

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

November, December, 2013



Praying Our Goodbyes

It is with mixed emotion that I prepare to write this final Pastor's Corner. After ten fruitful years as the minister, teacher, pastor of Deering Community

Church, I will retire at the end of this month, with October 27th being my last Sunday. The congregation has been my church family, and I will dearly miss having that special pastoral relationship.

The policy of the United Church of Christ is that once a minister leaves a congregation there is to be no more pastoral contact. The Ordained Minister's Code has the following ethical statements:

- 1) I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with or intrude upon the ministry of my successor.
- 2) I will not perform pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish.

To explain what all this means: I will not be attending church at Deering nor providing pastoral care during the process of getting an interim minister as well as when the next settled pastor arrives. In fact I won't even be talking with members of the congregation about what is going on at church. If we have social contacts, I ask you to refrain from sharing church business with me.

I discussed with the Council that if someone from the congregation dies before the interim pastor comes, they may contact me to do the funeral if the family so wishes. Except in this situation, I will not be available to do pastoral duties in Deering.

At my last Sunday with you we will do a ritual

which includes "Vows of Release" from my covenant with you. This is a formal recognition of the end of my ministry with you. I also will include in the last worship a way of praying our Goodbyes. Sister Joyce Rupp has a book by that name, and it has been helpful for me. Our life is filled with occasions to say goodbyes. I can remember my earliest education for becoming a social worker when the professor said that all of life is separation and union, starting with the sperm fertilizing the egg that leads to the union that becomes a fetus. Next the fetus separates from the mother's womb to become then united with the family. Death is the final goodbye where we separate from our earthly home and unite with our heavenly home. Goodbyes are often filled with sadness, yet I like to think of them being another form of separation and union, sometimes with the same person; other times with a new person or situation.

Did you know that originally goodbye was "God-be-with-ye" or "Go with God" and signified that God was in the going? I like what Joyce Rupp says: "Goodbye was a blessing of love, proclaiming the belief that if God went with you, you would never be alone, that comfort, strength, and all the other blessings of a loving presence would accompany you." So I want us not to just say our goodbyes but



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Pastor's Corner, cont.

to pray our goodbyes. I pray that each of you reading this will keep a piece of me in your hearts. God is love and may that love that is in our relationship be a bond that connects us always. Thanks be to God and to all of you who have been part of my ministry in this place. Amen!

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

These days our thoughts turn to Pastor Barbara's imminent departure. It is an emotional time for everyone certainly, and we can't thank her enough for her service to us. I'm hoping that everyone is planning to attend her last church service as our minister on Sunday October 27, and then later that evening, the pot-luck dinner in her honor. Please come and share this time of celebration and farewell. As difficult as this is for us to say good-bye, we can imagine how much more difficult it is for Pastor Barbara. After her departure, pastoral ethics require her to keep the church and the membership at arm's length. With the personal relationships she has developed with all of us over the last ten years, you can imagine how difficult this is. However, she knows and we all know that she will forever be in our church history and in our hearts.

Looking inward, we are getting a sense of how much this transition period will be a challenge for us. It makes us realize how much we depend on the person in the minister's seat. It's important that we not waste any time in moving toward finding a new minister. I will write a letter to the church within the next week to give you all a better sense of the formal process we're following, and where we are in that process. It's equally important that we maintain a high level of communication throughout this period. If anyone has questions about anything related to the pastoral search, please don't hesitate to contact me personally by phone at 603-340-0438, or by email at pcram01@comcast.net.

Suffice it to say at this point we are following the standard process for securing pastoral leadership and we have been busy to ensure that the pastoral needs of the church are met through the transition. We are fortunate that Jami Boyle has offered to serve as our supply minister up to at least the end of the year. We agreed to accept her offer, and look

forward to having her preaching on a regular basis, starting on Sunday, November 3. I would ask that you please come and welcome Jami in her new role. I must mention a couple things about music. I mentioned last month how we were going to try something different for one Sunday's music and indeed, on October 6, we were fortunate to have Steve Dodson and Phil Beaudoin join with us and share their talent. Who knew that Steve learned to play the penny-whistle so well! We sang traditional hymns, played with guitar, drums, and with Jane Waters on piano. Who could have imagined it? The response was altogether positive, so much so that the Church Council and Jane Waters have agreed to have them back. Both Steve and Phil are willing to return on a somewhat regular basis. Our thought is to have the new style of music up to once a month. And while everyone seemed so positive about the music, I am interested in knowing how people feel about it as we bring it to our services more regularly. I would love to hear from you, to see what your thoughts are on it. Does it add to or in some way enhance the church service? Remove or detract?

