

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

March-April 2011



NEW LIFE

The Lenten and Easter season is almost here. On March 9th, Ash Wednesday begins this Lenten season of 40 days ending with the Saturday before Easter. The 40 days do

not include Sundays. The thrust of the season is to increase one's spirituality and intimacy with Jesus. The season of Lent originated to prepare for baptism, the ritual that signals the end of one life and the beginning of another, the new life in Christ.

Many folks like to give up things for Lent. That is fine as long as it draws you closer to God and makes you more Christ-like. The early church emphasized the need for us to sacrifice so that we could identify more with Christ's sacrifice of his life for us. As you think about what you might want to do differently during Lent, I would like to suggest that you add or increase spiritual practices. It can be something as simple as a brief morning devotion by yourself or possibly with your family. I will put out some booklets in Sherwood Hall to take for your use. Some are more child and family oriented. Other suggestions for spiritual practices might include: doing acts of kindness for others; reconciling yourself to someone you've intentionally been staying away from; visiting our house-bound church members or anyone in a nursing home; joining a Lenten book study (see announcement in this newsletter); beginning a volunteer program that you've been thinking about; or, spending quiet time with scripture and prayer. Anything we do which helps us know ourselves better, as well as knowing more about Jesus and our faith, will help us to have a more sacred Lenten journey.

The rhythm of this season makes me think about our church's desire to bring "new life" to our congregation and community. Let us see what parallels may exist. First of all, it is important to

understand that we are not the only ones having trouble with declining church membership. Both clergy and laity so often feel the situation is hopeless and often blame themselves. A couple of years ago I

attended a Clergy Workshop with Anthony Robinson and am currently reading his book, "Changing the Conversation—a third way for congregations." He strongly presents the evidence that this declining membership/income is a challenge of a sea change. Just as we do not control the ebb and flow of the tides, neither have we brought about this situation personally.

He describes three different types or sets in churches: 1) **Open**: "We are an open congregation where people have all kinds of different beliefs. You can believe whatever you want. Everyone is welcome,—no pressure to believe anything"; 2) **Bounded**: This set is the opposite of Open. It has very clear, bold, and heavy boundaries. It has a clear but probably confining sense of identity. Here the members pursue common objectives but have little tolerance for questions or openness to difference. 3) **Centered**: This church has a clear well-defined center, but either no boundaries or very permeable boundaries. It is the leadership's task to define and articulate its center—"This is who we are. You decide if it is right for you." All who are interested are welcome. It's a third way with a vitality of its own and an ability to be transformative—to bring new life! Your leaders



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Pastor's Corner *continued*

at Deering Community Church are preparing to engage in a visioning process that all of you are invited to participate in, whether or not you are currently a member. We will start this process at the Council meetings, which meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. There will be many different ways we will be involving the congregation and the community. So it will be up to all of us to discern what kind of new life God wants from us. Just as in the weeks of Lent, when we as individuals prepare ourselves for a new life which comes with Easter, the church will be working, praying, reading, talking and listening to each other to envision what our mission is and what God is calling our church to do. Remember, it is God's church not ours!

This visioning process as well as our Lenten spiritual practices will be a deepening experience. Robinson asks this question, "Where can I meet and be met by a God whose presence, power, mystery, and mercy are real, palpable, and life-changing?" (p.65) The evangelism which we must first do is with each other. "Evangelism is hearing, receiving, and telling the good news about what God has done, is doing, and will do." (Robinson) There's always a risk of getting more deeply involved with God, as God might just ask us to leave our 'fishing boats' and begin an entirely new life. Are you ready for a challenge both individually and as a church? Christ lives! May your Lenten journey be blessed as we discover together more and more deeply the Good News of the living Christ.

Lenten Study

Pastor Barbara

After the very meaningful Advent book study, I would like to invite you to a 6 week group meeting to reflect on who Jesus is to us personally. There's a new book from our denomination called *The Jesus Diaries: Who Jesus is to Me*. It is written by writers of the Still Speaking Devotions that some of you may read.

