

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

January, February 2013



Happy New Year to all of you readers.

It doesn't seem possible that this is my tenth year as your pastor, having arrived at Deering Community Church in November of

2003, fresh from my Masters of Divinity at Andover Newton School of Theology. It's been a grand journey, and I know there had to be a lot of Spirit influence in my coming to this small, rural, northern village when I love hot, urban centers.

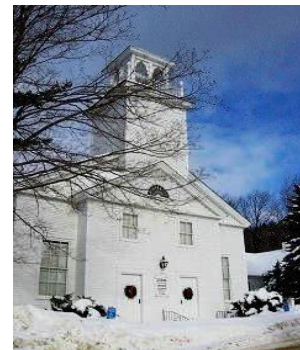
Although I still hate the cold, there has been such a wonderful unfolding of many treasures in the seasons and the people of the Deering-Hillsboro communities. For example, I was standing in a very short line at the post office (although it was only a couple of weeks before Christmas). The woman behind me was anxious to return to her car as she had left small children there. The woman ahead of me finishing her business said, "Let me go stand by your car until you come out." As I left the post office, the woman guarding the car said warmly, "that woman doesn't need to be so stressed out in this Christmas season." I thanked her for her action and then saw the worried woman come out and give the other woman a big hug for her help. These women did not know each other; however, there was no hesitancy by either one to help and be helped. I know these actions don't always happen but I bet everyone of you can tell a story about neighbor and strangers helping one another.

As a new year begins, many of us think about resolutions—things like losing weight and exercising more probably top the list after the indulgences of the holidays. Many resolutions are short lived, yet I think it's helpful to think about and

try to become more healthy and get rid of bad habits. What I would like to suggest for 2013 is some serious thinking, resulting in a plan of action, about how each of us can make a difference in this world, whether it be as near as your own household or as far away as India or Africa.

I won't list the many needs of the world, as you all hear about them or see them daily. Instead I would just share a couple of my favorite quotes. Mark Nepo says in his poem, *Accept This*, "We cannot eliminate hunger, but we can feed each other. We cannot eliminate loneliness, but we can hold each other. We cannot eliminate pain, but we can live a life of compassion." I often say to my church family, "No one has to do everything; however, every one can do something." What is the something that you are called to do to make a difference in the world? For guidance I leave you with Fred Buechner's words, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

God bless you as you search. May this year be special for you and for our world.



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Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

The Israeli-Palestinian Situation

A few months ago I read *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour, a Christian growing up in Palestine before and after their land was first seized by the Israelis in the 1940's. This book had a tremendous impact on me and I began understanding a little more of what is going on in the Middle East. Since that time I continue to try to educate myself with the help of some of our Peace and Justice Advocates at the NH Conference United Church of Christ.

Recently I received a review by a colleague, Roger Burkhart, of the new book by Rabbi Michael Lerner, *Embracing Israel/Palestine: a Strategy to Heal and Transform the Middle East*, and he has given permission for me to share it in this newsletter. On the Amazon web-page there are many of the introductory pages of the book if you would want to review it further. Hopefully I will soon get the book and read it first hand. Until then here is Rev. Burkhart's review:

"Michael Lerner is a Reform Jewish Rabbi in California, a psychologist, editor of Tikkun magazine, and the leader of a diverse movement called "Spiritual Progressives." Here in this book he offers sane and constructive analysis and proposals for mending of this very torn fabric in the Middle East. One must start by understanding that both peoples have experienced severe trauma; on the one hand Israelis with a long history of pogroms, persecutions and ghetto exclusion culminating in the holocaust. For the Palestinians the trauma is having been thrust off their land held for thousands of years and placed now in occupied zones and under the control of a vastly superior force underwritten by the world's superpower. Therefore, Lerner says, each must begin by looking at the other's pain, and follow the Biblical injunction "to love the stranger, because you were strangers in the land." Essential as treaties, peace plans and third party stratagems are, most important are the principal parties acting from the heart.