Yes, we're undergoing a significant transition in the Deering Church. It is a time that will challenge us certainly, but one that will ultimately make us a stronger and more effective church body. Transitions can be difficult, and it might be easy for one to consider now backing off from involvement. In my opinion, that would be a mistake. If anything, it is a time to make every effort to help out, and work to bolster our ranks. Are there people you think who might be interested in taking part in the activities and work we do? Might they benefit from a great sermon on Sunday? Are there individuals you think would like to receive our newsletter? Let us know. As I see it, there is only one direction in which this church is headed – forward.

Trustees Report

The Trustees

At the October meeting, the Trustees conferred as planned with Stuart Huggard over the church budget for 2014. Since the Deacons were the only ones who sent in their budget estimates to the Trustees for this meeting as requested of everyone, the Trustees worked with the fall back budget submitted by Stuart Huggard, based on the 2013 requirements and his estimates for 2014. The Trustees went through that budget line by line and made adjustments to it based on their judgments. The budget will be submitted to the Council for review and approval at

their November meeting. A church copier service contract was discussed. Since there was no signed contract for 2013, it was voted not to sign a contract for 2014 and continue with "on call" service if needed. Tim is looking further into three new clock thermostats, since the ones he spotted on line are no longer available. The workday schedule was discussed starting with Saturday, November 2nd. Please read the article below about the workday plans and come up to help out.

Workdays, Nov, 2 & Dec. 7

Peter Cram & The Trustees

At the last Trustees meeting, a discussion covered the upcoming workdays and what needs to be done. Starting on **Saturday, November 2nd**, beginning at 8 to 9 am (breakfast at 7 and 8 am) the project to repair the failing foundation under the corner of the office wing will commence, weather permitting. It was discovered at the last workday that 15 blocks of the foundation will need to be replaced and that the damage goes right down to the frost line. Since only the surface area of the blocks has disintegrated and the rear portions remain intact, it was decided it would be much simpler and not require any temporary bracing, if concrete was put into the space in front of the rear portion of the existing blocks, thus providing a much more substantial foundation to that area. Tim Ferwerda has offered to build wooden forms in front of the blocks and bring along a concrete mixer to do that part of the job. Bring any tools that you think you might need like

shovels, rakes, etc. In addition to repairs to the office building foundation, with colder weather in the offing, the storm windows need to be installed and closed; the spare wood in the narthex needs to be removed; David Bell will complete the project he started of insulating the water pipes under the office floor area; and the furnace filters need to be changed with the date of change recorded on the furnaces.

There is the usual fall clean up of leaves and branches outside, and vacuuming and cleaning of the church interior. Remember to bring your own tools for some of these jobs, since the church does not have any.

Please plan to come up on Saturday November 2nd to help do these projects! Thank you for donating your time and talent once a month at the Saturday workdays!



Financial Good News

Suzanne Huggard

At this point in the year, we are usually falling behind in pledge payment receipts, but not this year! We are actually ahead of anticipated pledge income for this date, and if it continues to be this good, we may end the year having OVERPAID pledged amount. This would be the first time ever in the years I have been financial secretary, and it would be an outstanding achievement for any congregation! So please keep this in mind, keep your pledge up to date and we can do this!!

And more good news- for the first time in the several years since we have been using the 'to be raised' line to balance the budget, we have now met our goal of \$2,255. This is in part due to the

generosity of Bob Fuller who donated the proceeds from sale of his handcrafted tables and stools to this line, but also to more people being aware of and contributing specifically to this budget line. So now, anything more that comes in for this line item will take it over the top for 2013.

And more- due to some generous and unexpected donations by visitors and some members, the Loose Offering line is more than \$1,000 greater than anticipated by the 2013 budget.

It appears that income is very much keeping pace with budget projections for 2013 and it appears that we shall end the year in better shape than we have in several recent years.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Huggard

BUDGET UPDATE

As we approach, believe it or not, the end of the year, we always look at the church expenditures and wonder if we are going to come out in December in the red or the black. This year my prediction would be that we will end up in the black for the first time in many a year. The main reason for this, of course, is the retirement of our minister, saving us two months of salary. Another reason is that we have done very well on the income side of our budget, particularly the "to be raised" line item which has been completely met.