In the introduction to this book, Martin Copenhaver says that it is difficult for many people, including ministers, to talk about their relationship to Jesus. It's much easier to answer the question, "When have you recently experienced the presence of God in your life?" It seems to me that the Lenten season, the six weeks before our celebration of Jesus' resurrection, would be a great time to reflect on who Jesus is to us.

In this book there are eight individual reflections answering this question. Some of them may resonate

with us; some will not. If we spend some time reading, thinking, and listening to others, hopefully we will be better able to answer this question for ourselves.

I would suggest that this group meet on Sundays after worship from March 13 through April 17, Palm Sunday. We will meet for one hour and be finished at 12:30 at the latest. If the five or more books are ordered together, the cost is \$6.95 each. I will have a book sign up sheet in Sherwood Hall. This type of group can accommodate those who cannot come every week, so don't hesitate to sign up because you might miss a week or two. If parents of children wish to attend, please let me know. Maybe we can get someone to watch the children and perhaps even show a short movie for them.

WSO: Event

Jeanne Bartlett

World Service and Outreach will be hosting a potluck supper on April 29 @ 6PM. This community event, open to the public, is being billed as a "Dish or Donation" supper. A showing of a film pleasing to both adults and children will follow the event. (Title to be announced.) New sound equipment and a wide screen will provide for comfortable viewing.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

We continue looking at Martin Luther King's *Six Principles of Nonviolence* as outlined by him in 1958. This issue's principle is **"Principle Four: Nonviolence Holds that Voluntary Suffering Can Educate and Transform"**. This principle is probably the most confusing one as it seems to suggest that we are being encouraged to go out and seek opportunities for suffering. Not true! Neither God nor leaders of nonviolence desire suffering. However, we must be willing to suffer violence if it comes our way, rather than to inflict violence on the other. King never suggested that nonviolence is about being a victim. We must always actively resist all violence and injustice. King actually called himself a realistic pacifist, acknowledging that there may be times when some use of force may be necessary to protect ourselves and others.

How does this suffering educate and transform? King believed that he had to move people's hearts. Seeing injustice and exposing evil, when others saw him and his nonviolent protesters being hurt by the authorities, did the job better than just using reasoning and arguments. As an illustration, let me give you the example of the march of six hundred people across the Edmund Pettus Bridge outside Selma, Alabama, toward Montgomery. This march was done in defiance of Governor Wallace, demonstrating for black people to have the right to vote. As they crossed the bridge, the gas-masked

state troopers lunged at them, smashing heads and throwing tear gas grenades. Troopers mounted on horses trampled and whipped the marchers all the way back to their church headquarters. ABC television interrupted their Sunday movie to show this event live. The hearts of Americans were touched. Congress called it "Bloody Sunday" and eight days after this incident, President Johnson submitted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to the Congress.

So in this case, the protesters willingness to be attacked without responding with violence showed the viewing public the brutality of the segregationist system and the terrible oppression that was affecting the Black community. Whenever we break the cycle of violence by responding, not with violence, but with nonviolent love, we not only transform others but also ourselves, helping us to travel on the path to spiritual fulfillment and wholeness. Our greatest example of this is Jesus' voluntary suffering and death on the cross. May we follow our leader, Jesus, in responding nonviolently and with the love that he preached in the Sermon on the Mount: "You may have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven." (Mt. 5:43-45a) Gracious God, give us all the strength to resist nonviolently!

Guild Gleanings

Hazel Vogelien

We finally were able to have a meeting on February 16th after many postponements. In December there were holiday commitments, and in January and early February the weather caused cancellations. Six Members were able to join in celebrating February birthdays. Our 2011 budget is still a work in progress. After some discussion, a vote on the budget was postponed until our April meeting, when we hope that everyone will be able to attend and participate. At our meeting in November, the following officers who were nominated, were voted into office: President, Hazel Vogelien; Vice- President, Kay Daniels; Treasurer, Betty Dishong; Secretary, Barbara Glauner. A check for \$395 was received from the Church for our share of proceeds from sale of raffle tickets on the dollhouse. It was voted to add to this amount and give the church a check for \$500 to help towards payment of the bill for its septic system repair.

