

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

January - February, 2012



New Beginnings and Keeping the Sabbath

Happy New Year from southern California! I once again make pilgrimage to my residence from 1966 to 2000.

As you might imagine this

place has millions of memories and many dear friends as well as my son Jason. My time here is filled with visiting people and places that are dear to my heart. Likewise, every year all of you at Deering Community Church become dearer to me. I look forward to our journey together in 2012.

I feel called to write once again about Sabbath. My article earlier this year did not get any response. At the end of that article, I asked if any of you were intentionally taking a Sabbath and what that was like for you. So it's hard to know what is happening amongst you.

In our Holy Scriptures, we have a creation story in Genesis, the first of all new beginnings. After six days work of creation, we are told that God rested on the seventh day from all the work God had done. The Jewish Sabbath is on the seventh day of the week, and most Christians have their Sabbath on the first day of the week to honor the day of Jesus' resurrection. In 2012 the first day comes on our Sunday Sabbath—what a wonderful day to start again!

The Christmas season is one of our busiest times, so more than ever it is important for us to take a rest from working, take time to renew ourselves and to enjoy our family and our church. Worshiping and playing together or taking some alone time-- whatever helps you to be nourished -- is what Sabbath is about. Even in the joyful times of celebration, it's easy to get energy sucked out of us. If we continue to deplete our energy, burnout, exhaustion, and sometimes serious illness will take

over. There are so many of you in our church who do so much. I do not want to lose you to illness or to withdrawing from the church. So please start this year by setting aside Sabbath time.

If you are not sure about how to practice Sabbath, I have a wonderful book to recommend, "Sabbath" by Wayne Muller. His second title is: "Finding rest, renewal, and delight in our busy lives". In the last chapter of the book, he goes through an evening, morning, and afternoon of Sabbath rest. Whether your Sabbath begins in church or at home, lighting candles is a good way to begin. As you light (or observe the lighting) of candles, take a few deep breaths, quiet your mind, let this sacred time begin. Some of the things that might be part of your Sabbath are: praying, reading scripture or other uplifting books; reading or writing poetry; visiting with family and friends; making love with your partner; taking a long nap; enjoying nature—walks, snow-shoeing, snow-mobiling, and so forth. Our Sabbaths do not have to be filled with rules; it's fine to choose whatever healthy things you enjoy. Be mindful/intentional about giving thanks to God and enjoying a time of rest and play. May this year 2012 be a year of joy and rest for us all. God bless each and every one of you.

In closing I share with you a poem written in



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Pastor's Corner

January of 1999 as Neill and I moved to Claremont School of Theology to start my fulltime seminary education.

New Beginnings

The sun shines brightly

The sky if blue

My heart is singing.

An amazing meal

Eaten at a sidewalk café

Sharing conversation with a passer-by

Talking about the pleasures of leisure.

Visiting new shops

Meeting Charles, owner of the music store

Receiving his book of poems and a hug

Accepting the assignment to write this poem.

Knowing that life is full

Wondering about the rainy days

Believing in the goodness ahead

Rejoicing in the power of Love.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” Luke 2:14-14

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

As we start the new year, I want to point you towards scriptures from Jesus’ birth to his preparation for death that talk of peace. The shepherds heard the angels singing about peace and goodwill as Jesus’ birth was announced. Can you hear it? Do you believe it? Does the Christmas season fill your hearts and minds with joy and peace?

As Christians, we will have difficult times, trials and tribulations in the world. Through Jesus, the Christ, the world has been overcome and that means that we can have peace despite all the violence around

and about us. It is not enough just to feel inner peace but it has to start there. From that point we are called to do whatever we are called to do to bring that peace to others, both inner peace as well as peace in the outer world. May we faithfully work for peace as this year unfolds.

I leave you with the Collect for Peace at the close of Vespers in the Lutheran church:

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Mission I Success

Pastor Barbara

The United Church of Christ set aside the first 11 days in November to conduct an amazing campaign to feed the hungry, change policies in our government about the treatment of the poor, and provide funds for both national and international programs in the belief that we are all one, God's children. As you will see, some of the goals were not exceeded until after 11-11-11; however they were all above their goals.

