

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

March-April 2012



The Season of Lent and Easter

Where am I at the beginning of another Lenten season? Where are you? What is Lent all about? How can we participate in this holy season in a deep and

thoughtful way? Ash Wednesday this year is on February 22, starting the 40 days of Lent (minus the Sundays) culminating on April 8. The dates of Easter are related to the moon. Since 326 Easter has always been the Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon. In the years since 326, Easter has always fallen on one of 35 days between March 22 and April 25. Before the year 326 Easter was on the first day of the Jewish Passover or the first Sunday after the first day of the Passover. Last year was just about the latest possible Easter date, having been on April 24. The earliest date for Easter will next come in 2285 and has occurred only twice since 1700. So much for trivia!

Where am I this year? Because of the disruption of a month away from home, living in six different homes, my spiritual life suffered. I only went to church one time during that period. I only have two close friends in LA/Orange County who go to church. I was surprised at how uninvolved I was. Now that I have been back home a month, I have resumed some of my daily devotions, but my prayer and meditation life is still suffering although it is gaining strength. So I am looking forward to Lent as a time to be more intentional about going deeper into the spiritual practices that mean so much to me

In reading Wayne Muller's book on How, Then, Shall We Live? I liked the advice that an Indian guru, Neem Karoli Baba gave his followers about spiritual practices: "Do just three things—love, serve and remember." Jesus also instructed us to

remember him as he gave his disciples bread and wine.

The spiritual practice I am focusing on this Lent is "Awareness", much like "Practicing the Presence of God" made famous by Brother Lawrence. To explain briefly, this practice is noticing God and the Spirit in everything you do. Wherever you are, remind yourself that God is near. Brother Lawrence said, "It is not necessary to have great things to do. I turn my little omelet in the pan for the love of God."

In my opinion the thrust of the season of Lent is to increase one's

spirituality. The original reason for Lent was to prepare oneself for baptism which took place on Easter. I recommend you pursue what would help you go deeper into the great mystery of our faith. If fasting helps you do that, fine. The theory behind fasting or giving things up that you like is probably to identify with the great sacrifice Jesus gave for us in his crucifixion. As I have mentioned before, for me becoming more involved in spiritual practices helps with my deepening. I do recommend that you intentionally put some time aside every day to pray, read devotional literature, study scripture or meditate. I will have devotional books in Sherwood Hall for you to take home if you wish. For those of you who are more doers, is there some new way you can be of service?



Inside this issue:

Peace Corner	2
Living the Questions	
Moderator's Musings	3
Window Of Opportunity	4
Sunday School News	
Musical Notes	5
Guild Gleanings	
WSO	6
Dr Marian Van Horne	7
Cynthia J. Ward	
FYI	8
March Calendar	9
April Calendar	10
Floor Refinishing, Easter Altar	11

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Barbara

One of the things I hope many of you will do is attend our Lenten class on "Living the Questions" for five Sundays starting on 2-26 from 11:30 to 12:30. There is a description of this class elsewhere in the Newsletter. You may want to attend more services of worship. My favorite worship service is on Maundy Thursday, this year falling on April 5. This is a service of music and scripture, optional washing of the feet, and Holy Communion. It's a good way to accompany Jesus during his last week

before death and resurrection. Look for other special worship opportunities in the community.

May God guide you during this Holy time. Remember that God so loved the world he gave us his son, Jesus; and Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us.

Happy Easter!

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

NH DEATH PENALTY

I am a believer in non-violence whether it's personal, between individuals, groups, wars, or the death penalty. In this column I want to let you know what's happening in NH with the death penalty.

First of all, NH has had the death penalty on their books since 1734 and has executed 24 people between 1738 and 1939. It is used now only in cases of capital murder, meaning killing a officer of the law, although the first executions were two women who had killed their "bastard" infants. "As of 2008, there was one person on "Death Row"; however, there was no execution chamber....Hanging is the method of execution historically used in the state. Lethal Injection is currently the primary legal form of execution...." (Wikipedia). The only person currently on death row is Michael Addison for knowingly causing the death of Manchester police officer, Michael Briggs.