It is great that we are ending the year on such a positive note, but we should be aware that we will be beginning a year of unknowns. Our 2014 budget will have a salary line item, but, at this point it will be an approximate number. All of that will be subject to negotiation with an interim minister, so it is difficult to predict. We are looking forward to exciting times for our church, but as we move into 2014 we should be mindful of the commitments that we make and how we are going to fulfill them.

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

During the months of November and December, Lauren will be working with the Sunday School to prepare for the Christmas pageant which is scheduled for 12/22 during worship. Anyone interested in helping with the production should speak with Lauren.

Sunday School will not be held on November 10 or December 29.



Sunday School Confirmation Class , Sept. 22nd

WS&O

Jeanne Bartlett, Christine Marcroft

We have submitted our budget to the trustees respectfully adding an increase of 25.00 to the following: Andover—Newton; UCC Coalition—LGBT; NH Council of Churches. Neighbors in Need drive yielded \$300.00 plus in donations on dedication Sunday, World Wide Communion Day, Oct. 6. Thanks everyone! We will be looking for Christmas cards with a personal message from you for the women in the Goffstown Prison. No envelopes, please. We have cards available, ready for you to write your message or you may provide your own. The deadline will be Dec 16. Call Jeanne-529-2540. Our members continue to be enriched by the experience of worshiping with the women under the leadership of chaplain, Rev. Beth Richeson when we can attend on Thursdays each week. Teen Bags for the Genesis Youth Drop-in center have become a priority once again. DCC is responsible for the third Friday of each month. It costs approximately \$75.00 per month to fill the 24 bags, so we look for and are grateful for donations to fund the supplies for this project. These bags are filled with small, reheatable meals, drinks and a snack to help some hungry teens over the weekend.

Hazel Vogelien has procured a list of new residents living in Deering from the town offices where officials and Selectmen remain most interested and encouraged by our outreach of the Welcome Baskets project. Five, to date, have been delivered by our dedicated members who seem to enjoy meeting new people in our community and they have been quite welcomed by the newcomers. Five more baskets are ready to go the next time a moving van is spotted in town.

Delegates from UCCZ in Zimbabwe have been in our midst for several days. Christine Marcroft has been active in placing them in several homes for overnights. I, Jeanne, speak for myself and Bud, when I report how exciting it was to have Mr. Peter Jack from Chiredzi, Zimbabwe as our guest. We were happy to bring him to our church where he answered questions about his region, work and

church life. More than 30 people came to a pot luck supper on Oct. 18 bringing wonderful dishes: Beef Stew, a huge soup composed of fresh garden produce, lovely salads, wonderful bread from fine bakeries in NYC, several varieties of chocolate cakes. All the extras from this buffet were transported by the Marcrofts to the UKAMA Fair held at Brookside Church on Saturday, Oct. 20th, in Manchester where 80 or 90 people gathered for another pot luck event to add to festivities of praying, singing, dancing (Zimbabwe style) and exchanges of ideas through the afternoon workshops.

More food: Sudza (a Zimbabwe staple made from cornmeal and water) chicken, and all the creative dishes from cooks throughout the many churches in NH arrived, coming to meet the delegates. Ben Robinson, Hailey Nase and Jeanne B. had drumming lessons; Pricilla Beaudrault and Pastor Barbara attended Culture and Traditions in Zimbabwe; Jeanne B attended Health care in the UCCZ and in the country. There was information about HIV and Aids and what our government is doing to help, and projects that have been funded by



WS&O cont.

Jeanne Bartlett, Christine Marcroft

funds in NH. Another guest joined the Bartlett household that evening, Pamela Mhlanga from Sakubva who gave the children's talk on Sunday and presented a Mission Moment, telling about the building of the church in Rimbi, our partner church. Other generous hosting for various delegates came from the Huggards, Johnsons and Marcrofts. All the photos in this article were taken by Christine Marcroft, when she was not in some church kitchen arranging dishes to feed everyone!