He offers powerful strategies toward peace: One: Recognition and growth of the Palestinian peace movement. Yes, there is one, though we hear little of it in the media. The Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights Movement in the US faced similar odds of success as the Palestinians now do, but the path of non-violence is what succeeded. Two: Creating a spiritually oriented peace and justice movement in Israel. What is now being done by the Israeli government does not accord with the tenets of Judaism. The government is responding to their people's fear, not the injunctions of their faith. Many secular Jews overreact to the Orthodox Jews and lose contact with their spiritual source. Three: Weaken AIPAC and the "Israel Lobby" in the United States. These groups align with everything counterproductive that the Israeli government does--squatter settlements, threats to bomb Iran, etc., and have undue influence on US foreign policy. Four: UN Recognition of Palestine. This has just taken place. Five: Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions against Settlements—Not Against Israel. Six: A Global Marshall Plan for Israel/Palestine. This strategy stems from Lerner's conviction that we are all connected, and that severe poverty and endemic violent conflict harms all of us including the one earth upon which we all dwell. Therefore use one to two percent of GDP of all developed countries for a global Marshall plan. Alter international trade agreements to benefit local ecologically sensitive farms and businesses instead of corporations and local elites."

I hope some of you will read these books. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more along with me.

Blessings of peace, Pastor Barbara

Moderator's Desk

Steve Waters

It has been nearly a year since Stuart Huggard stood before the congregation and imagined what it would be like to have windows that actually opened to summer breezes and kept winter winds outside. His inspiration is now a reality, thanks to the generous contributions of members and friends of Deering Church. Stuart's report in this edition has more details.

From this moment of inspiration came the notion that there were a number of items that needed to be fixed if we were get our physical house in order. These included the primary entryway -- doors and sidewalk -- and the bathroom and kitchen, along with a foundation beam that is showing some rot. And so our capital campaign was born. As of this writing, we have raised over \$36,000, enough to install not only the windows but an entry that functions easily without the frustrations of the current doors. (The new doors are now in the narthex, awaiting painting and installation after the holidays. Go and take a look!)

Over the course of the past year, the campaign has evolved from an effort to put the church building into good physical condition, to restoring a beautiful historic landmark, to making the facility fully handicap accessible. Advisors I have spoken with have indicated that foundations are more interested in supporting handicap accessibility than historic restoration. A primary effort in the new year will continue to be to find foundation support.

There have been additional accomplishments in 2012. Jami Boyle, our "in care" candidate for ordination, has completed her course of study and needs only to finalize her profile to become an active candidate for church ministry. Finances -- always a difficult challenge for us -- are within budget for the year. Our endowment continues to grow, contributing funds for operations and providing security for the future. Deering Church has participated with the other churches in the Hillsborough Ministerium for special services including Sunrise Service on Easter and a celebration of thanksgiving in November. Our collaboration with Smith Church has produced the always popular old fashioned hymn sings once or twice a year. The church continues to attract new members who find us to be friendly and welcoming and true our mission: "Compassionate, open to all, where Christ's teaching leads to growth and action." There is every reason to be optimistic that 2013 can be a positive year for Deering Church as it continues to live and develop its mission. As Pastor Barbara says: "We are small but mighty".

The new church year begins with the Annual Meeting following the service on Sunday, January 20. Please plan to attend this important event in our church year.

Sunday School News

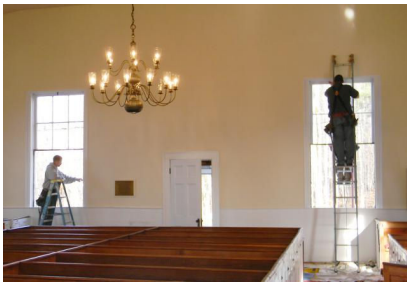
Chris Nase

The *Extravagant Welcome* dinner held November 2 was a great success! Over thirty members, friends and neighbors attended the night hosted by Hailey Nase. Hailey wanted to offer an evening where people would have fun, get to know each other better and feel welcomed. All of her goals were met as the large group filling Sherwood Hall laughed, played games together and ate pizza and desserts. The only regret was that no pictures were taken of the lively event. The Sunday School students along with several adult thespians are practicing weekly for the upcoming Christmas pageant. They are all working hard to learn their lines in time for the performance on December 23 during the church service. We are still in need of people willing to help with teaching Sunday School classes from time to time. Different adults provide the children with different perspectives and offer Chris and Lauren an opportunity to attend the worship service. Please let Chris or Lauren know if you are interested. Sunday School will not be held on December 30, January 20, 2013 or February 24 due to holidays or vacations.