Presently there are two bills in the NH State House: HB 1706 and HB 162. The latter would expand the

death penalty to all cases of purposeful homicide and has been "tabled" but could be brought back to the House floor. HB 1706 specifically would expand the applicability of the death penalty to three new categories, somewhat vague but including murder during robbery and home invasion. On January 31, 2012, the House Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety heard testimony on this bill and recommended the bill be defeated. On February 8th the full House of Representatives agreed. This is good news but be aware that the other bill, HB 162 could be taken off the "Table" at any time.

If you are concerned about the death penalty you might want to join The New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty that is made up of organizations and individuals who are committed to ending the practice. It does not cost to sign up.

Through outreach, education, and advocacy the group can make a difference. Here is their website: <http://www.nodeathpenaltynh.org/>.

I pray that we may find a non-violent way to live, a way that Jesus has modeled for us.

Living The Questions

Pastor Barbara

Are you ready to look at the Bible and your faith in a new way? Pastor Barbara will be facilitating a "progressive Christianity" view laid out in this film series and discussion guide. This class will start on February 26 and continue for five weeks. We will meet in Sherwood Hall, 11:30 to 12:30 each

Sunday. From the 21 possible topics, Pastor Barbara has chosen the following: February 26: An Invitation to a Journey; March 4: Taking the Bible Seriously; March 11: Stories of Creation; March 18: Lives of Jesus; March 25: Practicing Resurrection. Please let Pastor Barbara know if you will be

Living The Questions, Cont.

Pastor Barbara

attending as she wants to provide you with written material to read and spiritual practices to explore each week. Even if you cannot attend each week, come when you can as each class stands alone.

People outside of our church or not involved in any church are welcomed to attend this series of classes. You can just show up or you can call Pastor Barbara at 464-5643 or email her at pastorbarbara2003@yahoo.com.

We welcome you to join with us in this time of learning and exploring.

Let me leave you with a quote from Paul Tillich, "Everyone seeks answers, mostly to questions that are not very important, The great concern in life should be to discover which are the right questions, Then, even if you rarely get answers, you are at least journeying in the right direction."

Moderator's Musings

Steve Waters

Deering Community Church is off to a good new year. At our annual meeting, financial reports



showed that pledge income actually exceeded the budgeted amount and that expenses over the past two years are under budget. The Nominating Committee was able to fill all the positions. Other committee reports reflected a year of substantial effort and accomplishment. As Pastor Barbara often says, "We are small but mighty!"

The Trustees' Report detailed a major capital need: the windows in the Sanctuary have reached a point where they are unsafe and increasingly unable to do their job. In short they need to be reconstructed or replaced. At the February 14th Council meeting, held together with members of the Board of Trustees, the costs of doing minor repairs were compared with the substantially greater cost of major work on the windows. The decision was unanimous that the job should be done "right" and the windows should have major reconstruction or be replaced.

From this decision, two committees came into existence. The first would be responsible for

determining the best product and process for the window project. Bobby Compton, Bob Carter, and Tim Ferwerda have already agreed to serve on this committee. If you have building experience and would like to serve with this committee, please let Stuart Huggard know. The second would focus on raising the necessary funds for the project, some \$23,000. If you have experience with fund raising and would like to work with this committee, please let me know. See the article titled "**Window of Opportunity**" for the wonderful opportunity we have for raising these funds.

We are blessed to welcome Mollie Allen to our midst who, in addition to joining our choir, is researching grant moneys to support our needs. She is a font of ideas for improving our public relations to better inform the community about the wonderful activities and opportunities available at Deering Church.



Window of Opportunity

Stuart Huggard



At the annual meeting in January, the trustees presented to the assembled members the need for major repair of the windows in the sanctuary. At the very least, the windows need glazing, broken glass replaced, stripping and painting, and as much repair as could be done to sagging bottom rails on the upper sashes. This would be a stopgap action that would leave us with the same windows that are not opera-

tional and the necessity for doing it all over again sometime down the road.

Estimates and a plan for total repair of the windows with double pane energy efficient glass and also making the windows operational while retaining



their historical integrity were presented. For all the eleven windows in the sanctuary, the cost would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$23,000 dollars depending on exactly which method was chosen.