Moderator's Musings

Steve Waters

Drifting snow, biting wind, and bitter cold caused the cancellation of the Tuesday Feb. 8 Council meeting, during which our initial steps in a long range planning process were to have been taken. We will begin again at our March 8th meeting. Council meetings are open to all, and I encourage your attendance and participation as the deliberations and planning take place. In a Congregational Church it is important to remember that the Will of God comes through all the congregation, not just one or a few members.

Initially, I suggest that our task is to discern what God has called us to do in this place and our reason for being. While this may sound like an invitation to an open-ended and endless inquiry, I would further suggest that our purpose may be thought of as growing people of faith to do God's work in the world. It is not to simply maintain the club of good friends who enjoy getting together each week. A simple statement of mission will emerge from our discussions, reflecting a clear vision for our Church.

Secondly, it will be helpful to understand from members – both past and present – what their expectations are for Deering Church. I suggest a simple survey be created and disseminated to learn the views of our community.

For both a mission statement and a survey, task forces of four or five could meet and formulate recommendations for the Council. This is an opportunity for members of the congregation to participate.

In summary, our first steps in the process are to figure out why we are here as a church, to restate our mission, and to ask more of the congregation than simply coming to church on Sundays – i.e. to participate in the process. The foundation for much of my musing this month comes from Anthony Robinson, a presenter at a 2009 clergy gathering, and an author of books dealing with churches in a changed culture.

WSO: Families in Transition

Jeanne Bartlett

World Service and Outreach has gathered information about families in transition in our community. Lisa Groljahn, Homeless Liaison for the Hillsboro Deering school district, defines a homeless child as one who does not have a fixed or adequate home to live in, or one who is doubled up due to financial reasons. Lisa was hired for a part time position, but keeps her cell phone on 24 hours, seven days a week, when perhaps she will hear about a family living in a car, on a porch, or in a shed and needing food. Her primary responsibility is to be sure all homeless students are enrolled and attending school. She also refers families for social services and works closely with Dana Brian, the Hillsboro Town welfare officer.

Here is her wish list: a simple meal for a group of families each week, where a student can also find a quiet place for home work while parents attend a book discussion; transportation for families who

need to go to various health and welfare appointments; transportation for kids to visit museums and other cultural/recreational events; churches joining together and opening their doors for overnight sleeping a week at a time.

The Methodist Church youth group provides bags of food for Lisa to give to needy children for the weekend. There is concern that teenagers are left out of the loop in this respect. Could there be a food pantry for teens--someplace where they could get some supplies and food for the weekend?

Jeanne Bartlett and Pastor Barbara will be visiting The Grapevine in Antrim to observe a place that provides many services for families in need. Could there be a place like that in Hillsboro? Hopefully, there will be more answers than questions in our next report.

WSO: Chaplaincy at Goffstown Prison

Jeanne Bartlett

Little is much, if God is in it.

Over 12 years ago, the New Hampshire Council of Churches made a commitment to provide for a clergy person to address the spiritual needs of the women who are incarcerated in the state and for the staff at the prison. In recent years, as the number of incarcerated women has grown, so has the need for spiritual programs and pastoral care.



Since 2006, Pastor Beth Richeson has served as Chaplain to the inmates at the New Hampshire State Prison for Women in Goffstown. Pastor Beth works with women of all faiths to support them in their spiritual and emotional needs. She spends her time in the cells or on the tier listening, counseling and praying with the women. She offers

Christian worship services and small-group Bible study, and coordinates clergy and volunteers from different faiths and other Christian denominations.

In addition to ministering to the women who are incarcerated, Pastor Beth is also chaplain to the prison staff. She supports them as they struggle with the challenges of the difficult work they do.

In 2009, the chaplain arranged an opportunity for a group of women inmates to share their experiences and perspectives with students enrolled in a "Women in Prison" class at St. Anselm's College. The exchange was eye-opening for both inmates and students, and resulted in a broader understanding of criminal justice issues and the human lives that are affected. In Pastor Beth's words, "What undergirds this ministry is an abiding trust that 'little is much, if God is in it.'"

Note: It is a very special and moving experience for those of us who have attended the Wednesday worship services at the prison. Pastor Beth has expressed her thanks over and over for the way the Deering Church members have responded to some of the needs of the inmates.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

On Friday, March 11, Smith Church will join us for a potluck supper and hymn sing. The Music Committee will be in charge of the potluck, to begin at 6:00 PM. The hymn sing will start around 7:00 PM with Barbara Daley accompanying and Jane Waters directing.

On Friday, April 8th at 7:00 PM, we will host another Evening Soiree, which has always been very entertaining. There will be presentations by the Bible Hill Boys, poetry reading by Peter Beard (and others), piano solos, singing, banjo offerings and a few surprises. The Deering Association is most generously sponsoring this event.

April is an important month for our choir as it prepares to sing for Palm Sunday, April 17, a Maundy Thursday service on the 21st at 7:00 PM in Sherwood Hall, and our Easter Service on the 24th at 10:00 AM. A featured piece of music will be *Sanctus* from Mozart's "Credo-Messe".

We know you will want to mark your calendar for all of these special times.

Friday, March 11 @ 6 PM (potluck) and 7 (hymn sing)	Friday, April 8 @ 7 PM – Soiree
Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday Service	Thursday, April 21 @ 7 PM – Maundy Thursday Service
Sunday, April 24 – 10 AM – Easter Service	

Sermon on January 9, 2011

Steve Waters

Mimi Hollister gave this sermon at our church on January 9, 2011. It details a picture of our Rimbi partners in Zimbabwe, giving us an understanding of how this important outreach program of our church began. The following is her narrative of her experience.



“The first time I was there in 1997, the church had walls, a roof, a dirt floor and window frames. It was on a rise and to get there the path took paying attention – packed clay beside an erosion ditch. But it was their church at last. As Suzanne and I made our way

back along the path toward the school, we were met by a friendly, engaging young man who offered to give us a tour of the village and the school. He said he was a teacher at the school, and he told us of how he had built his own little house at the edge of town, and how he had big dreams of perhaps going to the States one day. We had a wonderful tour of the school and the vegetable garden that the children worked in, and we so enjoyed this gently forceful, smart, articulate young man. His name was Balance Chibangwa. I returned in 2001 for the dedication of the pretty large, accommodating sanctuary, now finished in fine style, where I learned more of the history. In 1953, Rimbi was a preaching point on the Chibuwe circuit. When they reached 50 members, they became a church in 1957, meeting in a classroom of the village school. Rimbi is just a small town in a very rural area with subsistence farming village clusters out into the countryside. So it was a struggle for the church and they almost folded in 1993 – too spread out. But they met and decided to keep going and by July 1994, they had a church stand, which meant land on which to build. They celebrated by praying at the school and then parading up the hill to pray at the stand. A building committee was formed, headed by Mr. Machuwane, and the work began. 14 truckloads of sand were given by Mrs. Sithole. They began to make cement blocks gradually as families could contribute to the making of a few blocks at a time, with eventually 4000 of them. Every family brought stones to fill the foundation hole. The chief of Rimbi gave the doorframes. They raised loans to



continue. I heard all this as people began arriving for the dedication – hundreds of them. There were choirs from Tuzuka, Mariya, Southdown, Chisumbanje, Mutema, Danganvura, Gwenzi, Chibuwe and Tanganda. Each of these churches has a partner in New Hampshire like you do with Rimbi. There were members of Parliament, Police representatives, high muckymucks from other denominations, and all the officers of the UCCZ. I sat on the podium with other clergy and just took in the music, the words and the spirit of this marking of a moment in their history. I was glad to be there and so, so privileged to serve communion with my colleagues in the UCCZ, and to help bless the plaque that is at the entrance to the sanctuary. You here in Deering are a part of their lives now – part of all that history. You may not hear from them frequently for lots of reasons – the conditions in the country these days, their culture which doesn’t traditionally write letters but shows up when they have something to share, postage that is prohibitively expensive. But you are in their prayers as they are in yours.

So let’s look for a bit at this interesting, stirring, puzzling and enticing adventure called ukama partnership that we in New Hampshire embarked upon at an Annual Meeting some 14 years ago. You are one of 40 churches who said yes we will give it a try when Joyce Lovejoy was your pastor.” At times maybe you’ve asked why should we be doing this – so far away; there are plenty right here all around us who need our attention? Well, first of all ukama is not about a mission project. It’s about a relationship of give and take, of learning and sharing. They have as much to bring to it as we do. So for me there are lots of reasons to be a part of this adventure. I’ll tell you some reasons that are compelling to me about what they bring to us. So why do this? Because I think we have something to learn from a denomination that is about the size in numbers of the New Hampshire Conference and yet can gather 3000 Ruwadzano women together for 4 days of prayer, song, praise and witnessing every year – women who look forward to this time all year as their time of connection with each other and renewal of their spirits. Why do this? Maybe

Sermon continued

because our churches are mostly shrinking in numbers as you are experiencing here, while theirs are growing faster than the population. How do they manage that? I would love to have you experience their worship that is rich and vibrant and often lay-led because there aren't enough clergy to be at all the Sunday worship gatherings. Rimbi just lost their pastor, Rev. Dhundu, to another call and so are again in that situation of drawing on lay leaders. Another thing, most don't have cars, especially in the rural areas like Rimbi, so getting your child to school and getting to church can be a huge project, which seems to make them value those things all the more. It makes me begin to really see how much I can take for granted, how very privileged I am, how little I have to fuss about. Let me tell you about music as their celebration of life. They sing in every situation. As visitors, they sing us into the sanctuary or the gathering room for a meeting. Every part of the liturgy in worship transitions with singing. Often it is joyous, vibrant music, without organ or piano, with passion and 4 part harmony, and the rhythm of drums and ochos. The vibrancy of your music is something you share in common with Rimbi. Another thing - they pray in ways and at a depth that challenges me to the core. My praying always has a kind of rational filter - I think it is something vital and important. They pray out of knowing that their life, their well-being, depends on it. Prayers for safety as we start out on a journey and thanksgiving when we arrive safely. Family prayers in the evening before we go to bed. Passionate prayers in worship. Prayers for healing. Ukama challenges me to pray past my skepticism, to ask of God, to take time to put all that is in my heart in the presence of God. And they all do public praying - lay as well as clergy, children as well as adults. Always they share what they have. That is after all how poor people survive - by sharing what comes their way. No one in the village goes hungry if someone has a bag of meal. Seeing this surely makes me think differently about public policy, about food distribution, about hospitality. Ukama, which means something like the spirit of human family connections, deepens my sense of how the world might be - how God intended it, according to Isaiah and Jesus. There are buried treasures of our faith that they have

discovered about community that enables survival, about learning to share, about caring for each other's children, about doing church without a pastor. Their day-to-day life and death struggle with AIDS, TB, and malaria is mostly overwhelming for them as for all of us. The physical reality of HIV-AIDS challenges their faith, all their cultural sensibilities, and is forcing so many of them into an all new territory of behavior, of conversation, of how to honor and yet challenge ancient customs of discretion, privacy, and male sensibilities of manhood and dominance. They are working at it, but it is so hard. My sense is that their faith is the one place that remains clear. I think they really believe Isaiah's words: "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you." It's a testimony to me about keeping hope alive, about making faith part of the creative mix that is needed to deal with life struggles. Well, there are many points, many stories, many gifts and awakenings from this ukama thing. During the coffee hour, perhaps we can talk about how to make ukama with Rimbi a richer part of your lives here.

As I read in your newsletter, you are facing a lot of challenges in this congregation as you begin a new year, challenges that may seem daunting at times. But you also have many vital and interesting ministries and events that you cherish and attend to faithfully, as you try to follow the way of Jesus. My wish for you, as for Rimbi, in this time is that you will continue to know that God has called you in righteousness, has taken you by the hand and kept you. I invite you to be strengthened by the fact that we are part of a world-wide community of faith that is incredibly diverse, elegant and interesting. That community carries forward into history, as it has from the beginning with the spirit that was placed on Jesus in his baptism, a spirit of setting things right in our world, a spirit of love that graces all our relationships and all our days if we let it. If you haven't yet been a part of ukama here at Deering, I invite you to come on in, taste and see in new ways how God feeds us, in new ways how we are to love each other and how we are to help repair the world together in this grand adventure. Amen."

Financial Bits & Pieces

As the 2011 year begins, our church treasurer's position has transitioned from Peter Cram to Betty Dishong.

We want to thank Peter for all the years of excellent service he has given our church as Treasurer.

Betty has indicated that this transition from one treasurer to another is going well and is pretty much complete. We thank Betty for taking on this job.

She has asked those who wish to be reimbursed for church expenses to present their request to her in writing or e-mail (edishong@tds.net), along with their receipts, so that she has documentation to keep on file to support payments.

Betty thanks everyone for his or her support and cooperation as she takes on this significant task of Deering Church Treasurer.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIRS: adapted from Stuart Huggard's letter:

"At the Annual Meeting of the Deering Community Church, we adopted the most challenging budget that I have experienced in the fourteen years I have been part of this church community. We made cuts to all salaries and completely eliminated custodial care and lawn service. After doing all that, we still had a "to be raised" figure of about \$2,500.00. There is no room in this budget for anything extraordinary, and, as we met, the extraordinary was about to occur. We had to have the septic pipe from the building to the septic tank replaced after it collapsed. Of course, as fate would have it, this had to happen at the worst time with the ground completely frozen and everything under a couple

feet of snow. However, the work is done, and it has been paid for by a personal credit card, which gives us a short time to figure out how we are going to deal with this expense. The cost is \$2,757.50, not including the pumping of the tank, which will probably be an additional \$300.00."

A similar letter to the above was sent out to all of you earlier via e-mail, so that you would be aware of the unexpected challenges facing our church. Some donations have begun to be received to help pay for this work, but more is needed to cover this sum. We would invite any contributions you can afford to help us deal with this emergency cost. Checks made out to the Deering Community Church should have "septic repair" stated on the memo line. Thank you so much.

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

On February 6th, the Sunday School participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year the children decided that they wanted to raise money for hunger relief in Pakistan through UNICEF. They raised almost \$200. In the picture you may notice that the children are dressed differently. As part of the lesson, they learned how Jesus taught that God's love was for everyone. We dressed up and returned to church to see if we would be accepted even if we looked different. While some people did ask about our dress, we all still felt welcomed.

As part of this lesson, the Sunday School is collecting pictures of children from different ethnicities and cultures. If you have any pictures that we could use please bring them to church.

On Easter Sunday, April 24th, the Sunday School will be hosting the annual Easter egg hunt following the church service. Hopefully by then we may see some green grass, but we will hold the hunt in snow, mud or grass covered grounds.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. March 6 and April 3 donations start with Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **March**, such as ham, seafood, chicken, and turkey, and paper products for **April**, such as toilet tissue, paper towels and tissues, but each week you are 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.

