spring weather returning, the numbers at the Guild table are swelling. Betty Dischong joined our group at the April meeting. We wrestled with our 2010 budget and we will vote on it at the May meeting.

Also at the May and June meetings, our thoughts will turn to planning, with the church, for the Deering Summer Fair in August. Betty Dishong and Hazel Vogeliën are heading up the raffle ticket selling operation, with the entire church signing up, getting out, and selling chances for Kay Daniels beautiful quilt. We are getting an early start this year with the hopes of selling more chances from now through August to improve our fair fund raising effort. This year's raffle tickets were designed by Bill Glauner and printed by Barbara at a cost savings. Stuart Huggard hung the quilt in the parish hall for all to see and admire. Check out the picture of Kay's beautiful queen size quilt done in an autumn palette of brick red, gold and pine green colors. The central red star design is surrounded by twelve differently designed blocks, and finished with black and brown accents and borders.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets for this quilt and are not in the immediate area,

please send your check, payable to Deering Women's Guild, with your request for the # of tickets to Hazel Vogeliën, 749 Clement Hill Road, Deering, NH, 03244. They cost \$2.00 per ticket or three tickets for \$5.00. Hazel will fill out all your stubs for you and enter them into the pool for the drawing at the August 14th fair. You do not need to be present to win.



Have you seen any interesting things going on at other fairs and fundraisers lately? We welcome all suggestions for any new ideas for our summer fair, so put your thinking caps on as they say, and let us know your ideas.

Deering Community Church Women's Guild		
<i>Quilt Raffle</i>		
Red Star Queen Size Quilt		
Drawing Saturday August 14, 2010 Summer Fair, Deering, NH		
Donation: \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00		
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____		

Financial Bits and Pieces

Suzanne Huggard

Thanks to your generosity, the sanctuary looked beautiful for Easter Sunday decked out with lilies and spring flowers, but some Easter flowers have not yet been paid for. If you signed up for Easter flowers, please send your payment soon.

We depend on regular pledge payments over the year to keep our cash flow steady and our financial picture healthy. We are already beginning to fall behind on pledge income after only three months into the year, something that usually does not happen until fall. Please try to keep your pledge up to date. *Note - Life changes when you least expect it!* If you think you may not be able to meet your pledge obligation because of changed circumstances, please let us know so we are able to adjust our expectations. Speak to Pastor Barbara, Suzanne Huggard, Financial Secretary, or Peter Cram, Treasurer. This information is confidential.

When the 2010 Budget was passed (unanimously) at our Annual Meeting in January, it included a line called 'to be raised'. This amount, \$4,213.00, was supported by the agreement of those present to add something above their pledged amount, whenever possible, throughout the year. To date, there have been NO contributions to this line. If you do make a donation for this budget line, please indicate this on your check so it can be allocated correctly.

Fund raising- this budget line, \$2,500, is completely dependent on the Summer Fair, our only fund raising event. The income from this event is evenly divided between the Guild and the Church. If we are to come close to realizing \$2,500, we (the Guild and the Church) need a lot of hands to pitch in to make this a success, so please say 'Yes' when you are asked to help - and buy LOTS of raffle tickets and sell them to everyone you know! The quilt, made by Kay Daniels, is a real beauty!

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

Choices of music for our choir to sing reflect the liturgical calendar of the church. For Christmas, Lent, and Easter, composers have turned out music that may touch our hearts in a special way. *Ave Verum Corpus* by W. A. Mozart is part of our choir's repertoire, which was performed once again on Maundy Thursday.

Mozart had avoided composing sacred music until the choirmaster of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna became ill, and he saw this as an opportunity to replace him along with enhancing his income. This Eucharistic hymn adheres to the ban on elaborate offerings by its relative brevity of forty-six bars and the simultaneous singing of the words by all four parts. A translation of the text reads: "Hail, true Body of the Virgin Mary, who has truly suffered on the cross of mankind; whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood. Be for us a taste of heaven during our final trial." Mozart's masterful setting of these words precludes our understanding of the original Latin.

