

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

November-December 2011



The Blessings and Joy of Thanksgiving and Christmas

Here in the beautiful season of autumn with the leaves finally exploding into color, I think about the end of year holidays. I feel so blessed to be celebrating another Thanksgiving with all of you. It was eight years ago in November that I began my ministry with you at Deering. I was fresh out of seminary, starting a new vocation in my sixties. How exciting all of that was for me! The great blessing is that after all this time I still feel excited and blessed.

Thanksgiving for most of us means family and food, lots of food! It also means thinking of those who are not doing so well, both for the lack of material things as well as emotional things. These holidays are particularly painful when there has been a recent death of a loved one or an anniversary of a death. Family breakup is another situation that brings a lot of pain. At any age, being alone can be extra hard during the holidays. So as we approach this season, I ask all of you to be mindful of those who are suffering emotional pain as well as those that need extra help with food and clothing.

In our faith, Christmas joy begins with Mary. After the angel Gabriel made the announcement to Mary that she would become the mother of God, Mary accepts the honor and responsibility by saying, "Let it be with me according to your word." She then sets out for the hill country to the home of Elizabeth, her cousin, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth greets her with a blessing, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." She continues saying that the child in her womb leapt for joy as soon as she heard Mary's greeting. Mary then utters the wonderful words of the Magnificat, initially speaking in the first person about her own joy for what God has done for her. You can read what she says in Luke 1:47-55.

I especially love the last part of the Magnificat where Mary moves on to describe God's blessing to all God's people and the justice that God will bring through the miracle of Jesus' birth: scattering the proud, putting down the Mighty and exalting those of low degree; filling the hungry and sending the rich away. Very clearly Mary's vision turns her world then and our world now upside down.

Giving gifts to those we care about in memory of God's gift to us of the baby Jesus is a wonderful part of Christmas—but that's only the beginning. The baby Jesus becomes our leader and disrupts the world of old as well as our world with challenges to those of privilege and power. The big message of Christmas is how God loves every one of us, rich and poor. Being blessed by God is more than what is in our bank account; it is our willingness to submit to God, to say Yes to whatever way God is calling us to minister in God's world. Can we say Yes with Mary? Is our faith strong enough? Joy is more than what's going on outside of us—it comes from within. We never know how God will bless us; all we can do is to be open to God's will and have hope. Jesus is God's sign that the Divine Spirit will always be with us, in joy and sorrow, to endure with us, to hope with us, and to celebrate with us. We will never walk alone. Thank God for becoming one of us. Thank God for all the blessings and joy that Thanksgiving and Christmas bring. Let us celebrate together.



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Mission Moment: Food

Don Johnson

We Are Part of the Problem

It seems that whenever we take up a significant world problem, often our first response is to collect money to send to flood victims, refugees or the starving Armenians of my own childhood. Instead of displacing these problems by just giving money, perhaps we should examine our own behavior and understand that our opulent life style is a contributing factor. For example take the issue that we will be focusing on for the next several weeks – food.

The world is facing a hunger crisis unlike anything it has seen in more than 50 years. Worldwide, 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty and without proper food. Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes. That's one child every five seconds. In 2008, nearly 9 million children died before they reached their fifth birthday. One third of these deaths are due directly or indirectly to hunger and malnutrition.

How are we contributing to this result? We are contributing because we Americans are one of the most wasteful people in history. Official surveys indicate that every year more than 350 billion pounds of edible food is available for human consumption in the United States. Of that total, nearly 100 billion pounds are lost to waste by retailers, restaurants, and consumers. National Institute of Health researchers say, that Americans, on average, waste 1,400 calories a day per person, or about two full meals. So We Americans waste One fourth of our total food production every year, enough to feed 50 million people or everyone in England.

Jonathan Bloom has a recent book called *American Wasteland* and asks “What is it about our relationship to food that's changed so drastically since the Depression-era hoarding of our parents and grandparents?”

- We waste food because we take it for granted, simple as that. Food is so abundant in this country. We produce about *twice* the amount of calories needed to feed all

Americans, and it shows -- both in the levels of obesity and waste.

- We waste food because we can. For many Americans, food is still tremendously cheap in relation to our incomes. We spend about 10 percent of our disposable income on food -- less than any other nation in the world.
- We squander so much of our food because we've become quite superficial about it. We expect our fresh foods to be both beautiful and uniform, or at least supermarkets think we do. Anything not cosmetically flawless nor the right shape and size is cast is thrown out at some point in the food chain.
- Bloom asks us to Picture the Rose Bowl, the vast 90,000 seat stadium. Now picture it filled to the brim with food. America wastes that much food every single day. How much waste is that, exactly? About 40 percent of all food produced in this country isn't eaten. That waste occurs at every stage of the food chain, from farm to fork.
- Through uneaten food, we waste 70 times the energy that was lost in the oil that was spilled into the Gulf of Mexico during the three months of the Deepwater Horizon spill.