Deering Community Church contributed: \$327.00 along with a separate check for \$111 earmarked specifically for the Hillsboro Food Pantry; 17 paper letters to Congress, and 130 food items brought to

church on 11/6 on Neighbors in Need dedication Sunday.

Results of the UCC Mission 1 Campaign:

Food items, goal 1,000,000; received 1,459,299.

Letters to Congress, goal 11,111; received 37,793.

Neighbors in Need, goal \$111,111; received \$139,793.

East African Famine, goal \$111,111; received \$125,843.

Moderator's Musings

Steve Waters

In one sense, we note that "hard times" have not left our church unscathed. Many cuts to personnel and programs have been made in order to make ends meet. The proposed budget for 2012, approved by the Council at its last meeting in preparation for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 29, extended these cuts for another year. But these hard times seem to have brought out the best in us. Members have pitched in to keep the church clean and the grounds maintained. Our outreach program has expanded to include an effort to meet the needs of homeless families in our community; the choir still brings the joy of singing to Sunday services, and our numbers have increased over the past year. A brand new pavilion has been built. Difficult financial times have strengthened our spirits and the conviction that we are serving the Lord's purposes. The challenge to make ends meet continues, however. There remains over \$2000. "to be raised" left in the 2011 budget and more in that same category for 2012. Hopefully everyone can pitch in to close that budget gap. Our church's bylaws limit the service of a Moderator to four years -- a good practice, in my view. Hence, my term will end at the Annual Meeting in January. Please put the 29th of January on your calendar and plan to attend the meeting following service that morning. My very best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2012 Budget Update

Stuart Huggard

The trustees have been, as they usually are at this time of year, working on a budget for 2012. The budget for 2011 was a difficult budget with cuts to all salaries and some programs. The proposed budget for 2012 is about the same as that for 2011. Expected income for 2012 is a little more than that in 2011, but expenses are also more. Heating oil accounts for a lot of the increase. We are still looking to provide cleaning and lawn services by volunteers. Everyone involved seems to feel that these volunteer efforts have worked out well and can be continued through 2012. At this time, the

trustees and the church council feel that we have a budget that can be accepted by the congregation. It includes, however, a "to be raised" amount that is larger than that in the 2011 budget. It also includes a small increase in the area of fundraising which means we must work for a successful church fair and perhaps add some other fundraising activity. The good news there is that we have already been presented with some new and exciting ideas for fundraising. Our efforts leading up to the annual meeting will be to try to reduce the "to be raised" portion of the budget.

Financial News

Suzanne Huggard

In case you were wondering.... Some pledge statistics

First, all are to be commended for maintaining pledges throughout the year. I don't think I can recall a year recently when pledges have not fallen short of expectations, but 2011 is an exception. This is a good thing and surely expresses a firm commitment on the part of our church family.

Now some statistics- In 2011 there were 28 pledges for a total of \$48,538.00 and for 2012, there are 31 pledges for a total of \$47,092.00. So we have a net gain of 3 pledges, but slightly less pledge income. How this happened is the following:

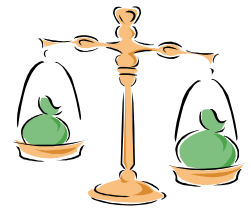
- 2 pledges from last year did not pledge this year
- 5 new pledges were added
- 8 pledges were increased over 2011 amount
- 6 pledges were reduced from 2011 amount

It is clear that people are giving as much as they are able to give, for understandable reasons. You may be interested in the spread of amounts pledged, which is as follows:

- 4 pledges were between \$3,000 and \$6,000
- 14 pledges were between \$1,000 and \$2,999
- The rest were \$900 and below

Thank you to all who have made a financial commitment to the church for 2012.

In any case, it will be important for us all to add a bit extra when possible to cover the 'to be raised' budget line, which is just a less harsh way of saying 'shortfall, or deficit'.