FORUM

On Sunday September 15th, the final summer forum was held in Sherwood Hall at 11:30 after the church service. The topic was a film called "World War II in New Hampshire" sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. John Gfroerer, the speaker and documentary film maker, showed his film which used old film footage and other historical means to show how the war years changed everyday life in NH. For those in attendance, it brought back a lot of memories of rationing with food and gasoline stamps, saving fat to make homemade soap, and other things that changed life for many of us who were young people at the time. This interesting film will be shown again on Channel 11 to celebrate Veteran's Day, November 11th, so check your TV schedule for that weekend to see when it will be shown, to see it again or for the first time if you missed it.



Musical Notes

Sam Kelly

There are a couple of musical moments to mention from September and October. On September 22, the choir performed music chosen by the young people who were confirmed that Sunday. The music was lively and provided a nice interaction with the congregation. Then on October 6th, we welcomed a band from the Goffstown UCC. Steve Dodson played drums and the penny whistle and Phil Beaudoin played guitar. Jane Waters, Bryan Terry, and Peter Cram became part of the band that morning, also. This made for a lively and enjoyable service and one the Council wishes to endorse for the future.

Looking ahead, on Sunday, November 24, there will be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the United Methodist Church of Hillsboro at 7 pm. Several church choirs, our own included, combine at these services and become very inspiring. In December, the traditional service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday the 15th and the Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 PM on the 24th.

And that's about it. Remember, keep a song in your heart, a dance in your step, and let the Spirit shine through. ----Sam

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

Meetings were held in September and October. An outing to Manchester on October 20th to see a performance of Annie by the



Manchester Community Theater with lunch at the Currier Art Gallery Cafe preceding the performance was a great success. Photos were taken by Pastor Barbara who went with the group.

The Guild has completed the transfer of \$45,000 into the Deering Church Endowment Fund, which will be invested, but remain separate from the church's funds for their use.

Priscilla surprised each member with a beautifully prepared booklet containing a collection of members oral histories in a very nice format as her gift to the Guild members.

It was decided to purchase a handmade shawl from Hope Thomas, our former choir director and a local weaver, as a farewell gift from the Guild to Pastor Barbara. It is in her favorite color, purple, and can be used as a lap robe or folded as a shawl to keep her warm. Whenever she uses it, she can reflect on her warm memories of the Guild.

Other changes taking place during our sharing around the table included Betty's description of her apartment in Antrim to which she will be moving, but will still be close by. Jane told us about the condo which will be their new home in Hopkinton and how she will be able to continue in the life of the church and the Guild.

The last meeting of the year will be on November 6th at noon. There is no meeting in December due to all the holiday activities.



Bon Vivant Dinners

Bon Vivant dinners were held at two locations. One was at Stuart and Suzanne's house and the other at Pastor Barbara and Neill Currie's house. Here are some photos of each event taken by Christine Marcroft and Pastor Barbara at these functions.

The Huggard's dinner:



The Currie's dinner:



With the retirement of Pastor Barbara, the Bon Vivant dinners will continue under the direction of Lauren Warner with assistance from Suzanne Huggard. Announcements will be posted on the bulletin board in Sherwood Hall. **The next dinner will be Friday November 15th, so be sure and sign up asap.**

MY SUMMER IN DEERING

by Carol Hubert

Near the end of September one Sunday morning before church began, Lauren asked me how was my summer? I said, "Great, I spent my summer in church." A few minutes later I said, "I should write a short story, 'My Summer in Church.'" Lauren said, "Write it for the newsletter; we'd love it."

The "Church" summer started when Bob Carter invited the church to a surprise marriage vow renewal and B-Day celebration for his wife Sara. It was an event like the "Bachelor" but in Deering with no detail omitted. What a kick off for summer. What a celebration...the children, the do and dress, Sara unbelieving and Bob presenting the rose-PRICELESS!

The next day, the world warrior scholars arrived for dinner and the contra dance at the Town Hall. Thanks to the Johnson's for an evening of sharing and fun. By this time I got permission to do some flower work outside the church. I made the commitment to weed, water, and care for the turf I claimed. Little did I know the Kudzu-like bindweed had overtaken every thing. While I kept one eye on pulling the weeds, I watched Suzanne Marcroft with my other eye. She had such stamina, high up on the ladder, scraping, sanding and painting the church windows. She did such an excellent job.