On Maundy Thursday we never tire of singing *Ave Verum* or hearing *Were You There* beautifully expressed by Bryan Terry and Stuart.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Weare and Hillsboro Food Pantries. **May 2 & June 13 will go to Hillsboro.**

Hillsboro: There is need for paper products for **May**, such as napkins, paper towels & facial tissues, and small cans of meat for **June**, such as ham, chicken, & tuna, but each week you're encouraged to bring whatever items you have. There is 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



MAY

Stephen Waters, May 3
Marjorie Weeden, May 12
Joyce Peace, May 14
Hailey Nase, May 19
Angela MacConkey, May 20
Suzanne Huggard, May 26

Barbara Currie, May 30

JUNE

Debbie Matthews, June 5
Keith Robinson, June 6
Alice Keach, June 9
Alanna Couturier, June 13
Jami Boyle, June 15
Antonia Couturier, June 19
Alfred Glauner, June 24
Bryan Terry, June 24



Happy Anniversary

JUNE

Charlotte & Glenn Price

June 6

Nancy & Tom Inui

June 14

Judy & Jim Wood

June 22

Deborah & James Carpenter

June 24

Jeanne & Winthrop Bartlett

June 25

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Debbie Matthews and David Glauner for their sharp eyes and technical expertise in putting the final touches on this and every newsletter produced. Thank you to all contributors of text and photos, without whom there would be no church newsletter.

Back Issues

If you have missed an issue or want to look back at past newsletters, check out the church website for those and all kinds of other information at www.deeringcommunitychurch.org
Thank You David Glauner!

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 7 am Breakfast & Workday
2 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion Deacon's Fund Offering, food pantry & CE	3	4 9 am Yoga	5 12 noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	6 7 pm Choir	7	8
9 <u>Mother's Day</u> 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts & CE	10	11 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	12 7 pm World Service & Outreach	13 7 pm Choir	14	15
16 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts & CE PFlag 3 pm in Concord	17	18 9 am Yoga	19 7 pm Trustees	20 7 pm Choir	21	22 Annual Deering Plant Sale -Town Hall 9 am - Charity Fund Raiser
23 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts & CE	24	25 9 am Yoga	26	27 7 pm Choir	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am Yoga	2 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	3 7 pm Choir	4	5 7 am Breakfast & Workday
6 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion Deacon's Fund Food Pantry gifts & CE	7	8 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	9 7 pm World Service & Outreach	10 7 pm Choir	11	12
13 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts & CE	14 <u>Flag Day</u> 	15 9 am Yoga	16 7 pm Trustees	17 7 pm Choir	18	19
20 <u>Father's Day</u> 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Children's Sunday, Food Pantry, PFlag 3pm Concord	21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22 9 am Yoga	23	24 7 pm Choir	25	26
27 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts	28	29 9 am Yoga	30			

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



We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

Thank You from Pastor Barbara

Dear Members and Friends of Deering Community Church,

Most of you know that I have been out on sick leave since February 10 when I had the first of two major surgeries with complications that necessitated a four week hospitalization. At this time I am getting stronger and hope to be back to my regular schedule by the week of May 3rd.

It's hard to know how I can adequately thank this community for all you have done for me during my absence. Your prayers, cards, calls, gifts and visits meant so much. At my sickest times I was barely aware of the outpouring of concern and support; as I got better and reread the cards, I was overwhelmed at how much positive energy had been sent my way. The many meals that were prepared for my husband, Neill, as well as for me, that first week or so at home, made our daily life easier. Thank you to those who organized this effort as well as those of you who provided the meals. I will not list here the many names of you who were involved; I hope I have thanked each of you individually.

I want to say a special thank you to Debbie Matthews and the Deacons who kept the flow of Sunday worship going, much more smoothly than anyone expected. (I'm sure that the Holy Spirit was involved in this effort as well!) Thank you to all of you who volunteered your services, both lay and ordained ministers. What an amazing group of generous and talented people!

My deep gratitude and love go to my husband, Neill, and daughter, Josslyn, who were with me every step of the way. My son Jason in CA called every day. I know each of them suffered in their own way, yet they always encouraged me and gave me so much comfort.

During this extended leave, my spiritual self was both down and up. I will be sharing more about this in a future sermon. In the end, I feel that my faith has grown significantly and my greatest thanks as always goes to God!

Amen and Alleluia!