An incredibly generous donor has offered us a matching grant to fund the cost of this project. Any donations made by others will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.00. Therefore, if you donate one dollar, you are really donating two. This creates for us a **Window of Opportunity** to get a much needed project accomplished for our church. Imagine how wonderful it would be to attend a summer church service or concert with the windows open (with screens) and fresh air circulating throughout the sanctuary.

Are you able and willing to make a donation and put your name on one of these windows? Donations may be made in the form of cash or a pledge made to the window fund. The work can not begin until we have the funds committed to this project.

Sunday School News

Chris Nase



The Sunday School participated in the Souper Bowl

of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. The students decided they wanted to have the proceeds donated to the Hillsborough & Weare Food Pantries. They raised almost \$200.

There will be no Sunday School on February 26 and April 22 due to school vacations.

Hailey and Chris Nase are planning to attend the UCC National Youth Event this summer in Indiana. The NYE is held every four years and gathers over 3000 teenage youth for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. They will also be part of a mission trip in Ohio prior to the NYE. Stay tuned for more information.

Musical Notes

Sam Kelly



Hello, folks. I've become the head of the music committee, and as such, it is my responsibility and duty to report the musical events that shall be forthcoming. Was this in the job description? I don't remember anyone saying. Anyway, the Spring brings a lot of musical happenings. Besides our Sunday morning sings and Easter, we will be having some very enjoyable events:

Friday, 3/16.....Hymn sing and Pot Luck supper at 6:00 PM with Smith Church, hosted by the Deering Community Church (that would be us).

Friday, 3/30.....Spring Soiree sponsored by the Deering Association

Sunday, 4/1.....Palm Sunday Service (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, 4/4.....Choir rehearsal (7:00 PM)

Thursday, 4/5.....Maundy Thursday service in Sherwood Hall (7:00 PM)

Sunday, 4/8.....Easter celebration with choir and organ (10:00 AM)

Come feel the Spirit that the choir can evoke. Come join us as we enjoy sharing our gift with you. (I held back on the jokes, you know. I hope you appreciate that.)

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

With the lack of snow and ice, the Women's Guild has met in January and February in Sherwood Hall. We have a new slate of officers for 2012 with Kay Daniels President, Hazel Vogelien VP, Betty Dishong treasurer, and Barbara Glauner Secretary. Although the summer fair is a long way off, Kay has finished the raffle quilt, "Village Crossroads", and Bill Glauner has produced the raffle ticket design and template. The ladies have floated ideas for new options at the fair, including a Christmas table. We will probably continue the popular November sale of cheese, jellies, potholders, and tree trims for Christmas. **We need a volunteer from the church membership to head up the sale of raffle tickets starting in April or May.** Look at the poster on the door to the parish hall for details and talk to any Guild member about

it. The Guild can no longer do it this year. The quilt raffle raises 1/4 of the fair proceeds, so we need a new volunteer to run this operation.



Deering Community Church
Women's Guild

Quilt Raffle

Village Crossroads
Queen Size Quilt

Drawing Saturday August 11th, 2012
Summer Fair, Deering, NH

Donation: \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett

Homework/family dinners have resumed for the month of February. We are now holding these in the Title One room 125 @ the HD Elementary School. Smith Memorial Church has withdrawn from this activity but St. Mary, Hillsboro United Methodist, and Deering Community Churches continue to be involved. These dinners are held on Tuesdays providing crockpot meals and tutors are on hand to help children with their homework before the meal. Dr McAloon, principal, is most welcoming and is anxious for this project to succeed. Participation regarding numbers of families attending is low but we will continue our efforts for a few more months.

Our Feed A Teen snack bag project continues and each of the churches' efforts to deliver twenty five bags to the Genesis Teen Center each week is met with very warm gratitude by the staff and young people. Thank you's go to our stalwart Sunday School for the packing up, the volunteer shoppers for supplies, and the Girl Scouts for delivering the bags. Hunger exists and persists in many areas of our community,

A few volunteers, having taken the **prison orientation workshop** required by visitors to the prison, are regular attendees at the Wednesday worship services where they join with the women inmates at the Goffstown Women's prison to hear Rev. Richeson's words of encouragement and to celebrate Holy Communion. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the prison please contact Pastor Barbara or a committee member of WS&O. There are several training sessions provided at multiple locations each month and require only a few hours of one's time to attend.

