

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

May / June 2013



The Beloved Community

I often include in my sermons, especially around Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, some reference to building the Beloved Community. The very

name of our church signifies our intent to be open to the community. Through the almost ten years I have been here there has been an openness to be the church for all people, especially in Deering, but also the surrounding area.

The term Beloved Community was made popular by King who first used the phrase in the 1950's. For him the Beloved Community was a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict. Instead of greed, power, and material acquisition that much of society values, this community would be based on love, peace, justice and a deep spiritualism and connection with God.

Wm Sloane Coffin says, "By joining a church you declare your individuality in the most radical way in order to affirm community on the widest possible scale." Coffin goes on to say that "the whole world is your new neighborhood and all who dwell therein ...become your sisters and brothers in the new family formed in Jesus." My idea of community reaches beyond any one religion. We are all made by the Creator and are therefore brothers and sisters whether we are Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Sik,

Jewish, Hindu and so on including those who do not identify with any religion.

Any big vision starts with the first step, which starts within our own community. In the first meeting I had with our new moderator, Peter Cram, we discussed our joint desire to focus even more than before on being a community church and a place of hospitality and comfort for anyone who comes here. It doesn't matter what their race, religion, nationality or ethnicity might be. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor or somewhere in between. All ages are welcome. We are open and affirming and

welcome gays, lesbians, transgender as well as straight people. It doesn't matter if you have tattoos or earrings in your eyebrows. You can wear a three-piece suit or shorts and t-shirt. You really are welcomed here.

In the past we have reached out to the community by having free concerts, forums, and BBQ's (donations always are welcomed but not required). Our summer fair is always a good time for the community. We have also been very thankful for the community support to fix our roof and the donations towards the Capital Campaign that allowed us to put new windows in the sanctuary and replace our doors that would often not open or unlock. We now have our own Pavilion with a barbeque pit.



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Pastor's Corner cont.

You don't have to be a church member to be able to use our facilities.

In the past year I have had three funerals where those who attended were at least 90% people I had never seen before. What that tells me is there is a huge group in this area that we are not attracting. Maybe it's the old stereotype that Deering church is for the intellectuals or the elite. My guess is that many of these people are interested in different activities than what we have offered. So I am asking any of you who read this newsletter to please contact us with suggestions of what else we could be offering that others in our community might enjoy and participate in. Those who are not involved with us won't be reading this newsletter, so we need your help to talk with folks you know outside the church community. If anyone would like to worship with us, we would be thrilled, but that is not necessary to be part of our community. Let us work and play together to build a community where we can give and receive from each other. I'm looking forward to seeing you and your neighbors here.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

John Dear, S.J. Keynote Speaker, NH Peace Action Conference, March 23, 2013

Neill and I attended this Peace Conference at Rivier College and heard again Father John Dear, a peace activist and a member of the Jesuit order. As a young man of 20 he read the Beatitudes (in Matthew 5) and was hit with the belief that Jesus was unequivocally opposed to violence and that he was going to spend his life opposing violence in the name of Jesus. He has traveled the world to protest violence and has been arrested over 80 times. Besides being an activist he has written over 20 books on peace, has served as the director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and was a coordinator of chaplains for the Red Cross after 9/11. He has also served as a pastor of churches in New Mexico, where he currently lives.



His website at www.johndear.org has many of his

writings, sermons and list of books. He talked to us about becoming peacemakers and listed five points:

- 1) Have a contemplative practice, meditating 30 minutes a day—disarm your heart, let peace in
- 2) Look deeply within. Must be meticulously nonviolent and non-cooperative with one's own inner violence.
- 3) Be both teachers and students of nonviolence. Be an activist—have to do something public.
- 4) Be prophets of peace. Speak truth of peace publicly.
- 5) Use your imagination to become an abolitionist. Abolish all death actions and create a new world of nonviolence.

If any of this intrigues you, I hope you will read more of his work. If you ever have an opportunity to hear him speak, by all means take advantage of it. He's very inspiring and an excellent speaker.

