

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

September, October 2013



Progressive Christianity

When I was a member of the Irvine United Church of Christ in California in the 70's and 80's, I was fortunate to be introduced to Progressive Christianity. My minister at the time, Fred Plumer, is now the national director of this organization. Their website: www.progressivechristianity.org has a wealth of information if you are interested in knowing more.

After coming East for seminary at Andover Newton, I became a member and an In Care student at State Street Congregational Church in Portland, Maine. As I was preparing for my ordination exams, my advisor strongly discouraged me to share my passion for Progressive Christianity—she felt it was just too different from what those who would be judging me experienced. And sure enough, I had a difficult time passing the Ecclesiastical Council where one is questioned on one's faith and practices. Yet I was not willing to leave out of my presentation something that was so important to me.

Just recently a new survey by PRRI (Progressive & Religious, Rowman and Littlefield) and the Brookings Institute revealed that 19 % of Americans are religious progressives and religious conservatives are 28% of the population. The progressive group has considerable racial and religious pluralism, including 18 % who are "unattached believers", not formally affiliated with a particular religious tradition. The average age of religious progressives is 44; amongst progressive Christians the younger generation (18-33) finds this shift most meaningful according to Robby Jones, in the 7/16/13 Washington Post.

Fred Plumer says in his evaluation of this trend, "Time will tell if we are capable of breaking the chains of superstitious and fear based religions and move to a more freeing and fulfilling path that Jesus and other great spiritual teachers have provided for us over the centuries. It will be interesting to see if we humans can find a faith in a path that does not demand identifying and qualifying the Infinite Mystery but rather guides us to experience of

it. It is a challenging path that dissolves boundaries and separations rather than creates them." So only 12 years after I was discouraged to even mention "progressive", there's a strong indication that in the American public, the appeal of religious conservatism is declining and a diverse progressivism may soon be in the majority. I realize that this study is not just about progressive Christianity but progressivism in general.

Let me share with you some of the basics of Progressive Christianity that make it so meaningful for me. Here I am quoting from "The 8 Points" on the website of ProgressiveChristianity.org: *By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are*

Christians who... 1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life; 2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey. (These 8 points are reviewed and changed from time to time; for me the 2003 version of the second point is my favorite: **Recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God's realm, and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us.**) 3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, believers and agnostics, women and



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Pastor's Corner cont.

men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, those of all classes and abilities.

Some of the other points that are so important to me include striving for peace and justice among all people and believing that there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.

I know some of you in our church have different beliefs than these; I thank you for accepting me as your pastor and teacher even when you disagree with me. I hope I have been a good model of what I believe in.

In closing I want to quote Colossians 3:12-14: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." My brothers and sisters, I believe more than anything that God is love, and it is God's love that comes through us to bind us all together, no matter who we are or where we come from. Let us love one another as God has loved us.

Peace Corner

Pastor Barbara

Remembering the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom August 28, 1963

Were any of you there? I so wish I had been there. I was in Honolulu, Hawaii having just finished my first year of a two-year Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree at the University of Hawaii. I had gone to Hawaii because Roland Luckett, my first husband was in the Army and stationed at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu. In those days Hawaii was so disconnected from the mainland, I can't even remember seeing any live coverage of the event. So my remembering has been from reading and listening to others as they reflect on that time.

Recently I have heard Representative John Lewis from Georgia reminiscing about that march as one of our nation's finest hours. Lewis is the only speaker that day who is still alive. The March was organized by civil rights groups to call for the passage of meaningful legislation to end racial segregation in schools, discrimination in jobs, protection of the right to vote and protection from police brutality. It did indeed lead towards the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The United Church of Christ has had a longstanding commitment to equality of all. At this 50th anniversary we rejoice in the progress made and realize that there is still lots to do. Our highest ideals for our country and our faith are not lived out day to day in the realities of our common life. Our denomination's core values of Extravagant Welcome, Continuing Testament, and Changing Lives point us to an ongoing call for justice, reconciliation and healing, as we continue to work and pray for the end of all forms of racism and inequality of every kind.

I choose to write about this March in our Peace Corner as I strongly believe: No justice! No Peace! I would like to close by quoting an excerpt from a UCC Pastoral Letter on Contemporary Racism and the Role of the Church: "Racism, in all its overt and covert forms, is an affront to the very foundations of our faith. God created all humanity in the divine image, called us into being, and into loving relationship with all God's children. This fundamental conviction compels us to affirm our oneness and equality with all of humanity....As the Body of Christ we accept the mission which Jesus initiated of breaking down the dividing walls of hostility." May Deering Community Church take this mission seriously and continue to be a beacon of light in this corner of God's world.