We will also be accepting **Mother's Day cards** for delivery to the incarcerated women this year. After bringing more than 160 hand written Christmas cards to the prison we received a warm letter from Rev. Beth and the women: "For our wonderful friends at the Deering Community Church, thank you for your faith-filled cards and caring hearts and prayers. It means so very much to know they are not forgotten."

We have had a letter from a recipient of one of our **Welcome Baskets** thanking us for the contents and welcome to the community. These baskets include a handmade pot holder by Kay Daniels, maple syrup donated by Phil Bryce and Bob Compton, maps describing nature trails, hiking paths, a brief history of Deering, a brochure about our church, the latest Newsletter, important town officials' contacts and hours, an invitation from the Women's guild describing their function, and a reusable shopping bag to a local market. Please be on the watch for moving vans indicating newcomers to Deering and notify the church office. PS: we need baskets to fill!

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Watch for announcements these coming weeks about the **One Great Hour of Sharing campaign**: Look for them in the Sunday Church bulletin, on the walls for a beautiful poster which gives the strong message that SHARING BRINGS JOY, to us, to others, to God. Listen from the pulpit during mission moments and during the children's time where you will hear about countless families both here and abroad who live every day in midst of violence and war, and often find themselves at the mercy of nature's fury with few resources to rebuild their lives. That we can be a channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the hurting. Your gifts will be received on March 13 or after or anytime!

Respectfully submitted: Jeanne Bartlett, Peg Hauschildt, Don Johnson, Lee and Christine Marcroft.

Dr. Marian Van Horne

Barbara Glauner

Dr. Marian Van Horne, 97, died on July 16th, 2011 at her residence at Brooksby Village, MA. She left a \$15,000 bequest to the Deering Community Church. She lived with her lifelong partner Julia Heins in an apartment on 5th avenue in NYC during the winters and was a member of The Riverside Church in NY. Her college studies were in religion and social work with a BA, M.A and Ed.D. She was a member of the American Board of Foreign Missions, a staff member of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches, and Director of Print Media and Writer Training of Intermedia, which promoted the use of media overseas. She was the author of "Write The Vision", a manual for writers and "Give Children Wings", a manual about how to write for children. Friends say she was focused on Africa, at some point suffering from malaria, and perhaps spending time in Turkey. She traveled to various countries doing workshops and consulting with educators and schools. After Julia died, Marian sold the NY apartment and moved to Brooksby Village, MA.



During the summer months spent in this area, she had a home in Washington, NH. She was a member of the Deering Woman's Guild, which numbered 50+ members in those early years, until 2005 when she moved to Brooksby Village. Those who remember her time attending services at the Deering Community Church and the Woman's Guild meetings said she was a faithful participant in all our activities. She gave a Deering Community Church Forum after the Sunday service on July 2, 1989 called "Whose World Is It", as author and former director of print media and writer training of the National Council of Churches. This photo shows her working at the Guild Fair in 1989. She always made the "after the fair outing" arrangements for a play at the New London Playhouse and a luncheon as a celebration after the Guild's summer fair each year. Some remembered that she gave writing lessons to children at the Deering library and was involved in the NH Historical Society among other things in this area. In light of her bequest, we thought those of you who never knew her might like to learn something about her.



Cynthia J. Ward

Barbara Glauner



Cynthia J. Ward of Deering, NH, 67, died February 1, 2012 at Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH. She is survived by her husband Robert Fuller. She founded and operated Chrysalis Case Management, helping families and individuals with elder care issues, with an eye to creating options for elderly independence.

Cynthia was a faithful member of Deering Community Church. She served on the World Service Committee. When the new Medicare D program for seniors was being launched, she gave our community a talk about it to help us better understand our options. And most recently, she co-chaired the Stewardship Committee to help insure financial stability for our church.

There will be a celebration of Cynthia's life at Deering Community Church on Saturday, April 14th at 1 pm. Bob Fuller has asked that you come prepared to share a story of how Cynthia's path crossed yours. We will miss her bright smile and caring ways.

