

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

September /October 2012



COMMUNITY AND THEOLOGY

What a wonderful summer at Deering Community Church! I cannot remember a busier summer. There have been three forums and three musical

concerts sponsored by our church as well as our annual Summer Fair and our ninth annual Chicken Barbeque. It is always so enjoyable to welcome our regular summer visitors. Our community enlarges and deepens. It feels so good to be a true community church.

In this Pastor's Corner I want to share more about Progressive Christianity, the theology with which I most identify. It is a theology that promotes community in a large sense. Theology, by the way, is simply the study of God and religious beliefs and the systematic formulation of those beliefs. I was introduced to Progressive Christianity in the 90's via my UCC church in Irvine, CA, whose pastor was Fred Plumer, currently the President of ProgressiveChristianity.org. On their website this month, you can hear Fred give his definition of Progressive Christianity: <http://progressivechristianity.org/>

In 1994 John Adams, an Episcopal priest in Washington, DC, had a vision to create an organization that would reach out to those people "for whom organized religion had proven to be ineffectual, irrelevant, or repressive." This was the first usage of the term Progressive Christianity. Adams' efforts came from his concern about the declining membership of mainline churches reported in the 1980's, the same decline that continues to get a lot of attention today. Originally the group was called The Center for Progressive Christianity (TCPC). In 2010 the name changed to

ProgressiveChristianity.org to reflect its web based presence. The website is filled with interesting and helpful resources. Be sure to spend some time to explore it.

What most draws me to this theology is the affirmation of the many varieties of beliefs and experiences people have as they search for the Divine, the Holy. Just as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our Gate to God, we recognize the validity of those who have other names for their gateway to God. There are 8 points that characterize what this orientation of Christianity is about. The emphasis on community is stated best for me in the original version of the

8 points: We "invite all sorts and conditions of people to join in our worship and in our common life as full partners, including (but not limited to): believers and agnostics, conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, homosexuals and heterosexuals, females and males, the despairing and the hopeful, those of all races and cultures, and those of all classes and abilities, without imposing on them the necessity of becoming like us." Please go to <http://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/> for the current listing. If you do not have a computer available, I will be glad to provide a hard copy of this information. My understanding of God's love is all about inclusivity. We do not have to agree with



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Pastor's Corner cont.

each other's theology in order to work together to serve God's world. I invite any one who would like to join with our church to embrace the search for the Sacred and minister to those in need, to come worship with us and/or contact me. I can not

promise you all the answers; I can promise you openness, support, and respect as we journey together. May God bless and guide us as we follow Jesus' teachings.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

In 1981, the United Nations passed a resolution establishing "Peace Day". It is an opportunity for individuals, groups, nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. The date is September 21. The UN suggested, "Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples... This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace." In addition, in 2004 the World Council of Churches began an observance of the day with peace prayers as part of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence.

This year the theme is Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future. It is also a Day of Ceasefire, both personal and political. Just imagine what a whole day of Ceasefire would mean to humanity. Anyone can celebrate Peace Day anywhere. It's important to think about our inner peace, peace in our families, churches and communities as well as holding up world peace.

Some of the simple ways of celebrating are ringing the church bells at noon, lighting one or more candles, or sitting in silent meditation. Maybe someone at Deering Community Church would like

to organize a ritual or gathering. Please contact Pastor Barbara for support of such a project. The Prayer below came from the World Council of churches in 2006. You may want to use it for your own prayer on September 21, 2012:

Prayer for Peace

God of all goodness, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

Your will is that peace should shine on all people everywhere. With your spirit, guide the efforts of humankind to bring peace and justice to the nations of the earth, and give strength to rulers and all who work to establish peace and justice in the world. Inspire those who come together in search of ways to bring about peace, and through your word, change the hearts of all people so that we shall strive for: Peace, and not war, The Common Good, rather than individual well-being, Your Justice, instead of our own glory.

You have given us your peace. Enable us to share that peace with those around us, so that love and harmony may be always present in our lives, that all the world may know happiness, that we may live with dignity as brothers and sisters, and that all may rejoice in your presence.