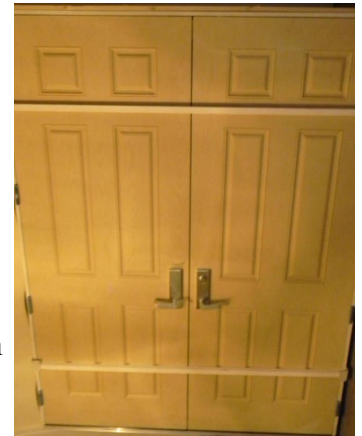
Window Project

Stuart Huggard

Many months ago, I stood in front of the congregation and said to them that we had a "Window of Opportunity" to do something wonderful for our sanctuary in regard to the windows which were in a state of disrepair and in desperate need of at least a minimum of repair. That evolved into what we accomplished just this week, the week of Dec. 3, the installation of new bi-pane window sashes that are beautiful and energy efficient. Sunday morning we actually had a service without looking through windows dripping with condensation. And, they open.



That speech about the windows grew into a capital campaign that has been very successful. Added to the list of projects to be accomplished were replacing the blue doors, making the bathroom handicapped accessible, and updating the kitchen. With a little bit of painting inside, the windows will be done. In the spring, on a work day, we can paint the outside sills. A beautiful pair of doors is in the narthex awaiting painting and installation. The installation of these will take place early in the new year. We hope the ladies of the Guild will never again need to call the police to get them into the building.



All of this could not have happened without the donations made by parishioners and friends of the Deering Community Church. People donated to these projects who have not been in the church for many years but have fond memories of their life in Deering with their families many years ago. Also, there were many people who helped make the decisions along the way to getting this project accomplished. There were many meetings and a lot of angst before we got to this day.

So, our thanks to all for a job well done. We will rest up for the winter and begin again in the spring.



ELEANOR (ELLIE) FITZPATRICK

Guild Member, Ellie Fitzpatrick died peacefully in her sleep at home at age 78 on November 16, 2012. She was predeceased by her husband, Leo J. Fitzpatrick. Ellie loved living in Deering and took pride in being active in her community. At various times, she was a Deering Selectwoman, Secretary to the Board of Selectmen, Deering Tax Collector, Chairman of the Trustees of the Deering Trust Funds, Treasurer and Clerk of the Hillsboro/ Deering Co-Op School, Deering Police Officer, Supervisor of the Checklist for Deering, IRS Territory Manager, volunteered tax assistance to seniors, served on the Girls State Committee and was a member of the Women's Auxiliary Legion Post 59. Ellie was the Deering Women's Guild secretary and later treasurer for many years until she became ill and had to step down. During her years in Deering, she did so many things to make our community a better place. Her easy smile, kind heart and generous spirit will be sorely missed by many whose lives she touched. A funeral service was held at The Deering Community Church, Sunday November 25th at 3 pm to celebrate her life.

W S & O / Ukama Sunday

Jeanne Bartlett & Christine Marcroft

WSO will be delivering one hundred and seventy-two Christmas cards to Rev. Beth Richeson at the Goffstown Women's Prison, on Dec. 18th, where they will be distributed to the women. Thanks to all for this wonderful response.



November 25 was Ukama Sunday and Rev. Mutsumbei, a guest from Zimbabwe, gave the sermon which explored the subject of fear and God's reassurance in the face of it. He is currently at Andover-Newton Seminary where he is earning a degree in Christian education. Connie Littlefield, his hostess and frequent visitor to Zimbabwe, spoke at the coffee hour showing pictures of our partner church in the town of Rimbi and telling us about her experiences there and in other parts of Zimbabwe. She was a most engaging speaker, conveying



her enthusiasm for involvement in the lives of the people she visited. She showed us many lovely slides of friends, families with children, projects, and landscape pictures. Both Connie and Rev. Mutsumbei know the Rimbi people well and answered many of our questions about our pen pal friends and the situation there. We learned that the area is very dry and people are struggling with the shortage of food and water.

Luncheon was served for the guests at the home of the Bartlett's where conversation continued about Rev. Mutsumbei's work and his special interest in promoting equality between women and men in his area of Zimbabwe.