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

Attending a Church Council meeting is a wonderful opportunity to see the life of the church from many different perspectives. It is an eye opener, and it really shows what is going on in the church community from many perspectives. It makes me wonder why I hadn't been more active in this forum in previous years while representing the various committees I've been involved in.

This last month, the Trustees' report brought our attention once again to the church facility. Bob Fuller told us of the good work that has been carried out, and that which is in progress. He also made the point that the work of the Trustees is somewhat hampered by a lack of funding through the budget. This is certainly something that will be addressed with the next budget cycle, and we'll no doubt see this budget line item increased. Perhaps that will increase our 'to be raised' figure as well the next time around, but I digress.

One recent way we've been very successful in securing funding for major church repairs is through grant requests. Indeed, a good portion of the recent capital campaign proceeds came through the efforts of this funding avenue. We expect further work on grant writing will be effective, and thus continue the work needed on our facility.

Toward the grant writing effort, I expect we will be pursuing the registering of the church with the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. We expect that if we are accepted into the registry, it

will expand the reach of grant interest and possibilities. There may be other repercussions from acceptance, something I'm looking into at the moment. We'll keep you posted.

One other thing that I've been thinking of lately is that of the church music. I recently had a wonderful experience with the church Confirmation class, whereby we spent a day and a half together in worship and activities that included a sleepover at the church. We stayed in tents out back, had a campfire, toasted marshmallows, told stories and had great fun. We also had a serious conversation about what attracts young people to church, and just as importantly, what doesn't. Naturally one of the points made centered around that which is so important to people both young and old - music. Trust me when I say that no one is about to make any dramatic changes in the Sunday service music at the Deering Community Church, however questions were raised about how our current service music repertoire lends itself to attracting the younger crowd. It was a good conversation, and one that we'll be continuing in the near term. I'd welcome feedback from anyone on the issue. Perhaps we'll have a group discussion after church some Sunday. Let me know your thoughts.

Lastly, I just want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who work so diligently, helping to keep the church a vibrant and forward facing community. Thank you.

Trustees Report

Bob Fuller

At the August Council Meeting, Bob Fuller described the needed maintenance to the copy room outside wall which has significant rot. Better ventilation has been achieved by removing the solid panels and letting air in through the screens in place. The insulation in the crawl space needs replacing. There is a leak somewhere in the sanctuary belfry roof area; the floor needs replacing; and pulley and bell rope need repair. Funds are needed to accomplish these. It was suggested that a line item should be included in the budget for maintenance, and work on applying for grant money should be resumed. Peter will ask Steve Waters if he will help with the grant effort.

We thank all the volunteer workers who come to our first Saturday morning workdays each month and do the yard work, interior cleaning and work on building maintenance. We are grateful for all your help.

Financial News

Suzanne Huggard

Income at this point in the year is right on track. However, it is usually from this point on that we begin to see a shortfall developing, so I urge everyone to keep pledges current and especially to remember to designate a few dollars to the 'to be raised' budget category.

This year we have done much better than last year in fulfilling our promise to close the budget gap by

contributing to this line item. We are only about \$250 short of our goal of raising \$2,255.00. This should be easily accomplished in the next few months if everyone remembers to help a little.

Each monthly report is always posted on the bulletin board in Sherwood Hall for your information. If you have any questions, please ask me.



Confirmation Class Retreat

Pastor Barbara



The four students: Hailey Nase, Ben Robinson, Mackenzie Nase, and Ruthie Robinson, and the three facilitators: Bryan Terry, Peter Cram, and Pastor Barbara Currie gathered at the church for a Confirmation Retreat on August 16th and 17th. This retreat was a culmination of a year's preparation for these youth to learn about Christianity--United Church of Christ and Deering Community

Class Leaders Church style. On September 22, those who have decided they wish to be confirmed will do so in a Sunday worship dedicated to them.

Confirmation is saying Yes to one's baptism and publicly covenanting with Deering Community Church as members.

The retreat itself was organized around the themes of Call, Commitment and Beliefs. We worshipped, sang, discussed, ate, journaled, planted seeds, and played. The movie, God Grew Tired of Us, about the lost boys of Sudan provided an inspirational and emotional start to the evening, followed by a campfire where we made S'Mores, and more S'Mores. No matter what decision is made about becoming confirmed, the year of discernment hopefully answered some questions and probably raised even more questions. Pastor Barbara thanks everyone who participated and gives thanks to God for the opportunity to get to know everyone on a deeper basis as we struggled together to learn and experience what our faith and religion are all about.



Confirmation Class

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

On July 30, Ruthie and Mackenzie volunteered for the morning at Farmsteads of New England (FNE). Bryan Terry arranged this experience, which provided Ruthie and Mackenzie an opportunity to help with gardening and harvesting at FNE. According to the Mission Statement, FNE "was created to provide a farming environment that is conducive to a meaningful and satisfying life for people who have autism and other developmental disabilities and who are seeking a holistic lifestyle that supports their vocational, recreational, and residential needs." They both enjoyed their time working.