Ukama Meeting

Christine Marcroft

A Ukama Meeting and potluck was held on March 27 for Rev Matuvhunye from Zimbabwe who gave a report of his three month sabbatical stay in the US to leaders and hosts in the Concord NH UCC before leaving for home. He had visited partner churches in Florida, Cleveland, Indiana and NH. He received an envelop of pen pal letters from Deering to take back with him.



Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

Over the years, we have done very well maintaining our church home. The most recent work, through the benefit of our Capital Campaign initiative, has brought us new sanctuary windows and front door. As the Capital Campaign continues, we turn our attention to the next major item on the agenda of making the upstairs bathroom handicap accessible. You may know that we have had some drawings of various possibilities made for us that show not only expanding the bathroom but reworking and revitalizing the kitchen as well. I will have the drawings put on poster board and put in Sherwood hall, not only as information, but perhaps as inspiration and motivation to see these projects through to fruition.

Aside from the Capital Campaign and the major work projects being done through that effort, I was fortunate to have participated recently in a church walk-through with the members of the Board of Trustees. Our purpose was to do a little visioning, looking at the church building and making note of any other projects that need to be fixed or addressed in our facility. It was quite an exercise. We wrote down suggestions for projects both big and small; everything from replacing the water filters and smoke detector batteries, to making a better driveway to the rear of the church. In all there were over 80 projects considered. The evaluation of which projects will be considered over time in terms

of cost and prioritization will be done by the Trustees through their monthly meetings. It is a comprehensive list, and one that may be of interest to anyone concerned about the upkeep of the facility. Any of the Trustees would be delighted to share the ideas in it with you. As we continually look for ways to keep our costs down, church members may consider taking on one or more of the projects as their own. There are a lot of options! A copy of the list will be posted on the bulletin board in Sherwood Hall.

Aside from helping to tend to the church facility, there is other exciting work being done by the various boards and committees. The last Church Council meeting was uplifting indeed, as different members told of the work being done by their individual groups, sharing ideas on how we can reach out to those around us. Together we unite in working to the betterment of the local and global community. To that end, we are constantly looking for ways to have others outside the church membership participate with us. An idea that Jane Waters gave us is taking hold, which is to purchase a new portable outdoor sign for the front of the church. Through the posting of messages on a regular basis, we can let passer-bys know what's going on in our church community. We hope that they'll see that we're a busy bunch, and want to come over and join in!

Church Workdays

The Trustees & Peter Cram

Our usual workdays are on the first Saturday morning of each month, this time **May 4th and June 1st**. We will begin working on the Trustees first list of ten simple items that were selected for starters, which require minimum effort and can be accomplished within about two hours. In addition as the weather improves, there will be outside clean up from the ravages of winter. The ongoing challenges of keeping our church home clean inside each week with vacuuming and kitchen and bathroom clean-up can be accomplished during a Saturday morning workday. **Please make an effort to join us from 8 to 10 am so we can muster as many people as possible to work on these tasks. Early risers can come for cooked breakfast at 7 or coffee at 8 am. We look forward to seeing everyone come and pitch in to help.**

NOTE: By special arrangement, any church workers who don't want to miss the town plant sale on June 1st can go to the Town Hall on Friday between 3 and 4 pm to buy their selections and then attend the church workday on Saturday morning. By working to help the church on Saturday, you get to attend this early pre-sale opportunity. This is the best of both events!

Trustees Challenge

The Trustees

At the April 17th Trustees meeting, the following items were discussed. It is important that members of our church family are apprised of the issues with our current budget. As a result of the severe winter, our budget has been hit hard by additional costs for heating oil, electricity and snow removal. The budgeted amounts are very close to being spent, leaving a balance that is insufficient to cover costs for rest of the year. **We would ask each member of our church to bring their pledges up to date or to consider making an additional contribution to offset these increased costs.**

A problem has been noted in regards to the heating and electrical costs incurred this winter. When people turn up the heat, they forget to go back at the time they are leaving to set back the thermostats and turn off the lights. This results in unnecessary excess heat generation and electrical usage costs when the church is empty. It is often only discovered when the next person comes to the church a few days later and finds a thermostat still set up too high and the lights left on. **We are asking everyone to make certain that thermostats are all set back and lights turned off before they leave the building.**

The Petty Windows

Stuart Huggard

Those of you who are super observant may have noticed that the plywood that has graced the front of the church for the past six weeks was removed and the restored fan window was reinstalled in its place. The restoration job was done by Olde Window Restorers of Weare. Ray Petty made a special donation to our capital campaign to replace the two windows on the balcony and restore the beautiful old fan window in the attic. He made this donation in memory of A. Ray and Nancy (Aunt Nan) Petty. Our continued thanks to Ray and to many others who have made the continuing restoration work on our beautiful church possible.