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For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. November 3 & December 1 donations start with Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **November**, such as ham, fish, chicken, or turkey, and personal care products for **December**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste & brushes, paper towels, toilet tissue & laundry detergent. Extra pet food is also welcomed. However you're welcome to bring whatever items you have. The Food Pantry is always in need of large brown paper or plastic grocery 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



NOVEMBER

Timothy Finn, 2

Peg Hauschildt, 8

Barbara Glauner, 18

Jane Waters, 27

DECEMBER

Christine Marcroft, 5

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Kate Kelly, 12

Happy Anniversary

There are no wedding anniversaries for November and December.

Have a Happy New Year's Eve on December 31st!



Letters from Rimbi

The delegates from Zimbabwe came bearing letters to members of our church who have become "pen pals" of members of our partner church, UCCZ Rimbi. How excited we all were to get this delivery and news of friends there. I saw the Carter family pouring over their letters, Bryan Terry was smiling as she read hers, Priscilla was delighted to hear from her friend in Rimbi. There were others, too; one note for Jeanne B. came from Gertrude Chibangwa, Balance's mother, who wrote about her late son: "he was a gift from God." She lives with her son's widow, Tariro, and their son, Bill, who is now, six years old. She asks for prayers and writes: "I know with your prayers I'm somebody." It is good to communicate. Jeanne Bartlett



November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 7 & 8 am Breakfasts & Workday Daylight Saving time ends tonight, clocks go back.
3 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	4	5 Yoga, each Tuesday at 9 am	6  12 noon Guild	7  7 pm Choir. most Thursdays	8	9
10 10 am Worship, No CE	11 Veterans Day	12 7 pm Council	13 7 pm W S & O	14	15 Bon Vivant Dinners Teen food bags due	16
17 10 am Worship, CE 3 pm Pflag,	18	19	20	21	22	23
			7 pm Trustees			
24 10 am Worship, CE Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service , 7 pm, United Methodist Church, Hillsboro	25	26	27	28  7 pm Deacons Thanksgiving Day	29	30



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion, deacon's fund, CE	2	3 Yoga, each Tuesday at 9 am	4	5  7 pm Choir most Thursdays	6	7 7 & 8 am Breakfasts & Workday
8 10 am Worship, CE	9	10	11	12	13	14
		7 pm Council	7 pm WS & O			
15 10 am Worship, CE, Lessons & Carols Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
			7 pm Trustees 7 pm Deacons		Teen food bags due today	Winter Solstice
22 10 am Worship & Sunday School Pageant	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 5 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship, no CE	30	31  New Year's Eve				

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We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



MY SUMMER IN DEERING

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The concerts sponsored by the Music Committee began, all great, all different. I thought they were private Tanglewood events for the church and the community.

Speaking of community-how about that chicken barbecue! A perfect day and a meal enjoyed by so many.

I was able to attend one Guild meeting and then the Fair was upon us and so many worked and participated to make it a great success.

Each Sunday, Pastor Barbara continued to inspire me with her meaty sermons. She tackled hard pieces of scripture and gave me something to chew on all week.

The Bon Vivant dinners are not to be missed. What a pleasure it was to be in your homes and spend quality social time with you. We had 11 at our campsite and Stuart Huggard said we had 2 to a chair on our porch. He was close to the mark as we were tight. Next year I will hope for July and we can be outside and inside. I missed the island Bon Vivant dinner, but Peg and Carl hosted us spontaneously one Sunday after church. There are treasures everywhere in Deering. It has been an alternative universe for me.

The forums, sponsored by the World Service and Outreach committee, were good and I was so impressed with how many church members stay and attend them.

The season was winding down. And then there were movies in the barn Fri. nights at Jean and Don Johnson's. We can even find our way by ourselves now. The first film discussion blew my mind. These folks had some insights that surprised me.

It was so joyous to share good news about Betty and her health situation and participate in prayers for others. When the pictorial directory came out, I could honestly say I knew you all and like you so much. The only downer is the challenge of letting Pastor Barbara go and the thought that we won't see her again. I don't like letting go of good people.

Confirmation was a real eye opener of what the day could be and should be. In our winter church, we have much the same program but we fall short on the day of the actual confirmation. Big churches have a lot to learn from small churches.

Thanks again for my summer in church and God willing there will be more. Peace and love to you all.

P.S. How could I forget the summer Sunday music! Loved hearing it. And we had a great choir party. Thanks Jack for singing all summer and the Waters for providing the party and the view.