During the next several weeks we will be exploring the reasons for world hunger and our individual contributions as to why many in the world are starving. National Food Day is next Sunday and the world food problem will be the focus of our UCC Mission 1 project. You can look at some aspects of this major undertaking on the bulletin board after Church.

Update on Mission 1

Pastor Barbara

In last newsletter we introduced the United Church of Christ's special mission campaign for 11 days from November 1 to November 11, 2011, focused on hunger and food with the theme of "That They May All Be One". Each Sunday in October we have been doing Mission Moments to educate the congregation about what needs to be done and what we can do. The national goals are to collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD for local food banks, the new goal is for \$111,111 dollars each to be divided equally between Neighbors in Need food related ministries in the United States and the UCC's East Africa famine appeal, and to write 11,111 letters to Congress and others to advocate for the poor worldwide

In our church, the World Service Committee has been working hard on all aspects of focus on the food and hunger program. The Neighbors in Need program was in progress throughout October. Each Sunday we have had a reminder of how this annual offering supports the UCC ministry of compassion and justice throughout the United States. We are urged to **Imagine Another World Possible** as Justice and Witness continues its strong policy of advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, civil liberties and environmental justice, as well as

hunger issues. The Mission 1 campaign is encouraging people to give online between the dates of November 1 to November 11 at ucc.org. In church, on November 6, we will be collecting the Mission 1 offering (to be divided equally between Neighbors in Need and Famine Relief in the Horn of Africa). Please let us know if you contribute on line by filling out a card found in our vestibule.

The World Service and Outreach Committee has gathered materials on world hunger and placed some of them on the bulletin board. A materials packet on world hunger is also available in Sherwood Hall and books on world hunger are there for borrowing. Meanwhile, the Sunday School is working on ways to reduce world hunger. On November 6th, the congregation will gather after church to write letters to various non-profit organizations, political leaders, United Nations Agencies and other world leaders concerned with food justice. Sample letters, the addresses of organizations and other pertinent information will be provided.

On November 6 the Deacons are sponsoring Laity Sunday with a focus on Oneness and community needs. Be sure to attend. There may still be a chance to volunteer for a five minute sermonette. See Jim Carpenter if interested.

WSO: Prison Ministry

Jeanne Bartlett

Prison Ministry: New insights into the world of an incarcerated woman were gained at a recent *Gathering and Training of NH Dept. Of Correction Volunteers* session held at the office of NH Council of Churches' office. Don and Jean Johnson and Jeanne Bartlett were there and learned that 80% of women in state prisons have substance-abuse problems and have experienced trauma, which includes sexual abuse in childhood, and a family life of alcohol and drug dependency, physical abuse and neglect. Chaplain Rev. Beth Richeson, leading this session, explained how the gift of the volunteer is to give mutual respect and demonstrate healthy relationships, being aware of the women's issues.

Christmas Cards: WSO will once again be leading the drive to collect Christmas cards containing a personal message for each inmate at the prison. We will be hoping to receive 160 in all for this purpose. Remember that these cards must be unsealed and to an unspecified resident.

WSO: Food Project

Jeanne Bartlett

Helping Families in Transition:

The Homework/family dinners have resumed on Tuesday evenings at St Mary's CE building. This is a combined effort mounted by the Ministerium. DCC is responsible for the fourth Tuesday of each month. **The Feed-A-Teen project** continues by supplying 25 snack bags to the Genesis Center in Hillsboro each week. See the photo of enthusiastic workers preparing these bags for delivery on the second Friday of each month, for which DCC is responsible.



Moderator's Musings

Steve Waters

At its October meeting, the Council considered the results of the surveys taken over the summer, the many activities and outreaches the church is currently engaged in, the active participation of the congregation in the maintenance and upkeep of church property, and the increase in membership over the past year. The group determined that we were indeed following the will of the Lord for our church and that there was no pressing need for changing our priorities or for long range planning or visioning. I feel the survey served us well.

The annual focus on stewardship will take place again in November. This is a time when we are asked to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what Deering Church means to us personally and to our

community at large. I like to think of our church as an oasis in a world full of influences and forces that work to separate us from a loving God, a world where cynicism, fear, and indifference seem to dominate. It is here that I find a community of friends who will be supportive when I am down, bring me a quiche or chocolate chip cookies when I am sick, and pray for my recovery to strength and well-being. It is here that I have the opportunity to reach out to others in need, to utilize God's gifts for a greater cause than my own needs. It is here, in Deering Church, where one may find caring, renewal, and a regeneration of spirit. It is not only important to support this place, it is a source of joy and satisfaction to do so. New members are always welcome.