Endowment Fund Update

Endowment Subcommittee

As you may know, a portion of the church endowment fund earnings contribute to the church's operating budget. The performance of the church's endowment was in the double digits in 2012, as both stocks and bonds had solid gains. This resulted in a \$500 increase in the endowment outlay to the church's operating expenses, to \$10,768 for the calendar year 2013. We were also blessed to receive contributions to the principal of the endowment fund in 2012.



Financial News

Suzanne Huggard

Pledges are keeping pace with expected income at this point in the year. It is also encouraging to note that our budget line "To Be Raised" (aka deficit of \$2,255.00) now has received designated donations of \$1,943.00. This includes proceeds from the sale of the wooden tables and stools. Thanks to all who have been alert to this need.

There has not been a statement so far this year. You will receive your first giving statement after the second quarter ends in June.

Suzanne Huggard, Financial Secretary

W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

World Service and Outreach will be accepting Mother's Day cards again this year. A personal message from you is so much appreciated. There are, at present, 50 cards on hand waiting for your signature and encouraging words. Please find cards at the church and/or provide your own and let Jeanne, 529-2540, know for pick up. See the criteria as set forth from Rev. Beth Richardson:

*And thank you for the wonderful Mother's Day cards for the women and staff again this year. I think 130 is good. Also--the guidelines that the prison is now requesting are: no 'tri-fold' cards, do not put the cards in envelopes, and no stickers or adhesive of any kind can be used on the card. If you have any questions, please let me know.
Easter blessings,
Beth*

Mission 4/1 Earth

Jeanne Bartlett

We are building Earth care hours. Leaves on the tree poster in Fellowship hall are sprouting:

The Deering Plant Sale takes place on June 1 at the Town Hall and plants need dividing at the grounds of the Carpenters and at Bob Fuller's. Volunteers are needed to dig and re-pot. Remember that the proceeds from the plant sale benefits the Hillsboro Food Pantry and the Deering library and your hours spent will be added to Mission 4/1 Earthcare, too.

Recycle your old towels, blankets, tee shirts. These things are needed for the Animal shelter. Call Donna Bosse at 464-3280 for info. More Earthcare hours!

Look through your closet and choose items for thrift shops. If there is a rip or stain on 100% cotton clothing call Debbie Carpenter (529-7903). She can use such clothing for making quilts. It is for a good cause and guess what?...chalk up some more Earthcare hours!

New Photo Directory

Pastor Barbara

Our last Photo Directory was done in 2008, so you can imagine how different some of us look, especially the children. We have new members and friends and would very much like to include everyone who is part of our church community in a new directory. Everyone who has pictures taken will be given a complimentary 8 x 10 photo with opportunities to buy others. There is no pressure to buy any photos. Life Touch Directories and Portraits will be at our church on **Tuesday, June 4th from 1 to 8 pm** to take pictures. You do not need to be a member to have your picture taken; our extended community family is welcomed. Pets are also allowed in the photograph. There will be a sign-up sheet at church as well as online at our website, www.deeringcommunitychurch.org. To have a complete directory of all of us is only possible if you come for the picture taking. If there are questions please contact Pastor Barbara.

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

Things at the Guild have been pretty quiet for the first four months of 2013. Some members have been away for the winter months and have just returned. There has been some illness which precluded others from attending meetings and the March meeting was cancelled due to snow. But the April meeting started to breathe life back into the Guild. We had a prospective new member attend. We got to see Kay's beautiful summer fair raffle quilt which she was still finishing, but brought it in for photographing for this Newsletter. In our ongoing collection of autobiographies, Bev Smith read hers to the group. We had various committee reports, member updates, comments, and suggestions. The group voted to donate \$150 toward the purchase price of \$310 for a "Quick Load A Frame", an outdoor street side sign to advertise all events being held in our church throughout the year. It is on wheels so it can be rolled out when needed and

stored inside otherwise. Jane Waters brought this to our attention and the balance of the cost will be raised by other committees in the church.