Ben, Mackenzie and Hailey assisted at the annual Summer Fair, bagging treasures, serving homemade Belgium waffles, and creating yummy ice cream sundaes.

Sunday School will resume on September 8, 2013. We will be learning about the prophets Elijah and Elisha, King Josiah and the fall of Jerusalem. Sunday School will be held September 8 and September 15. **We will all stay in church on September 22 for Confirmation.** Lauren and I are planning our Sunday School teaching schedule and offering dates when we are available to teach. There will be open dates that will require support from other members of the congregation. Please consider helping out. Thanks!

Summer Fair Review

Stuart Huggard

The 2013 Summer Fair, the major fundraiser for both the Women's Guild and the church, has come and gone and, by the time anyone reads this, even the clean-up will have been accomplished.

Financially, the fair was a great success with each entity netting in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00. The greatest earner was the raffle of the quilt designed and pieced by Kay Daniels and quilted and finished by Deb Carpenter. These two ladies put together a thing of beauty that netted the fair over \$1,300.00. Believe it or not, the second biggest earner was the Attic Treasures department in the basement. By the day of the fair, the cellar was bursting with "treasures" which seemed to appear as if by magic. Our policy of not pricing items and letting buyers make donations really seems to work well. It is definitely a lot easier to prepare for the sale. The Attic Treasures netted something over \$850.00. The "jamming ladies" made over 200 jars of jams and jellies which sold very well and the baked goods

area was laden with pies and other goodies, most of which were sold by the end of church on Sunday.

There are so many people to thank for making this fair a success. I am not going to try to name them all because there are so many and I will miss someone and get myself in trouble. Certainly we owe thanks to Kay and Debbie for their work on the quilt and Christine who commanded the jam and jelly making. I personally would like to thank Joyce Peace who helped us so much with the "treasures." She was a willing worker doing whatever was necessary to get things ready in the basement. And, I can not go without thanking Hazel who involves quite a few members of her family in the effort. They actually like working with the "treasures" with special attention given to organizing the books.

All in all, a good time was had by all. By any standard of measure, it was a very successful day. Kudos to all involved.

Jam Ladies

Christine Marcroft



This year we started our jam making a little earlier to beat the heat. **I want to thank Jeanne, Pasca, Kay and Jane,** who helped to make a total of 203 jars of delicious strawberry, strawberry-rhubarb, blueberry, strawberry-blueberry, mixed berry, apricot and grape jelly! The grape jelly was made from Stuart and Suzanne's own grapes and the rhubarb came from Jeanne's garden! We also ventured out and made delicious sugarless jams which are in great demand. At the Fair, we sold about half of the jars and gift baskets. The jams will continue to be available for purchase. They make great holiday gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas!



Pasca making Jams



Sam, our wandering minstrel



Knife and raffle table



Plant Table



WS&O

Jeanne Bartlett

Neighbors in Need is the United Church of Christ's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. This includes the council for American Indian Ministries. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minn. Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support! **Imagine** a World without Hunger; **Imagine** a World without Violence, **Imagine** a World without Poverty; **Imagine** a World without Discrimination and Oppression. Offering will be received on October 6. Gifts can be made year-round at www.ucc.org.

Our **Teen support snack bag project** will resume in September. Our church is responsible for delivery of 24 bags on the third Friday of each month. We welcome donations of funds or supplies such as: granola bars, juice boxes, small microwaveable meals, fruit cups, pudding cups, or individual sacks of nuts. The Genesis Youth Center also welcomes a bowl of apples, oranges or snack veggies to offer their young people. The center is open Mon., Wed., and Fridays. Call for their hours: 464-4145 or 731-4269.

Members of WSO continue to support the **Goffstown Women's Prison** and will be attending

worship service each month and in August will be bringing a donation of two sewing machines and sewing fabric for the inmates' use. If you would like to be a regular visitor to the prison please contact our church office for info on orientation sessions offered by the Department of Corrections.

FINAL FORUM

Don Johnson arranged three forums for this summer supported by The NH Humanities Council, and the final program will be on **September 15th** featuring a documentary on "**New Hampshire During World War II**". This is a free program open to the public. In the past, our forums have attracted large and enthusiastic turnouts.