November Sale

Barbara Glauner

On November 20th, The women's Guild and the Deering church put together a pre-holiday sale of the last ten pounds of Vermont cheddar cheese, the remaining delicious jams and jellies, Kay Daniels quilted potholders, beautiful blank photo note cards with envelopes made by Chris Nase and the Sunday school children, and cute little Christmas tree trims made by Jeanne Bartlett. The sale was well received and enjoyed by all. We took in a gross amount of \$262.



Forum- Native Americans in NH

Don Johnson



On November 20th thirty-four interested people gathered in Sherwood Hall to hear David Stewart-

Smith deliver a fascinating lecture on Native Americans in New Hampshire. He focused mainly on the Pennacooks, as he is heir to that tradition as well as having taught Native-American history and culture at Norwich University in Vermont.

Prof. Stewart-Smith stressed the interaction between Native Americans and European settlers and the mutual borrowing of cultural forms from one another. The new settlers brought with them guns, germs and steel while the Native Americans enjoyed an advanced agriculture that included corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, potatoes and tobacco. The Native Americans also used fertilizers that they taught the new settlers.

Stewart Smith also discussed other forms of interaction from trading goods to intermarriage. The two Europeans exchanged manufactured goods, particularly iron and steel items such as axes, cooking pots, knives, traps and muskets, for seeds, furs snowshoes and other crafts. Many settlers especially those far removed from cities also adopted the Indian clothing which was more suited to the challenging terrain where they now lived. He also pointed out the importance of trading posts such as New Hampshire Fort Number Four where these exchanges of goods centered.

One of the most important exchanges was marriage partners. After 1818, when a ravaging plague wiped out perhaps a third of the Native Americans in the Northeast, Indian raiding parties carried off young European women and many European men chose Indian wives. Native American woman captives often commanded a substantial ransom for their release. John Demos' excellent book, *Unredeemed Captive*, is a compelling story of the kidnapping of Deerfield's Pastor Williams and his entire family and the decision of Eunice to remain as the wife of

a Mohawk all her life. The speaker pointed out that as of 1650 there were many European men for every European woman; yet by about 1700 the ratio of European men and women was about equal. Prof. Smith suggested that for any modern American who can trace his/her lineage back to the early 17th century, has a 40 per cent probability of carrying some Native American genes.

Our speaker also discussed the many conflicts and wars between the Europeans and Native Americans. At first most Indians welcomed the new settlers and kept their treaties. Missionaries like John Eliot, who translated the Bible into Algonquin, were very successful in converting Native Americans to Christianity and by the middle of the 17th century there were several major Indian-Christian villages, known as "Praying Towns." Many of New England towns such as Natick, Lowell, Newton and Marlborough, all in Massachusetts, were once homes to Native American Christians.

Unfortunately, by the 1670s the increasing number of European settlers often broke treaties with their Native American counterparts and with the King Philip War, the settlers slaughtered whole villages of Native Americans including their fellow Christians living in the Praying Towns. The Colonists learned many Native American military tactics and began to apply these new ways of war, such as hiding behind walls and trees, to their future wars with the British. These strategies later known as Guerilla tactics have been used throughout modern history by armies around the world. Finally, Prof. Stewart-Smith analyzed the familiar tale of Hannah Dustin and her adventure as an Indian captive. Given the logistics that this story entails, he is very doubtful that much of this legend could be true. He ended his talk by citing a newspaper account of the death of Chief Massasecum in nearby Bradford. The story concluded that he was the last Indian in New Hampshire and also noted that his wife and children had attended the funeral service.



Dorothy J. Parker Wood

Barbara Glauner



Dorothy Wood died on November 28th, 2011 at age 98 at the Hillsboro House Nursing Home. Pastor Barbara conducted a service of celebration of Dorothy's life at the Deering Community Church on Saturday December 3rd at 1 pm. Dorothy's three sons spoke about their life with their mother and father, and friends and family members shared a few favorite memories about Dorothy. A committal service immediately followed at Wilkins Cemetery in Deering. Thereafter, a reception by the Women's Guild and church members was held at Deering Church for her family and friends. Dorothy had been a member of the church and the Women's Guild for many years.