Stewardship

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is primarily involved in motivating and inspiring financial pledges and gifts for the church. We work with other boards and committees to prepare a budget for the new year. Knowing how our church family plans to financially support the church will provide the foundation for the 2012 budget. Your pledges and contributions are only the *financial* outpouring of love for the Deering Community Church. Through your faithfulness, you bring the church many more gifts and talents. Join us in celebrating another year in the life of our church and assist in planning for the promise of a stable future. The Stewardship committee invites you to make this a truly fruitful harvest season.

Endowment Tree

Stuart Huggard

A new leaf has been added to the Endowment Tree on the memorial wall in the front hall of the church. For a little more than a year in 2003 and 2004, Reverend Janice (Jan) Shepherd was our interim minister. She passed away in December of 2010 and left the Deering Community Church a bequest that has been added to our Endowment Fund.

Budget Update

Stuart Huggard

It is hard to believe that it is once again time for the trustees to start preparing a budget for 2012. As you all know, the budget for 2011 was pretty severe with cuts made to paid time for the Minister, the Minister of Music, and our secretary. Also, we totally eliminated cleaning services and lawn care. By accepting this budget we also accepted the fact that we would have to do the eliminated jobs ourselves. We also, after much pulling at both ends of the budget, presented a budget with a “to be raised” amount. Only a small amount has been donated to this line item to date. This means that we need to rethink the effectiveness of that line item in the income portion of the 2012 budget.

The work of cleaning the church and lawn care has been done by many hands. I can not start identifying those hands because I know I will miss some. I keep

a pretty close eye on the church from across the street, and I have missed many who sneak into the church at odd times to do the necessary chores. On workday, there are those who show up and just start cleaning. So, not only is the work being done, but it has been fun working together. Most of us feel that the church is now cleaner than it ever was and that we should continue with the way we are doing it. The consensus is that even if we were to have the income in 2012 to restore these expenses to the budget, we can apply the money somewhere else.

If anyone has any input pertaining to what they would like to see in the budget for 2012, please let us know. All boards and committees will be submitting their suggestions to the trustees after their next meetings.

Financial Secretary's Report

Suzanne Huggard

In the world of Church Finance, the good news is that pledges for 2011 are being maintained at a level that is exceptionally good and we should come close to meeting the anticipated pledge income for the year. In addition, loose offering has exceeded expectations.

What is disappointing is that the ‘to be raised’ budgeted income line that was approved by the congregation in the 2011 budget has fallen far short. This line item, based on specified additional gifts beyond pledged amounts, has received only \$740 out of a budgeted amount of \$2,666.50. If you are able to make a donation to this important budget item before the end of the year, please be sure to indicate on your check that it is to be applied to the ‘to be raised’ line.

This is a very generous congregation. Giving for special projects or needs outside of budgeted items is always well beyond expectations. As an example, the appeal for donations to fund the Teen Food Bag project was so enthusiastically oversubscribed that it is funded well into 2012. The Pavilion project, which sheltered a large happy crowd at the Chicken

BBQ, came into being through the vision of a few individuals and the donations and hard work of many, including a number of local townspeople. An expensive (and unexpected) septic system problem was covered by donations. We are blessed by the generosity of many.

Boards and Committees will soon be preparing their budgets for 2012, and you will also soon be hearing about our stewardship campaign for 2012. As the trustees work on a budget for the church for 2012, they will be attempting to match budgeted needs with the amount of anticipated income, the largest amount being that expected from pledges. Please bear in mind that while all donations are gratefully received, it is ONLY pledged amounts that can be included as anticipated income in the budgeting process.

If you have any questions at any time about your giving statement, please call (464-4781) or e-mail shuggard@mcttelecom.com so we can both be sure your statement is accurate.

Sunday School

Chris Nase

The Sunday School has been engaged in learning about the life of Moses. We made “bricks” from honey, peanut butter and cereal, learned about the plagues and re-enacted the Israelites exodus from Egypt.

In response to the UCC’s Mission 1, the Sunday School children are challenging each member of our church to either bring in 11 food items or donate \$11 towards this mission. The collection of food in church will take place on November 6, 2011. The national office of the UCC would like donations to be made on line at ucc.org from

November 1 through November 11.

Soon the children will begin working on the Christmas pageant – “A Charlie Brown Christmas”. Lauren has already begun planning and it promises to be a dramatic production. The pageant will take place during the church service on December 11, 2011.