We continue looking for new members to join our group. The purpose of our organization is to enrich the spiritual life and friendship of women in our communities, to aid our churches especially in benevolent work, and to cooperate with state and national societies in world friendship programs. Membership is open to all interested women in Deering and surrounding towns, and our dues are only \$5.00 per year payable in January or soon thereafter. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 noon in the Deering Church hall. Bring your own sandwich, and dessert and coffee or tea will be provided. We have a lot of fun sitting around chatting and laughing about life. See you on **May 1st and June 5th at noon!**

Summer Fair Quilt Raffle

Kay Daniels & Glauner photos

LOG CABIN QUEEN SIZE QUILT - LIGHT AND BRIGHT

Kay Daniels' queen sized handmade quilt for the 2013 Summer Fair raffle, is a log cabin design in a light and bright pattern using the colors red, blue, green, yellow and black on a white field with a blue patterned border. Further details will be forthcoming once the quilt is completely finished, but this picture shows this lovely quilt at this point in it's creation. Raffle tickets were designed by Bill Glauner and are being produced by Barbara and Kay at no cost.

This is a reminder to set aside the date of **Saturday, August 10th from 9 am to 2 pm**, when the Deering Church and Guild will hold their annual Summer Fair.



We will need all hands on deck to pull off this event for us and the town, so mark your calendars now.

When the time comes, please volunteer your help for this major fund raising event for the church.

Deering Community Church Women's Guild			
Quilt Raffle			
Log Cabin in Light & Bright Queen Size Quilt			
Drawing Saturday August 10th, 2013 Summer Fair, Deering, NH			
Tickets: \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00			

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Past Event Photos

Marcroft Photos

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday



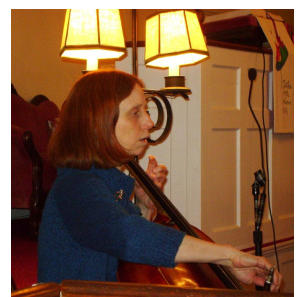
More Pictures

Marcroft Photos

Easter Sunday, Familiar Faces



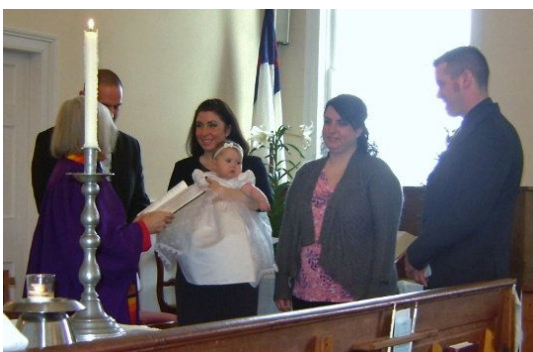
Musical Soiree Evening



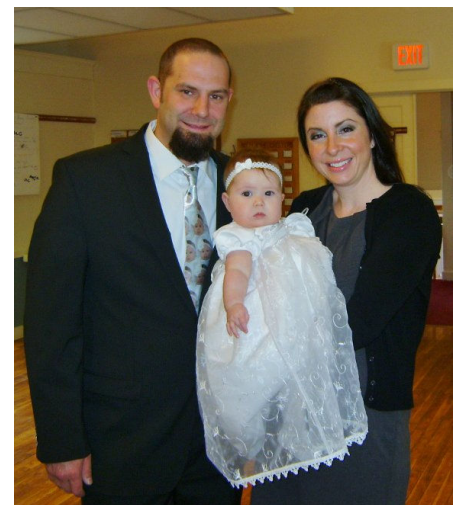
Baptism

Pastor Barbara & Marcroft photos

Welcome to Mila Kustron and her parents, Loni and Joe.