Dorothy was born in Deering on October 7, 1913 and spent her early years in this town. Her family later moved to Hillsboro. She graduated from high school at age 16 (graduation photo) and later married Wallace Wood on April 17, 1933. They moved to Deering where they had a small farm on route 149 and raised their family. Dorothy was a homemaker and eventually worked at GTE Sylvania once the children were older. They owned a small camp down on Lake Deering and the family enjoyed many summer days there. Dorothy was an excellent cook and baker, and her pies and rolls were prized locally. Her surviving family celebrated her life with those who knew her at the service held in the church. The family requested that donations be made in her name to the Hillsborough Food Bank, Church Street, Hillsboro, NH, 03244.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

The last meeting of the Guild in 2011 was held on November 2nd. The December meeting was cancelled, but monthly meetings resume in January, weather permitting. Our new slate of officers for 2012 is Kay Daniels - President, Hazel Vogelien - Vice President, Betty Dishong - Treasurer, and Barbara Glauner - Secretary. At the November meeting, we voted to contribute \$100 to Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center to jointly celebrate the memory of Virginia Bittenbender, a former Guild member who died at 93, and to support the recovery of Cynthia Ward a patient there from our church. We also voted to donate \$100 toward the Deering children's Christmas party on December 17. The members voted to increase our church pledge for 2012 to \$1500 for the year. Guild members voted to give \$200 to the Deering Heritage Commission project to help erect an engraved war memorial stone on the town common in front of the church. In addition there were our usual donations to two food pantries and two town's emergency services, and Operation Christmas for Deering and Weare. Betty and Hazel will meet to draft a proposed Guild budget for 2012. Barbara Glauner will prepare and distribute the 2012 membership booklets along with an updated hotline. On November 20th, the guild and church sold off the remaining cheese, jams, cards and a few ornaments after church service, grossing \$262. It was suggested that we revive the idea to all go out for a Sunday afternoon play at Peterborough Players and dinner afterward sometime in 2012. Sadly, on November 28, we lost our member Dorothy Wood, who died at age 98.

WSO - Prison Inmate

Jeanne Bartlett

Opinions from an inmate

In an article published in the Concord Monitor recently, an inmate from the Goffstown Women's Prison wrote about her experience there. She says: "My eyes and heart have been opened to a lost culture that the average citizen never wants to think about."

Though the recent U.S. Commission on Civil Rights report stated that the prison is too small this inmate has some suggestions for how an inmate could be helped to re-enter society and act appropriately, responsibly and become a productive citizen.

Implementing some of the following basic ideas would assist in reducing the high recidivism rate, reduce the population and create significant financial savings:

Require all inmates to attend educational classes and attain a certain GPA. Hold them accountable and responsible for furthering their education.

Make full use of the empty classrooms and recreation rooms for the programs that are neglected: counseling, parenting, basic life skills, life coaching.

Reinforce positive behavior. Reinforce behavior that goes above and beyond. Positive reinforcement leads to better work ethic and builds personal confidence.

Use more creative drug and alcohol treatment programs. The few that we have had here are obviously inadequate. Proof is in the 57 percent recidivism rate.

Use the inmates' own knowledge for skill-building and tutoring-it is a free labor force!

She asks: if this is called the Department of Corrections why is there so little "correcting" being done? Unless the inmate is motivated and self-directed, most just sit, day after day, existing. "Besides the fact that men in prison are offered so much more to foster their success, it is appalling that the inaction at the women's prison continues to exist." Maybe it is time to make a drastic change in a system that appears not to work, statistically or morally.

WS&O thanks everyone for their generous response to the call for Christmas cards for the prison once again. Rev. Richeson, chaplain, assures us that these messages are much appreciated.

WSO - Unkama Fair

Jeanne Bartlett

The Ukama Fair at the NH Council of Churches was attended by Pricilla Beaudrault, Hazel Vogelein, and Jeanne Bartlett on Nov. 14th. Douglas Rogers, author of the book, *The Last Resort*, a memoir of "mischief and mayhem on a family farm in Africa", was the son of white farmers living in Zimbabwe through that country's long and tense transition from postcolonial rule. He had much to tell us about life there since Robert Mugabe became president, giving us a renewed appreciation of and in the lives of our friends in our partner church, UCC of Rimbi, Zimbabwe. Two copies of this book are available for loan.