For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. March 4 and April 1 donations start with Weare.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **March**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **April**, 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,
Financial Secretary



MARCH

Esther McLain, 11

Timothy Ferwerda, 31

APRIL

Maggie Carter, 5

Sean Carter, 5

Robert Compton, 7

Jeanne Bartlett, 16

Ruth Ann Robinson, 25

Jane Spragg, 25

Reminder About Food Pantry Donations

Recently I have received several checks intended for the food pantry with "Hillsborough Food Pantry" in the memo line. Please remember that *all monetary donations* I receive for the food pantry are accumulated and several times a year **half is sent to Weare and half is sent to Hillsborough**. If you wish to have your monetary donation given specifically to either Hillsborough or to Weare, please send your donation directly to them yourself. I cannot do it for you. I appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you.

Suzanne Huggard

Happy Anniversary

MARCH

Barbara & Neill Currie, 20

Facebook Page

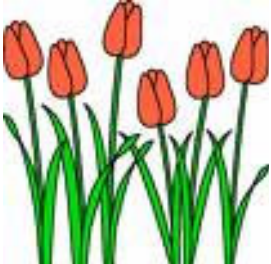
Deering Community Church now has a Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, just sign in and put Deering Community Church, United Church of Christ into the search box. Only those that have a Facebook account can access our church page. If you wish to have a Facebook account, you can sign up at Facebook.com. Please let all your Facebook friends know about us, and I hope all of you will make a comment about whatever you like. There's already a lot of interesting information there.

My vision is to write about what's happening in our church currently as well as links to others' pertinent faith related postings. Of course we want a lot of pictures and postings about church events as well as our members' activities related to religious and spiritual things. Also I hope to see some dialogue on questions relevant to our faith and world.

Let's have some inspiration, education, and fun! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Barbara at pastorbarbara2003@yahoo.com or my co-administrator, Mollie Allen at positivelyperfectpetsitting@gmail.com.

Blessings to you all, Pastor Barbara

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Choir	2	3 7 am breakfast 8 am late breakfast WORKDAY
4 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion, CE, Deacon's Fund Offering, Food Pantry Gifts, Adult ed	5	6 9 am Yoga	7 12 noon, Guild 7 pm Deacons	8 7 pm Choir	9 Teens in Transition food bags	10 Daylight Savings Time – clocks forward
11 9 am Choir 10 am Worship CE, Food Pantry Gifts Adult Ed, 11:30	12	13 Voting Day in Deering 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	14 7 pm WSO	15 7 pm Choir	16 Hymn Sing & pot luck supper 6 pm with Smith Church hosted by DCC	17  St Patrick's Day Deering Town Meeting, 9 am
18 9 am Choir 10 am Worship CE, Food Pantry Gifts, Adult Ed, 11:30 3 pm Pflag in Concord	19	20 9 am Yoga  Spring Begins	21 7 pm Trustees	22 7 pm Choir	23	24
25 9 am Choir 10 am Worship CE, Food Pantry Gifts Adult Ed, 11:30	26	27 9 am Yoga	28	29 7 pm Choir	30 Spring Musical Soiree at DCC sponsored by The Deering Assoc.	31

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion CE, Deacon's Fund, Food Pantry Gifts	2	3 9 am Yoga	4 12 noon, Guild 7 pm Choir rehearsal 7 pm Deacons	5 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm in Sherwood Hall	6 Good Friday	7 7 am Breakfast 8 am late breakfast WORKDAY
8 Easter 9 am Choir 10 am Worship with organ, CE, Food Pantry Gifts	9	10 9 am Yoga 7 pm Council	11 7 pm WSO	12	13 Teens in Transition food bags	14 1 pm Celebration of the life of Cynthia J. Ward at DCC
15 10 am Worship CE, Food Pantry Gifts 3 pm Pflag in Concord	16	17 9 am Yoga	18 7 pm Trustees	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, NO CE	23	24 9 am Yoga	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, CE	30					

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

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

*We're on Facebook at Deering
Community Church, United
Church of Christ*



Sherwood Hall Floor Refinishing Project

The wooden floors in Sherwood Hall were recently refinished thanks to a generous donor and others, with some money left to be funded to cover the full cost. In mid-February, the floor was sanded down and then coated with three coats of oil base polyurethane varnish for durability and appearance. Here are some photos of the work as it was in progress. The first picture shows the sanded floor. The second photo shows the work in progress.



HAPPY EASTER!