The Other Forums



Cartoons in World History speaker & attendees



NH's One Room Schools & Attendees of Schools

Musical Events

Jane Waters

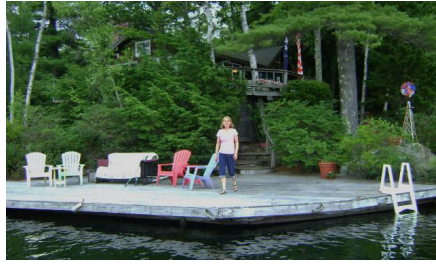
The Monadnock Music concert on July 25th featured a trio of piano, violin, and cello which drew an enthusiastic audience filling every pew. Ray Petty saw to putting our Mason and Hamlin piano in tip-top shape, for which we are most appreciative. Then on August 4th we were once again thrilled to have well known and beloved Will Ogmundsen play for us, as well as bring some cast members of his musical, *Shiner Watson* to sing selections from the Hillcat production. The final summer music offering will be the return of pianist Shizue Sano on August 25 at 3:00 PM.

Updating the return of our choir: 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 PM. We always welcome new members; so please come!!



Bon Vivant Summer Dinners

Photos by Christine Marcroft



There were several dinner gatherings this summer. The July hosts were Peg and Karl Hauschildt and Jean Lewis at their homes on an island in Lake Deering. The August dinners were hosted by Carol and Jack Hubert in Weare, and Bob Fuller and Suzanne Marcroft in Deering.



Here are some photos of the cookout in July at the Hauschildt's house and the cookout at Bob Fullers house in August.



The weather cooperated and a wonderful time was had at all the dinners.

Chicken Barbecue

Barbara Glauner

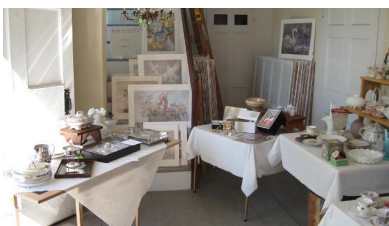
The free chicken barbecue for residents and church members, held on July 27th at our church pavilion, was well attended by members and townspeople, numbering about 100 altogether. It was a lovely day and people gathered from 1 to 3 pm, enjoying the plentiful food and chatting with neighbors and friends. The event pictures were taken by Christine Marcroft and David Glauner.



Summer Fair

Barbara Glauner

As Stuart Huggard mentioned in his article on page 5, the Summer Fair was a great success. Here are some photos taken by Christine Marcroft and David Glauner of the event.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. September 1 donations start with Weare and October 6 for Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of protein for **September**, such as ham, tuna, fish, chicken or turkey. For **October**, products such as paper towels, toilet tissue, regular tissues and laundry detergent are needed. Each week you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have. You can bring extra pet food also. The Food Pantry is in need of large brown paper and large 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



September

Sarah Byron, 4

Lynn Compton, 19

Jean Johnson, 20

Priscilla Beaudrault, 20

Henry Weeden, 22

Lauren Warner, 23

Pasca Ferwerda, 29

October

Robert Carter, 9

James Carpenter, 16

Tom Copadis, 19

Mackenzie Nase, 20

David Bell, 20

Ann Foraker, 22

Jake Terry, 26

Happy Anniversary

September

Lynn & Bob Compton, 4

October

Bryan & Bert Terry, 7

Barbara & Alfred Glauner, 22



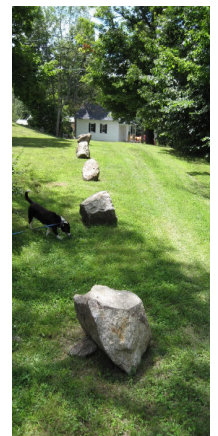
Shizue Sano Piano Recital, Aug. 25, included pieces by Ravel, Albeniz, Debussy, Schumann & Schubert. Fabulous musicality with a powerful, prodigious talent!



Suzanne Marcroft, church painter

Thank you for a great job!

Rocks were provided and laid out by Tim Ferwerda to delineate the rear driveway to the Pavilion and protect the adjacent septic field. Thank you Tim!



September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund	2 Labor Day	3 YOGA each Tuesday @ 9am	4  Guild @ Noon	5	6	7 Breakfast- 8 & 9 am, & Workday
8 10 am Worship , CE	9	10 7 pm Council	11 7 pm WS & O	12  7 pm Choir Rehearsal each Thursday night	13 Pack Teen Food Bags for distribution on the 20th	14
15 10 am Worship, CE Forum 11:30 3 pm Pflag, Concord	16	17	18 7 pm Trustees	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship, Confirmation, No CE Fall Begins	23	24	25 7 pm Deacons	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship, CE	30					

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 YOGA each Tuesday @ 9am	2  Guild @ Noon	3  7 pm Choir Rehearsal each Thursday night	4	5 Breakfast— 8 & 9 am , & Workday
6 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	7	8 7 pm Council	9 7 pm WS & O	10	11 Pack Teen food Bags for distribution on the 18th	12
13 10 am Worship No CE	14 Columbus Day	15	16 7 pm Trustees	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship, CE	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship, CE VNA Flu Clinic 11:30—12:30	28	29	30 7 pm Deacons	31 Halloween 		

Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
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Rev. