

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

September-October, 2011



ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING

By the time you read this newsletter, our children will be back in school; the teachers and school personnel amongst us will be back to work; the colleges and seminaries

will be settling in for another year of learning. I pray blessings on all of these learners, teachers, and assistants. To me the Fall seems just as much of a new beginning as does January 1.

Where is our church as this new season begins? As was reported by Steve Waters, our moderator, in the May/June newsletter, we are in the midst of long range planning to see what we need to do to become both spiritually and financially sound. We have adopted a new **Mission Statement** (sometimes referred to as our purpose—why we are here): **compassionate, open to all, where Christ's teaching leads us to spiritual growth and action.** I hope you will all learn this by heart and repeat it every once in a while. At this point we are looking at the returned surveys and thinking about writing our Vision. The Council will appoint a task force to work on this visioning plan. I would like to see this group include a variety of our members--old timers and those who have recently joined our church; young and old; conservative and progressive; and so forth. In other words, let us try to get as much diversity as possible from our small towns' communities. We would love to have some volunteers!!!

Just as our Mission/Purpose is our God-given reason for being, the vision is about, "What is God calling us to do in the next one, three, five or ten years so that we may more fully realize our purpose?"¹ I would like all of you, even those who are not attending our church, to assist in this process by

prayer and discernment. Would you be willing to take five minutes minimum at least five days per week in prayer and reflection, asking God what God has in mind for Deering Community Church, United Church of Christ, in this place and time? Maybe you could keep a 4 by 6 card or a little tablet (or even "Notes" on your I-Pod touch) to jot down anything that comes to mind as you pray. Be careful to not do too much talking during this praying, as I believe we can hear God better in the silent spaces. The whole point of this discerning process is for us to make a serious effort to do what God wants us to do, rather

than what we ourselves think is best. Ideally these two would match, but if they don't, I recommend following God's desires, knowing that we can never be 100% certain. Every once in a while you could email, snail mail, or simply put your prayer thoughts in my mailbox at the church (which is by the choir robes between Sherwood Hall and the Living Room). We may decide to have a formal prayer and discernment group; however, I feel strongly that the more input and the more praying all of us do, the better.

I do believe that God's presence can be experienced through prayer, wherever we might be. I believe anyone is capable of discernment through opening



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Pastor's Corner, Cont.

to the Spirit. Prayer can be simple conversation with God; for example, "Dear God, I want to talk to you about Deering Community Church. What do you want us to focus on in the year ahead? Help me to be still and listen for your word." I don't expect you to hear a voice in return, although that is possible. Mostly I hear a thought or see an image that relates to what I'm praying about. Sometimes it doesn't seem to make much sense. Sometimes nothing comes at the time of prayer, but later in the day there seems to be something that may relate to the earlier prayer. Please jot down whatever comes to you.

I believe that God is eager and ready to work through our church family in Deering to bring about transformation², individually and as a church, expanding into ever larger circles so that we can bring God's love, blessings and healing to the greater world. Let us pray for God's direction as we go forward.

¹ Anthony Robinson, *Changing the Conversation*, P. 121.

² See my 8-21-11 sermon on Transformation on our website.

Special Worship on 9/11

Pastor Barbara

Ten years after the tragedy of 9-11, we will reflect during our regular worship at 10 AM on what happened and how it changed our world. This Sunday worship service will be more meditative with songs and poetry and hopefully testimony from some of you, your reactions then and now. Please invite your

friends and neighbors. Let's come together as a community of concern and support, no matter what our faith, nationality, or political persuasion. I look forward to being with you in the atmosphere of forgiveness and peace.

Moderators Musings

Steve Waters

My thanks to all of you who completed a survey reflecting your views and feelings about our church. The results of these surveys will form a foundation upon which we can base visioning and a three-year plan to put us on a sustainable path for the future. Some folks gave a thoughtful written response including one offer of willingness to support a committee devoted to the environment. Another urged us to consider normal work hours when planning activities. A compilation of the results is a part of this

report. Our next step during the fall months will be to prepare a realistic budget covering a three-year period. The advantage of a long term approach is that progress can be measured each year, the plan adjusted to adapt to any changing circumstances, and then adding another year to it. With several newcomers joining our church family over the past year, there is reason for fresh optimism for our future. Though we are small in number, we have been blessed many times over.

Survey Results

Steve Waters

Survey 1 (14) Compilation

I attend worship at the Deering Community Church:

Regularly: 9 responses; Sometimes: 5 responses

Ranking: 5-4 = strongly agree; 3-4 somewhat agree; 1-2 don't agree . Numbers in columns reflect number of responses.

5-4 3-4 1

- | | | |
|---|----|-----|
| 1. The faith community plays a vital role in my spiritual well-being. | 8 | 6 |
| 2. I understand & support the mission of the church. | 10 | 4 |
| 3. The church encourages me to use my gifts & provides opportunities for service to others. | 9 | 3 2 |
| 4. We need to increase the size of our congregation | 13 | 2 |
| 5. It is OK to be a small church that does some things very well. | 7 | 6 |
| 1. What do you think is the most important thing to tell someone about this church? | | |

Inclusiveness, O & A – 8 specific references to this quality

The spirit of the place, as indicated by these descriptors: friendly (3), caring, joyful, comfortable, intimate, welcoming, fellowship, community, open to input, forward thinking

Music – 3 specific references

2. What do we do well that keeps you coming to this church?

2 or more responses: music, friendship, social action

Additional responses: vision & service, accepting, spirituality, worship – low key, sermons, fellowship, belief, it's where I live & belong

3. What do you think we need to do better?

A whole variety of responses: a) actions: visitation program, attract the children, their parents will follow, provide services for the community, such as a place for AA to meet. b) re: financial: fundraising, live within our means. c) re: worship: consistent service format. d) less specific: build membership, believe in your purpose, be proud of your accomplishments, make people feel useful, work more with the community at large

4. I would participate more if: a) if I had more energy, more time, better health (3); if the services were not changing all the time (2), if there were more options for Christian education at a time when people who work could attend; if there were more forums.

Survey Results

Steve Waters

Survey 2 (10) Compilation

1. What is the 1st thing that comes to mind when you think of Deering Community Church? A valuable community asset; History (3); joy, friendship, love (several); “a dying church I would like to see revitalized”.
2. What role do you think the DCC plays in this town/area?
a very small role (4)
a somewhat important role (5)
a very important role (1)

Comments in response to the question: unsure; there is pride in the town center; need to be more “functional” – that will attract people and demonstrate the practice of Christian living through caring; I would like to see a higher (i.e. more prominent) role. A small role – but vital!

3. What would you like to see the Church doing in the future?
Keep doing what it is now doing (2)
Offer more programs such as forums, earth day celebrations, musical programs (4)
Encourage more use of Church facilities for community groups such as scouts, yoga sessions, community dinners, cultural programs, dance lessons.
Comments: Find ways to attract more members; continue to lead worship of God for all people; the scope and eagerness to engage the community is great.

It was noted there is a “Catch 22” in all of this: in order to bring in and accommodate many, you need many to carry out and oversee functions, agendas.
4. A variety of responses indicating willingness to give time and effort to the projects listed – but also noted were the limitations of time and money, though not compassion.
5. Ideas for other projects you would be willing to support? A) focus on new members, b) town clean up, Deering Association, c) use of the new pavilion, d) ask non-members to serve on appropriate committees.

Free Chicken Barbecue

On September 10th from 1 to 3 pm, the Deering Community Church will be holding their **8th Annual Free Chicken Barbecue** for residents of the Town of Deering and members of the church. There will be lots of marinated chicken, corn on the cob, watermelon, and coffee. If you wish to donate a dish to share we would appreciate salads, beans, casseroles and desserts. There will be fun and games for all. We will be hosting this in our new pavilion area behind the church, so come and check it out and enjoy the afternoon. In the case of inclement weather, the barbecue will be held indoors at the church.



Pavilion Progress

Barbara Glauner

Since the fall of 2010, we have been watching the gradual progress of the building of the pavilion behind our church. With the help from residents, the Town of Deering and church volunteers, it has risen from ground breaking to its current state of finish, in time to be used for the Free Deering Church Chicken Barbecue on September 10th, 2011. Peter Cram, Bobby Compton and crew, Bob Fuller, Stuart Huggard, David Bell, Bud Bartlett, Tom Burke, Lee Marcroft, and other church members and residents from the Town of Deering volunteered their time to prepare the base foundation area, cut and turn timber into boards, erect the structure, treat the wood, put on a metal roof and build 6 picnic tables. It has been a mammoth undertaking on a shoestring budget. We commend everyone for their contributions to this effort, which will eventually be enjoyed by many in our town. Below is a pictorial of the progress.



BIKE RALLY

On Sunday 8/21, the pavilion was christened for its first official use when over 200 people, participating in a bike rally, used the pavilion area for a rest stop for the bikers. Here are some pictures taken by Steve Waters and Pastor Barbara of part of that event.



WSO—Forums

Don Johnson

At our Sunday Forum on August 21st, Louise Cyr introduced us to Angeles Arrien's book *The Second Half of Life: Opening the Eight Gates of Wisdom*. Arrien tells us on her book jacket that:

When you find the courage to change at midlife, a miracle happens. Your character is opened, deepened, strengthened, softened. You return to your soul's highest values. You are now prepared to create your legacy: an imprint of your dream for our world - a dream that can fully come true in *The Second Half of Life*.

Professor Cyr summarized Arrien's eight gates: Silver Gate, White Gate, Clay Gate, Black & White Gate, Rustic Gate, Bone Gate, Natural Gate, and Gold Gate and citing the book, gave examples drawn from myth, poetry and personal experiences to explain the purpose and meaning of each gate as it applies to our own lives. Our speaker stressed that the Eight Gates were not necessarily sequential, but could be drawn upon as individuals chose.

Following her presentation Dr. Cyr divided the audience into groups of two and each group focused on one of the gates as it applied to their individual lives. In conclusion the audience members engaged in a general discussion of what they had learned from the forum and how Dr. Cyr's presentation applied to their own personal lives.



The next forum will be on October 30th after church, when David Stewart-Smith, past professor of History and Cultural Studies, Norwich University and historian for the New Hampshire Intertribal Council, presents the Native American History of New Hampshire, focusing on the Pennacook Indians of the Merrimack Valley, the largest and most powerful coalition of native people on the northern New England frontier during the 17th and 18th centuries.

WSO—Food Projects

Jeanne Bartlett

The Sunday School has continued to help pack the **Feed-a-Teen bags** which are delivered to the Hillsboro Teen Center, Genesis, on or before the second Friday of each month. It is with gratitude that we receive the necessary funds to continue this project. Thanks, also, to those who bring in food to supply these bags.

We expect to be resuming our schedule in the fall of

providing a **meal and homework assistance** to Hillsboro-Deering School children and their families experiencing homelessness. Start date is to be announced. We are one of four area churches to provide these meals which are held at St. Mary's Christian Ed. Building each Tuesday evening.

Deering Community Church is responsible for the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

Nonviolence Chooses Love Instead of Hate

King's Nonviolent Principle #5

In the last two Newsletters, I was reviewing the Conflict Transformation workshop that had been presented by the Peace Advocates of our NH Conference UCC. I promised in this issue to write about what creates a sense of belonging in a congregation (belonging is one of the key things that decreases conflict). Unfortunately, after already asking our editor for a one day extension of the deadline for submissions, I now cannot find my folder; therefore, I will return to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Principles of Nonviolence.

In previous Newsletters I had already discussed: #1 Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people; #2 Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding; #3 Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people; #4 Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform.

Martin Luther King, Jr. had many opportunities to love those who hated him, as so many were opposed to his actions, his preaching, and his very being. Both Jesus and Paul talk about loving even one's enemies. King addressed **Why** we should love our enemies, as well as **How** do we love them. He talks about how returning hate for hate just multiplies hate and adds to the deep darkness of a "night already devoid of stars." We know that darkness cannot rid the sky of darkness; only light can do that. In the same way hate cannot get rid of hate; only love can do that. King says that violence and hate just increase the amount of violence and hate in "a descending spiral of destruction." We have seen that happen in the Muslim world where the violence of the wars fought by our country and its partners have increased the number of youth who want to join Al Queda or other anti-American groups. King's words of many decades ago ring true today: "Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies or else? The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting

hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation." (from his sermon titled "Loving Your Enemies"). As King said, love is the only weapon that can transform an enemy into a friend. In order to love an enemy, we have to be able to forgive, something we pray about every Sunday when we repeat the Lord's Prayer. Forgiveness does not mean ignoring the wrong action; forgiveness can remove that barrier that keeps us from a difficult relationship, a new beginning. Therefore by answering why we should love our enemies, we also have the answer as to how do we love them. Many people will say "Hogwash; that's not practical; it won't work." I ask you to reflect on how well war has worked?

I leave you with another thought that I know Sister Joan Chittister asked: What do you think the world might be like today if we had responded with forgiveness and concern after the vicious attacks of 9/11? What if we had gone to every Muslim country and said, "Don't be afraid. We won't hurt you. We know this is coming from only a fringe of society, and we ask your help in saving others from this same kind of violence." Then we would be well on our way to that Beloved Community King described and an atmosphere of love that Jesus teaches, that God wants among all the world's peoples.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:43-45, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous"

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

Sunday School classes will resume on September 11, 2011. We will spend the fall studying Moses in-depth, from his birth to his death. Lauren is already planning an extra special Christmas program this year and during November and December the Sunday School students will be working on preparing this pageant. Late winter will find us learning about Jesus through stories in the book of Matthew. As spring approaches the children will begin creating the program for Children's Sunday. After Children's Sunday, stories from Acts will be shared. Sounds like an interesting year!

Making this exciting, busy Sunday School year possible requires assistance from the whole congregation. Some of you will help when we ask for supplies, some will check with the students weekly to express interest in what they have learned, some will offer a special lesson or project and some will offer to help teach and prepare the Sunday School weekly lesson.

Please let Chris Nase or Lauren Warner know if you can help in any way.

Music Committee Report

Jane Waters

Musical presentations over the summer began with a special memorial concert by the Hillsboro-Deering Community Chorus in honor of our beloved bass, David Feather. Several of David's favorite selections were performed including "Riders in the Skies" and a recording of him singing his signature song "Old Man River", both a fitting and an emotional tribute.

Jason Luckett, folksinger extraordinary, returned to grace our stage, performing his own songs, on July 15. On July 21, we were fortunate to have another superb performance by Monadnock Music's chamber musicians, followed by a reception catered by Betty Dishong. On



Sunday, July 31st, the much admired concert pianist Shizue Sano returned to perform a lovely program featuring George Gershwin's *Three Preludes* and *Rhapsody in Blue*, the bouncy Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag*, *Graceful Ghost Rag* by William Bolcom, two sketches by Amy Beach and several pieces by Franz Liszt to commemorate the bicentennial of his birth. All of these performances were well-attended and brought people together from the surrounding community.

The final event featured Sam Kelly's creation of a musical sermon revolving around the life of Jesus from birth to his resurrection. He put together singers from the choir complimented by Tom Inui who introduced two Northern Harmony songs into the mix of traditional, seasonal ones which were interspersed by "Amen". Sam is to be commended for his creativity and leadership in producing this unique service. We were pleased to welcome guest organists Jeffry Kabel, Charlotte Price, and Roberta Walmsley. Members of the choir presented special music from time to time.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Will Ogmandson, brilliant pianist and composer, will perform in recital on **Friday, October 28 at 7:00 PM**. Mark your calendars for this exceptional performer.

We are in the process of scheduling a hymn sing to take place in Smith Church in October.

Note: Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 29 at 7 pm. New members are encouraged to join and are always welcome

WSO - Mission I

Pastor Barbara

Mission 1—That They May All Be One

Our World Service and Outreach committee will engage Deering Community Church in the national United Church of Christ's special mission campaign from November 1 to November 11, 2011. We will provide more information in the November-December Newsletter. Here is a brief introduction taken from ucc.org:

Nov. 1-11, 2011... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.

Stay tuned for more information or go to ucc.org.

Jam Making, 2011

Christine Marcroft

Betty Dishong and Christine Marcroft want to thank Bryan Terry, Lauren Warner, Kay Daniels, Ashok Malik, Pasca Ferwerda, and Jane Waters for so willingly giving their time and talents to the jam making effort for the fair this year. We turned out lots of yummy blueberry, strawberry, nectarine, strawberry-rhubarb, raspberry jam, and red current-raspberry jelly. Betty contributed tasty grape jelly, made from Stuart and Suzanne Huggard's grapes, and sweet pickle jelly as well. Cynthia Ward contributed great plum catsup and Bobbie Compton brought in some of his wonderful maple syrup. We offered pretty gift baskets containing an assortment of four small jelly jars, which sold very well. Over all, we sold half of this year's entire batch. More requests are coming in and we are planning to continue selling the jams at church and at local farmer's markets. It was such a joy working with everyone, even during the very hot days where the fans were trying to keep us cool in the church kitchen. Thank you all again!



Deering Church Summer Fair 2011

Barbara Glauner

August 13th dawned bright and sunny for the Deering Church Summer Fair, put on by the Women's Guild and the Deering Church. Workers started arriving after 8 am to finish setting up last minute tables and get organized for the start of the fair at 9 am. People lined up outside waiting to come in and shop. Below are some photos of the event showing booths inside and outside of the church. Everyone had a great time. The drawing for the quilt raffle was held at 1 pm and Kay Daniel's quilt was won by Deborah Carpenter.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the food pantries. We are starting with donations for the September 4 and October 2nd weeks.

Hillsboro: There is need for personal care items for **September**, such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste & brushes, deodorants, etc. For **October**, laundry detergent would be welcomed, but each week you're encouraged to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have. The Food Pantry is always in need of large brown paper bags.

We are: 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,



SEPTEMBER

Lynn Compton, 19

Jean Johnson, 20

Priscilla Beaudrault, 20

Henry Weeden, 22

Lauren Warner, 23

Pasca Ferwerda, 29

OCTOBER

Dorothy Wood, 7

Bob Carter, 9

James Carpenter, 16

Tom Copadis, 19

Mackenzie Nase, 20

David Bell, 20

Ann Foraker, 22

Jake Terry, 26

Happy Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

Lynn & Robert Compton, 4

OCTOBER

Bryan & Bert Terry, 7

Barbara & Al Glauner, 22



Hot Air Balloon

An unexpected landing of a hot air balloon on the grounds of the Deering Community Church occurred early in the morning of July 9th. The balloon, which took off at 6 am from Grimes Field in Hillsboro during the Hillsboro Balloon Festival, landed in the churchyard around breakfast time. Suzanne and Stuart Huggard snapped this photo.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7 am Early Breakfast, 8 am Late Breakfast & WORKDAY
4 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's fund offering, food pantry gifts	5 Labor Day	6 9 am Yoga	7 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	8	9 WSO Project- pack food bags for Teens in Transition	10 Free Chicken Barbecue 1 to 3 pm Deering Church Pavilion 
11 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts & CE starts	12	13 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	14 7 pm WSO	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship, food pantry gifts & CE 3 pm Pflag in Concord	19	20 9 am Yoga	21 7 pm Trustees	22	23 First Day of Autumn 	24
25 10 am Worship, Food pantry gifts & CE	26	27 9 am Yoga	28	29 7 pm Choir	30	

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 am Early Breakfast, 8 am late breakfast & WORKDAY
2 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund offering, Food Pantry Gifts, CE	3	4 9 am Yoga	5 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	6 7 pm Choir	7	8
9 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, CE	10 Columbus Day observed	11 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	12 7 pm WSO	13 7 pm Choir	14 WSO Project— pack food bags for Teens in Transition	15
16 9 am Choir 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, CE 3 pm PFLAG in Concord	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 9 am Yoga	19 7 pm Trustees	20 7 pm Choir	21	22
23 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts, CE	24	25 9 am Yoga	26	27 7 pm Choir	28 7 pm Ogmandson's Piano Recital Deering Church	29
30 9 am Choir 10 am Food Pantry Gifts, CE Forum after Service, 11:30 am	31 Halloween					

**Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
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Deering, NH 03244
Tel: 603-464-5643**

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org



**THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
DEERING CHICKEN
BARBECUE
COME ONE, COME ALL**



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2011
RAIN OR SHINE**

1 TO 3 PM

**SPONSORED BY THE DEERING
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**LOCATION: PAVILION BEHIND THE
CHURCH**

**PLENTY OF CHICKEN, CORN ON THE
COB, WATERMELON**

**IF YOU WANT TO BRING A DISH TO
SHARE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE SALADS,
VEGETABLES AND DESSERTS**

**Fun and games for all
Questions? Call 464-5643**

HELPER ELVES:

This year, we have had many volunteers doing the necessary chores around the church. We want to thank everyone who comes and goes, working inside and out. For example, on the July 2nd workday, Peg Hauschildt was vacuuming the inside of the church; Chris Nase was weeding a patch of overgrown flowers out by the side-front yard; and Bob Fuller, Peter Cram, David Bell and Lee Marcroft were all working together to assemble one of the picnic tables in the back. (See Pavilion article for photo.) Other days, Stuart Huggard and Chris Nase have been out mowing the grass; Suzanne Huggard and Pasca Ferwerda have cleaned inside. Thank you to everyone, mentioned and unmentioned, who have pitched in to keep our building and grounds in good condition.