Also note, there will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

“As the leaves fall” the choir has resumed its practice and Sunday morning performing schedule. A special time for getting into the season was the hymn sing at Smith Church on October 14. Good food and enthusiastic singers from both churches made for a joyous gathering.



Friday, October 28 @ 7 PM – WILL OGMUNDSON, Pianist-Composer

Events to mark on your calendar are:

Sunday, November 20 @ 7 PM - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ the Methodist Church in Hillsboro.

Sunday, December 18 @ 10 A.M. – Service of Lessons and Carols followed by a holiday potluck luncheon.

Christmas Eve service @ 5 P.M. - with informal carol singing.

Let’s make a joyful noise together raising our voices in Thanksgiving and praise!

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

Our regular meetings resumed in September and October. Members who were there enjoyed each other’s company over lunch and a business meeting. With the successful Summer Fair over, we turned our eyes to the holidays. The ladies felt they would like to contribute some small effort to the town-wide Christmas Party for the children of Deering, if there is a party planned for this year. Jean Johnson said she would look into it. We talked about the winter months ahead. We voted to cancel the Women’s Guild meetings for the three months of December, January and February, since everyone is busy with the holidays, and the following winter weather reduces attendance. So the November meeting will be the last one for 2011 and meetings will resume in March of 2012. Committees were set up for nominations of officers and the proposed budget for 2012, an audit person was named, and printing of 2012 membership booklets will be done by year end.

We are looking for new members to join the Women’s Guild, and ask that you consider this. We meet the first Wednesday of the month from noon through 2 pm, March through November. Bring your own bag lunch and enjoy cake, beverages and lots of good company!



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. November 6 and December 4 donations start with Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for paper products for **November** such as tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers and other personal care products. For **December**, personal care products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes would be appreciated, but you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have to offer. The Food Pantry is 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



NOVEMBER

Peg Hauschildt, 8

Hope Thomas, 13

Barbara Glauner, 18

Jane Waters, 27

DECEMBER

Christine Marcroft, 5

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Kate Kelly, 12

Happy Anniversary

DECEMBER

Cynthia Ward & Bob Fuller, 24



CHEESE SALE FUND RAISER

Come One, Come All! On Sunday, November 20th at 11:30, we will be selling off the last ten-pound block of cheddar cheese saved from the Summer Fair. Remaining jars of jellies and jams will also be offered for sale. Cheese and jams make a wonderful addition to holiday festivities!



November 2011

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 Early Breakfast, 8 am Late Breakfast & WORKDAY Turn clocks BACK tonight
6 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Laity Sunday, Deacon's Fund offering, CE Flu Shots 11:30-12:30	7	8 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	9 7 pm WSO	10 7 pm Choir	11	12
13 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Food Pantry gifts & CE	14	15 9 am Yoga	16 7 pm Trustees	17 7 pm Choir	18	19
20 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry, CE 11:30 Cheese Sale 7 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Methodist Church, Hillsboro	21	22 9 am Yoga	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Food Pantry gifts, CE.	28	29 9 am Yoga	30			

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Choir	2	3 7 am Early Breakfast, 8 am Late Breakfast & WORKDAY
4 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund offering, Food Pantry Gifts, CE	5	6 9 am Yoga	7 7 pm Deacons	8 7 pm Choir	9	10
11 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, Children's Pageant . Food Pantry Gifts	12	13 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	14 7 pm WSO	15 7 pm Choir	16 Newsletter Deadline	17
18 9 am Choir 10 am Worship, A service of Lessons and Carols followed by a holiday potluck luncheon.	19	20 9 am Yoga	21 7 pm Trustees	22 Winter Solstice 7 pm Choir	23	24  5 pm Family Christmas Eve Service & Carol sing
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10 am Worship	26	27 9 am Yoga	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 

**Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244
Tel: 603-464-5643
Rev. Barbara Luckett Currie**

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org



8th ANNUAL FREE CHICKEN BARBECUE



On September 10th, Deering Community Church held the 8th annual free chicken barbecue for town residents from 1 to 3 pm in the new pavilion behind the church on a beautiful, sunny and not too hot day. Everyone was excited to use the pavilion and barbecue pit for the first time for this function. Earlier in the day, members were putting finishing touches on the area, raking around the horse shoe game pit, moving tables to various locations in and around the pavilion, shucking and cooking corn



on the cob, cooking the boneless chicken breast pieces on our new fire pit grates, and setting up all the salads, chips, sodas, desserts and coffee on tables inside the pavilion. At 1 pm all was ready and the people from our town started arriving for the feast. There was a very good turnout of about 75 attendees. People had a good



time sitting around visiting with each other and enjoying the food prepared by church members, marking the unofficial start of the fall season.