With great joy we pledged our spiritual support to Mila as she was baptized into God's family on April 7, 2013. Her godparents are Steve Lucious and Tracy Cox. The Kustron's live in West Deering. We were thrilled to have her large extended family with us for the morning worship.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. **May 5 and June 2 donations start with Hillsboro..**

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **June**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, & turkey., and paper products for **May**, such as paper towels, bathroom paper, tissues , but each week you're welcome to bring whatever 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



MAY

Stephen Waters, 3
Marjorie Weeden, 12
Joyce Peace, 14
Hailey Nase, 19
Angela M. Bell, 20
Suzanne Huggard, 26
Barbara Currie, 30

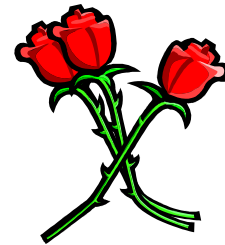
JUNE

Debbie Matthews, 5
Alice Keach, 9
Sara Carter, 12
Jami Boyle, 15
Bob Santagata, 23
Bryan Terry, 24
Alfred Glauner, 24

Happy Anniversary

JUNE

Charlotte & Glenn Price, 6
Nancy & Tom Inui, 14
Sara & Bob Carter, 14
Deborah & Jim Carpenter, 24
Jeanne & Winthrop Bartlett, 25



John Rutter Requiem at Smith Church by the HD Chorus and others in early April.



May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Guild @ Noon 	2  7 pm Choir Practice each Thursday	3	4 7 & 8 am Breakfasts, & CHURCH WORKDAY
5 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	6	7 Yoga Each Tuesday at 9 am 7 pm Council	8 7 pm W S & O	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship, CE Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
			7 pm Trustees			
19 10 am Worship, CE Pentecost 3 pm Pflag Concord, NH	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship, CE	27	28	29	30	31	
	Memorial Day 		7 pm Deacons			

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 & 8 am breakfasts, & CHURCH WORKDAY Town Plant sale 9 am Town Hall
2 10 am Worship, Deacon's Fund, CE	3	4 Yoga each Tuesday @ 9am Church photos taken today from 1 to 8 pm in the hall	5 Guild @ Noon 	6  7 pm Choir Practice every Thursday	7	8
9 10 am Worship, CE	10	11	12	13	14	15
		7 pm Council	7 pm W S & O		Flag Day 	
16 10 am Worship, CE Father's Day 3 pm Pflag Concord, NH	17	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline Summer Begins	22 
23 10 am Worship, CE	24	25	26	27	28	29
			7 pm Deacons			
30 10 am Worship, No CE						

**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*



Final Farewell To Eleanor Ashforth Harvey

Eleanor Ashforth Harvey, granddaughter of our benefactor Eleanor Campbell, died on March 9, 2013 in Mystic, CT. She was born in New York City, the daughter of Henry Adams Ashforth and Elizabeth Milbank Ashforth. She spent her childhood in Manhattan, Greenwich, CT, and Deering, NH. She graduated from Miss Porter's School and Vassar College, class of 1946. Besides working in sales at the New York real estate firm founded by her grandfather, she was a vice president of Judson Health Center, founded by her grandmother, Dr. Eleanor Campbell, and allied with Judson Memorial Church, Washington Square, NY. Among her survivors are four children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (Her full obituary can be found in the New York Times, from which the above excerpts were taken.)

Molly (Polly) Sherk

Margaret (Polly) Sherk died peacefully in Yarmouth, Maine, on February 21, 2013 at the age of 98. Polly, with her husband Allan and family, were part of the Summer People in Deering who were connected to our church. A comment in Don Johnson's book, *The Enduring Faith*, says that the Sherks were part of the old friends in the summer colony who made generous pledges to raise money needed for the addition to the Deering Community church that would include Sherwood Hall and a four room apartment for a parsonage, plus work in excavating the basement to build bathrooms and a utility room for a furnace (p. 306-7).

Polly had attended Worthington Hooker School, Miss Day's School, and was a graduate of Briarcliff Manor College. Polly is predeceased by her husband, F. Allen Sherk and by her three brothers. She is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Several of her ancestors were the first founders of The New Haven Colony. Polly loved art history and painted well into her 90s. She was also an avid swimmer and indoor gardener, activities she also carried out into her 90s.

We thank her daughter, Susan Sherk, of Newfoundland and Labrador for sending us her obituary.