United in diversity, we call upon your infinite grace, humbly asking you to receive our prayer and make us instruments of your peace. Amen

Moderator's Desk

Steve Waters

The Case for Deering Church

The Deering Community Church (UCC) has initiated a capital campaign to resolve structural and maintenance problems that stand in the way of fulfilling our role as a community church. Since 1789, the church has served the needs of our local community and beyond.

Deering Community Church is small numerically, mirroring the community in which we live. However, our watch phrase is "Small but Mighty", which reflects an increasingly significant outreach to those in need in our local communities and beyond. The church is committed to supporting the food pantries in Hillsboro and Weare, the towns on either side of Deering. We have cooperated with other churches in a program to feed the homeless, an ever-increasing concern. One program works to meet the needs of those incarcerated in the women's prison. They are not provided the training and educational opportunities available to those in the men's prisons; hence, their recidivism rate is among the highest in the nation. We are a part of the NH State UCC Conference program to provide aid and comfort to churches in Zimbabwe. Our partner church is in Rimbi. Deering Church provides both musical and intellectual programs to bring culture and enlightenment to our community. These include concerts by noted musicians including Monadnock Music and lectures by leading professionals. The Church has served as host to international Fulbright scholars who come to the United States for a summer of study and travel. To continue to provide meaningful services requires a building that is both safe and sound.

Our mission – "Compassionate, open to all, where Christ's teachings lead to spiritual growth and action" – is witnessed in our friendly greeting to those who come to our

door as well as our outreach. Our Pastor, the Rev. Barbara Currie, has been our leader for 10 years, providing a stable foundation in times of turbulence and rapid change.

The current church building was built in 1829 and as is true of historic buildings, the need for maintenance, repair, and renovation is an ongoing challenge. We have determined that there are some repairs and restorations that can no longer be ignored or postponed, and we have set the following goals to solve these issues and, at the same time, preserve our much-loved church home.

The large windows in the Sanctuary are no longer functional. In the winter season they frost over on the inside, dripping when furnace heat warms the glass. In summer, they keep fresh air breezes from entering. The panes in some are on the verge of falling out; others are cracked or broken or held in place with scotch tape. Replacing these windows with a model that has both architectural integrity and practical functioning is the single most important step we can take to restore our church building.

Our church prides itself on its mission of being open to all. Yet, the main entry door is difficult to operate and is far from weather tight. We propose to replace these entry doors with a new unit that is fully functional. The sill will need to be replaced at the same time.

The cement sidewalk leading up to the main entry door has worn to the point where some people may trip on the uneven surface. Some of the sidewalk floods in the rain; in the wintertime, that section freezes dangerously. We intend to repair and rebuild the sidewalk so that it drains properly and provides a safe access.

The church does have an elevator for those unable to navigate the stairs from the ground

Moderator's Desk cont.

Steve Waters

floor to the parish hall. However, the bathroom on the upper level does not meet the standards for handicap accessibility. To bring the bathroom up to standards will require moving one wall. On the opposite side of the bathroom wall is the kitchen in need of renovation. Plans were drawn for this project several years ago. Because the two rooms are adjoining, we need to address both problems at the same time. Finally, one of the foundation beams is beginning to rot. By repairing this beam now we will prevent more costly repairs in the future.

Our budget for this campaign is as follows:

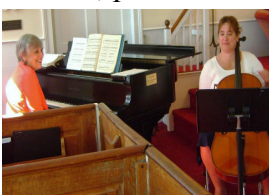
Sanctuary window replacement	\$23,500
Entry door replacement	5,000
Sidewalk rebuild	2,000
Bathroom/Kitchen remodel	23,000
Support beam repair	<u>3,000</u>
Total	\$56,500

To date we are halfway to our goal. The two upper level front windows are on order. We expect a final decision on the remaining windows within a few weeks. We have earned sufficient funds to go ahead with the windows project portion of this campaign. To participate in this project, please send a check to Deering Community Church with the word 'campaign' on the memo line.