Women's Prison

written by Jeanne Bartlett, Nov, 2012

Imprisoned in my trepidation, I
give up my license and car keys to
a man in blue behind a darkened window.
My eyes adjust to the dimness after
assault from sun bouncing off razor wire
lining the path to the entrance.
Signing in, I check off my purpose here,
visitor, volunteer, legal, or other.
No line or space to check: prisoner.

Though Jesus said to visit the prisoner
I cringe at the sound of locks turning,
doors slamming shut behind me,
the soft tread of women in red tees
filing into the visitor's room for
Holy Communion

At an orientation class
rules and regulations poured out
of an official mouth, piece of authority,
preparing the way of the innocent
good citizen, safe for now, on the outside.

Guilty as charged. I've paid my fines
worn my seat belt, stopped at red lights.
So why do I feel so guilty?
Guilty over my good fortune. . .
daughters surviving the sixty's, their
excursions into a world of radical
songs, illegal smoke, and protests.

The Reverend assures us all, me too,
that we are loved; forgiven,
that we may begin again.
A fellow volunteer asks
a prisoner: "Did you find justice?"
In her innocence she says yes.
I look into faces, at someone's daughter.
In her innocence she smiles at me.

Out in the hall I retrieve my identity.
The door opens to the outside
darkness, stars gleam palely
against the cooled razor wire
lining the path; a way out.

Bon Vivant Dinners

Christine Marcroft

On December 15th, another series of Bon Vivante dinners were held. This one was at Bob Fuller's house. The evening was enjoyable and we look forward to future dinners in 2013. These gatherings are a great way to get to know other church members better, so plan to sign up for the next one when the date is announced. Look back at the November / December article in the Newsletter describing how these dinners work.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

There was no meeting of the Guild in December since there is a lot going on in that month between church and family. The new slate of officers for 2013 was fixed in late November with Kay Daniels, President, Betty Dishong, Vice-President, Hazel Vogelien, Treasurer, and Jeanne Bartlett, Secretary. We lost our long time member Ellie Fitzpatrick, who died at home on November 16th, 2012. Our next meeting will be on January 2nd, 2013, weather permitting.

Advent Sundays

Christine Marcroft



First Sunday of Advent, Dec 2/ 2012

On Dec. 2nd, we celebrated the first Sunday of Advent by listening to scripture read by Priscilla Beaudrault and Betty Dishong. It is always very special to see the candle lit, as it reminds us that we are to prepare for the arrival of our Saviour.



For the children's story, Jami Boyle had a lively demonstration of being in the darkness and looking for the light. The kids had a lot of fun as did the whole congregation! Thank you Jami!!

Carol & Jack Hubert light the third advent candle.



Lessons and Carols Service

Christine Marcroft

The Lessons and Carols service on December 16 was beautiful. We had a good turnout. The Huggards had transformed the church beautifully with wreaths, bows and lovely poinsettias. The choir, under Jane Waters direction, had prepared festive pieces with a few solos by Jeanne Bartlett, Sam Kelley, Bryan Terry, and Sissi Shattuck. Sissi Shattuck accompanied the voices with her recorder and Shirley Boucher played the organ to everyone's delight! After the service, everyone took part in the festive reception with delicious food in Sherwood Hall. Merry Christmas to all!



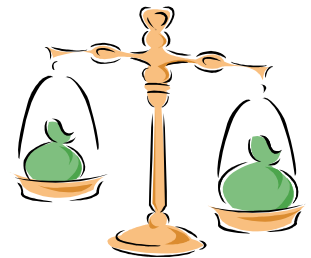
Budget Process

Stuart Huggard

Once again it is that time. We began our usual fall exercise of studying our budget for 2012 and preparing a budget for the next year, 2013. Projections to the end of year 2012 show that we will probably have a deficit of approximately \$3,500.00. This does not mean that we can not pay our bills, but it means we are using some of our restricted funds to keep current with our expenses.