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

Esther McLain, 11

Timothy Ferwerda, 31

APRIL

Robert Compton, 7

Cynthia Ward, 11

Jeanne Bartlett, 16

Judy Wood, 19

Ruth Ann Robinson, 25

Jane Spragg, 25

Happy Anniversary

MARCH

Barbara & Neill Currie, 20

Exciting News

Jean and Don Johnson's granddaughter, Grace, was recently selected as a finalist in the Intel National Science Talent Search. She and the other finalists will travel to Washington, D.C. in March where they will meet distinguished scientists, attend a reception at the White House and compete for the top prize before a panel of the nation's leading scientists.

Over the past three years, Grace carried out original research at the New York Botanical Gardens on the genetics of eggplants. She worked on a project that aims to discover the earlier genes of eggplants that carried medicinal qualities, which over the centuries were bred out of the plants in order to develop more attractive fruits suitable for marketing. The ultimate goal of the project will be the genetic engineering of modern eggplants to include the earlier qualities that promote better health.

NOTE: Starting with this newsletter issue, there are some behind the scene changes. Due to budget cuts in church secretarial hours, we volunteers have taken over the proof reading, paper copy production and paper distribution of the newsletter. E-mail distribution to most people will continue to be done from the church computer with the click of a button. The newsletter will continue as before, with photos and articles about our church life submitted by all of you. With this issue, you will see a new page 1 title design by David and me, along with other subtle changes I have made throughout the newsletter. I hope you like them. If you have any ideas for other additions or changes, I would love to hear them. David is working on an exciting new church website design, so look for that coming soon!

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am Yoga	2 Noon - Guild 7 pm Deacons	3 7 pm Choir	4	5 7 or 8 am early or late Breakfast, & workday
6 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacons Fund offering, Food Pantry Gifts & CE	7	8 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	9 Ash Wednesday 7 pm WSO	10 7 pm Choir	11 POT LUCK With Smith Church, 6 pm, Hymn Sing 7 pm	12 Move clocks forward 1 hour tonight
13 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts & CE Daylight Saving time begins	14	15 9 am Yoga	16 7 pm Trustees	17  St Patrick's Day	18	19
20 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts & CE Pflag 3 pm First Day of Spring!	21	22 9 am Yoga	23	24	25	26
27 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts & CE	28	29 9 am Yoga	30	31 7 pm Choir		

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7 or 8 am early or late Breakfast, & workday
3 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacons Fund Offering, Food Pantry gifts & CE	4	5 9 am Yoga	6 Noon—Guild 7 pm Deacons	7 7 pm Choir	8 EVENING MUSICAL SOIREE, 7 pm with The Deering Assoc.	9
10 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts, & CE	11	12 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	13 7 pm WSO	14 7 pm Choir	15	16
17 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts & CE, Pflag 3 pm	18 Newsletter deadline	19 9 am Yoga	20 7 pm Choir 7 pm Trustees	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7 PM, Sherwood Hall	22 GOOD FRIDAY	23
24 EASTER 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Food Pantry Gifts. CE & Egg Hunt	25	26 9 am Yoga	27	28	29 "DISH or DONATION" potluck supper 6 pm , followed by a family oriented movie	30

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OPEN AND AFFIRMING VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open and Affirming Subcommittee of the Deering Community Church is recommending three brand new videos for your attention. Go to **<http://leadwithlovefilm.com>** for a 35 minute film clip produced by a professor at the University of Oklahoma. You must fill out a completely anonymous survey online prior to seeing this film free of charge. The next site is **<http://www.youtube.com>**, then search separately for: (1) Brittany M. Novotny. This is a short, very upbeat and excellent film clip from a 30 year old TransWoman in Oklahoma who has successfully come to grips with being a woman in a man's body. (2) also on youtube.com, search for Zach Wahls. This is a film clip from a 30 year old man speaking to the Iowa State Legislature as they consider giving same gender marriage couples equal rights. This is a must see, especially since the issue may resurface in NH.

Thank you for giving the Deering Community Church Open and Affirming Subcommittee the opportunity to present these powerful films for your viewing consideration.

Lee Marcroft