Summer Events

Christine Marcroft

Lily Haley, Clarinetist, performed at 3 pm on July 28th, and Monadnock Music performed on July 11th at 7:30 pm. Barbara Zdravesky, Cellist, performed during a Sunday morning service and Shizue Sano, Pianist, performed on July 29th at 3 pm. Will Ogmundson, Pianist, performed at 3 pm on August



26th. Missy Owen, Organist, was with us for the last time on August 19th. She and her parents said goodbye, as she has been hired as organist at a church closer to home. Her Dad, Ed Olney played an alto saxophone solo during the service. Our men's choir also performed during the summer.



Forums: July 22, Larry Douglas, Down & Out in America: The Great Depression, NH Humanities sponsor.



Marian Baker, August 19, Recorded Minister of the Henniker Friends Meeting on her trip to Kenya & Uganda, sponsored by WSO.



Sunday School News

Chris Nase

Hailey and I would like to thank everyone who supported us for the National Youth Event (NYE). It was fun getting to know people better as we cleaned and weeded. Your support covered almost all of the expenses of the trip! The trip was amazing!!! So much positive energy, enthusiasm, fun, and joy! It was wonderful to meet people from around New England and the country as we drove to Cleveland and then on to Purdue University. We experienced many different forms of worship, from a suburban church in Cleveland to the worship area at the national offices in Cleveland, to an auditorium filled with almost 3000 youth and chaperones singing, dancing and cheering for acceptance, tolerance and justice to group communion outside on a drought dried hillside. We were inspired, challenged, and moved to bring positive changes back to our community.



Hailey and I are planning to speak about our experience during the church service on September 9th. We also hope to do a church service based on the worship from NYE. Stay tuned for more information about the FAITH, IN project. **Sunday School will begin on September 9th.** This fall we will be studying Joshua, Gideon, Ruth, Samuel, David, Elijah and Elisha. Lauren and I would love some assistance in teaching the children. Please let us know if you would be able to help out.

WSO Forum

Jeanne Bartlett



We had to keep getting out more chairs to seat the people attending Marian Baker's talk on August 19th. at 11:30AM. I learned that a Recorded minister of Friends Meeting describes a person with a gift for speaking. Marian has many other gifts, as well: Science teacher, singer/banjo player, and even as a rural free delivery mail carrier. She took her gifts to Kenya and Uganda for five months, recently, working among the members and attending as many as seventeen Friends Yearly Meetings. We had a brief geography tour and description of the various religious organizations established there. She said that the Friends tended to settle in high places with beautiful

views (western Kenya) and the Roman Catholics chose places near the river. The largest single mountain in the world, in width, is Mt. Elgon, spanning three African countries. Marian went to these two countries hoping to help strengthen the women in their resolve to minister to the Aids orphans, widows and widowers, and to each other. She spoke about the deep prayer and song in their lives; their joy, in spite of certain challenges in a patriarchal society; where girls are often married at eleven years of age. The

beautiful slide presentation concluded with a photo of a sunset scene in Uganda that along with Marian's assurance about the usual good climate and the warmth of the people, made one want to journey there.

There were interesting paintings, textiles, and jewelry on hand, available for a donation to benefit the children of Aids victims in Kenya and Uganda.



Free Chicken Barbecue, WSO

Jeanne Bartlett

The Chicken BBQ held at the beautiful pavilion behind the church on July 28th was attended by nearly 80 people. Though the Messenger exaggerated in stating that “all of Deering” was there, those of us dishing up the corn and turning the delicious chicken may have felt so. Thanks to Keith Johnson for stepping in for his father, Don, and picking up and shucking that wonderful Tenney Farm corn. Peter Cram, head chef, had only a few cobs of corn and chicken pieces left over at the end of the day. The pot luck dishes (salads, beans, Bob Fuller’s plums fresh from his tree, and brownies) were outstanding. I saw a lot of recipe swapping and “pretty good” jokes being told. It was a wonderful occasion and one we hope to repeat on the last Saturday of July each year. (World Service and Outreach committee has yet to decide on this date.)