During a delicious luncheon we got acquainted with people from other area churches, hearing about their experiences traveling to Zimbabwe and visiting their partner church.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

The hymn sing on October 16th at Smith Church, a collaboration with Barbara Daley, Loyal Allen playing piano and organ respectively, and Jane Waters, directing, was a joyful time, singing favorite hymns and eating a delicious potluck supper. Then on Friday October 28th we hosted the Ragtime recital by the gifted pianist and composer, Will Ogmundson, who charmed and inspired a very enthusiastic audience of seventy people.

Finally, our participation in providing the music for the Ecumenical service, hosted by the Hillsboro Methodist Church, gave the choir the opportunity to raise their voices in praise and thanksgiving. Since then we have been busy preparing for the Service of Lessons and Carols on the morning of December 18. The choir is happy to have a new member, a gifted soprano, Mollie Allen, from Deering.

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

In November, the Sunday School challenged each member of the congregation to contribute \$11 or 11 food items to the Mission 1 initiative. Judging by the multiple food baskets that were carried to the front of the church and the final Mission 1 count, the challenge was a success. In order to gain a better perspective on the significance of world hunger and food waste, Ruthie, provided information about the enormous amount of food people in the United States waste. We were all shocked to hear that the entire Rose Bowl stadium can be filled with wasted food daily while at the same time, one child will die every five seconds from hunger related problems. The pageant this year was a wonderful adaptation of a *Charlie Brown Christmas*. All the children worked very hard to learn their parts. Lauren was a patient, creative director and deserves all our thanks. Also thanks to all that helped with set creation and to Jane for her hard work in preparing the musical accompaniment.



PFLAG News

Christine Marcroft

PFLAG has been a blessing for Christine and Lee Marcroft again during this advent season, as more and more young people as well as adults have come out of the closet hoping for acceptance by their peers. Our most recent meeting in Concord, NH introduced us to a gay mother with her accepting and supporting straight teen age daughters and friend; a new straight parent of a gay daughter who is a possible NEW longer term supporter of PFLAG, NH; a straight mother of a bisexual daughter who visited for the second time and a trans woman whom we met at the annual day of remembrance for all trans people murdered within the past 12 months. The annual vigil was recently held in a candle light ceremony on the front steps of the South Congregational Church (UCC) in Manchester. In addition, Lee and Christine were invited to the annual NH State PTA (parents and teachers) Conference held in North Conway, NH this year. We were invited to set up a table with PFLAG pamphlets, and answer parent's and teacher's questions about what PFLAG is doing. We sincerely appreciate the courage of the NH PTA for encouraging us to do this for the fourth year. Reception was respectful and we were able to talk to quite a number of parents and teachers during the five hours allotted.

HILLARY CLINTON'S SPEECH: In case you missed it, our US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton gave a rousing speech to the United Nations recently, which is an absolute must to hear. Among other groups, she also stood tall in support of the rights for our gay citizens. To listen to and view her speech , please go to http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily_News/2011/12/06/Video_The_Speech_You_ve_Been_Waiting_For/

For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. January 1 donations start with Hillsboro and February 5 with Weare..

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **January**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **February**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes , but each week you're 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,



JANUARY

Benjamin Robinson, 2

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Deborah Carpenter, 22

Hallie Terry, 28

Charlotte Price, 31

FEBRUARY

Ray Petty III, 2

Noah Carter, 8

Stuart Huggard, 8

Glenn Price, 9

Samuel Kelly, 13

Happy Anniversary

JANUARY

Pasca & Timothy Ferwerda, 26

FEBRUARY

Kathleen & Raymond Daniels, 14



Peg Hauschild & Jean Lewis
Lighting the advent candle on
December 11, 2011.