As we consider a budget for a new year, it would behoove us to recognize that our budget has been bolstered by the many donations of time, talent, and money outside the budget on the part of our congregation. Without the work day volunteers, the lawn mowers, and the cleaners who come on their own to take care of our needs, our budget would not be in such good shape. I would name them all, but I don't know them all. Things just seem to get done. None of these people ask for reimbursement of any kind, yet they must have some expenses. What we need to think about now is if we can sustain that kind of volunteering, or do we need to put some of these functions back into the budget. We would ask for your opinions on this subject.

At our meetings in November and December, the trustees began the process of creating a budget for 2013. We asked for input from all boards and committees in preparation for a vote on the 2013 budget at our annual meeting after church services on Sunday January 20, 2013. At the time of this writing, it looks as if we will have to work hard to pull the two parts of our budget together.



Musical Notes

Jane Waters

The choir's musical offerings for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16th included traditional carols from France, England, the West Indies, and Appalachia. Solos were sung by Jeanne Bartlett, Bryan Terry, Sam Kelly, Bob Santagata, and Steve Waters. We were blessed to have Sissi Shattuck play her recorder as well as sing *Balulalow* by Peter Warlock, accompanied by Shirley Boucher, our former director, on the organ. Looking ahead – Choir rehearsals will resume on the regular Thursday evening schedule at 7 pm beginning January 3.

On February 16, there will be a Heart Song Workshop at Holy Cross Church in Weare, which will include singing, chanting, and drumming.

On April 17th a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* by combined choirs and directed by Heidi Welch, the NH Teacher of the Year who heads the music department at Hillsboro - Deering High School. There will be scheduled rehearsals for those interested in participating.

From Sunday School News, a musical note:

Here are some pictures of the confirmands caroling after church on December 9th. They visited Margaret Colburn at her home.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. **January 6 & February 3 donations start with Weare.**

Hillsboro: There is need for paper goods for **January** such as kleenex type tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, etc. There is need for small cans of meat for **February**, such as ham, tuna, other fish, chicken, turkey etc. Or each week you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have to donate. 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



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



Church choirs sing at the Thanksgiving Service at Smith Church in Hillsboro.



January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 7 am & 8 am Breakfasts & WORKDAY
		NEW YEAR'S DAY No Yoga	Guild, noon 7 pm Deacons	7 pm Choir practice every Thursday		
6 10 am Worship & Communion Deacon's Fund CE	7	8 Each Tuesday @ 9 am YOGA 7 pm Council	9 7 pm WS&O	10	11	12
13 10 am Worship, CE	14	15	16 7 pm Trustees	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship, Church Annual meeting No CE 3 pm Pflag Concord, NH	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship CE	28	29	30 7 pm Deacons	31		

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 7 am & 8 am Breakfasts & WORKDAY
3 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund CE	4	5 Each Tuesday @ 9 am YOGA	6 Noon, Guild	7 7 pm Choir Practice every Thursday	8	9
10 10 am Worship, CE	11	12 7 pm Council	13 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm WS&O	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16
17 10 am Worship, CE 3 pm Pflag, Concord, NH	18	19	20 7 pm Trustees	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship, No CE	25	26	27 7 pm Deacons	28		

**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*



RETROSPECTIVE OF NEWTOWN, CT TRAGEDY

While writing my column for this Newsletter, my focus was entirely on the church, its progress and accomplishments over the past year. Then, like a shot in the dark, the news from Newtown came and made church news insignificant. It seemed essential to have some recognition of this unspeakable tragedy in our publication.

Many of us have suffered the loss of a loved one, leaving holes in our hearts so big that neither words of condolence nor the passage of time itself can fill them. It is a sad part in the job description for life itself. But now, at the start of a new week, there are 20 sets of parents with giant holes in their hearts who will not be picking their child up at the end of the school day, and 20 sets of parents living in the deepest sense of grief, planning final services for their 6 or 7 year old child. There are 20 children and 7 adults – suddenly gone, brutally murdered.

How does one come to grips with this? How does a community like Deering Community Church react? What can we do as we watch, numbed and helpless, as the news pours over us? Would that I had the answer – some pathway to follow. I only know that this is a time when our faith is called on to guide and support us. Prayers are needed at our services aimed at the families of loss and the Newtown community as a whole. We must not let this incident slip from our minds and hearts, for in a real sense, the families in Newtown are our families, their children are ours, and we are all in this life together.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Waters, Moderator