Summer Fair, August 11

Kay Daniels

Early fair set up was completed and the day arrived. The August 11th weather was cloudy - a perfect day for a fair. There were many questions. Was all ready? Would the predicted rains come? Should we put some things outside? Hazel was in a quandary. Between friends, relatives and church members, the decisions were made. Then customers came singly and in bunches throughout the day. Most food at the baked table was gone by 2 pm including more than 24 homemade pies. There were some cheese, jellies and potholders left to sell later. The newly added Christmas table gave a bright festive feeling to the hall, as well as an indoor plant table. Hazel stationed the hot dog stand inside in the church front entrance, but the Sunday School's ice cream table was outside along with face painting under a tent. Quilt tickets and cutlery went well. The quilt drawing was won by Gil Rose, the new director of Monadnock Music, who will collect the quilt after he moves to this area. The attic treasures, collectibles, jewelry, coffee and muffins and falcons rounded out the day nicely. A final fair tally will be available by the next Guild meeting in September once all the costs are factored into the total. Here are some photos taken of the day's events.



Summer Fair cont.



WSO UKAMA

Christine Marcroft



Reverend Menson Mpofu from UCCZ came and talked to the UKAMA Board about partnerships in Zimbabwe on June 20th at the conference center in Pembroke, NH. The Marcroft's attended from our church.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. September 2 starts with Weare and October 7th starts with Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **September**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc, and personal care products for **October**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, tissues, diapers, etc, 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



SEPTEMBER

Jean Johnson, 20
Priscilla Beaudrault, 20
Henry Weeden, 22
Lauren Warner, 23
Pasca Ferwerda, 29

OCTOBER

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

Brian & Bert Terry, 7
Barbara & Alfred Glauner, 22

Don Johnson is recovering in their NYC apartment after heart surgery. He was not able to get the summer films going and can't drive for several weeks. They do plan to return to Deering as soon as they can, and Don will try to schedule at least four or five films for September.

Barbara Glauner is back home in Deering, slowly recovering after spinal surgery on August 3rd in MA. We want to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes. This Newsletter issue should make it out on time now that I can sit in front of a computer. Al is doing really well with his new medication.

Betty Dishong has finished her chemotherapy and will have a Pet Scan and tests on 9/13. The doctors are looking forward to a positive result and the absence of any further cancer. She thanks everyone for their prayers and good wishes.

September 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



1

2

10 am Worship
& Communion
Deacon's Fund,
Food Pantry
Gifts

3

Labor Day

4

9 am Yoga

5

Guild—Noon

7 pm Deacons

6

7

8

9

10 am Worship
Food Pantry
gifts,
CE begins

10

11

9 am Yoga

12

7 pm Council

7 pm WS & O

13

14

15

16

10 am Worship
Food Pantry
Gifts, CE
3 pm Pflag
Concord

17

18

9 am Yoga

19

7 pm Trustees

20

21

22

**First Day of
Fall**

23

10 am Worship
Food Pantry
Gifts, CE

24

25

9 am Yoga

26

27

28

29

30

10 am Worship
Food Pantry
Gifts, CE



October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Workday 8 & 9 am breakfasts
			Guild—Noon			
			7 pm Deacons			
7 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, Food Pantry gifts, CE	8 Columbus Day	9 9 am Yoga	10	11	12	13
		7 pm Council	7 pm W S & O			
14 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, CE	15	16 9 am Yoga	17	18	19	20
			7 pm Trustees		Newsletter Deadline	
21 10 am Worship, Food Pantry Gifts, CE	22	23 9 am Yoga	24	25	26	27
3 pm Pflag Concord						
28 10 am Worship Food Pantry Gifts, CE	29	30 9 am Yoga	31			
			Halloween			

**Deering Community Church
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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*



Mountain biker group using the church pavilion as a stopping off point during their meet.