January 2012

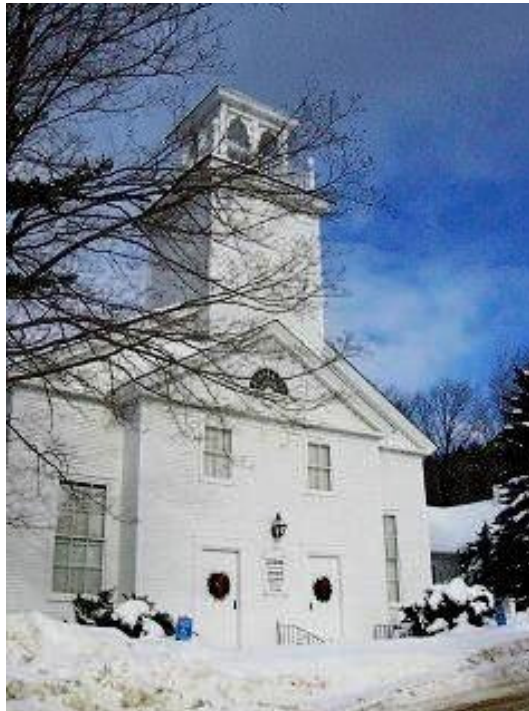
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion, CE, Deacon's Fund offering, Food Pantry Gifts	2	3 9 am Yoga	4 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	5	6	7 7 am Early Breakfast, 8 am Late breakfast & WORKDAY
8 10 am Worship & CE, Food Pantry Gifts	9	10 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	11 7 pm WSO	12	13 Teens in Transition food bags	14
15 10 am Worship & CE, Food Pantry Gifts Pflag 3 pm in Concord	16	17 9 am Yoga	18 7 pm Trustees	19  7 pm Choir	20	21
22 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & CE, Food Pantry Gifts	23	24 9 am Yoga	25	26 7 pm Choir	27	28
29 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & CE, Food Pantry Gifts Annual Meeting 11:30, after service	30	31 9 am Yoga				

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12 Noon Guild 7 pm Deacons	2  7 pm Choir	3	4 7 am early breakfast, 8 am late breakfast & WORKDAY
5 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, CE, Deacon's Fund Offering, Food Pantry Gifts	6	7 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	8 7 pm WSO	9 7 pm Choir	10 Teens in Transition food Bags	11
12 9 am Choir 10 am Worship. CE, Food Pantry Gifts	13	14 9 am Yoga Valentine's Day 	15 7 pm Trustees	16	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18
19 10 am Worship, CE, Food Pantry Gifts 3 pm Pflag in Concord	20 President's Day	21 9 am Yoga	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship, CE, Food Pantry Gifts	27	28 9 am Yoga	29 Leap Year Day			

Deering Community Church
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Deering, NH 03244
Tel: 603-464-5643
Rev. Barbara Luckett Currie

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org



NH Conference of the United Church of Christ and Sources of Support

Members have inquired about the difference between Our Church's Wider Mission, Fellowship (Association) Dues, and the Friends of the New Hampshire Conference Annual Appeal.

Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support) is that amount sent by local churches to support the work of the wider church, both the Conference and the national setting of the United Church of Christ. This is an offering, not an obligation, an expression of being in covenant with others. Our Church's Wider Mission accounts for about 51% of the revenue that the Conference plans to receive in 2011. The total amount anticipated from the local churches this year is \$650,000. Of this amount, 45% is forwarded to Cleveland in support of the national and global ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Fellowship (Association) Dues is that annual assessment that is collected by the Associations of the New Hampshire Conference. It is based on local church membership numbers. The Conference portion of these dues in 2011 is \$7.00 per member, with an additional \$.50 designated by the Gathered Conference for campus ministries. Your local Association also collects revenue for its operation through this per capita assessment. The Conference anticipates receiving \$146,782 in Fellowship Dues this year, which amounts to about 11.6% of the Conference's income. This amount is not shared with the national setting of the United Church of Christ.

Finally, **Friends of the Conference** is an annual appeal through which individuals provide financial support to the New Hampshire Conference. Our budget anticipates revenue of \$25,000 from this appeal. That represents about 2% of the Conference budgeted income. One hundred percent (100%) of these gifts are used to support the ministry and mission of the Conference.

Taken together, these three income streams fund the ministries and mission of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. To learn more, visit the 2011 Budget on our website.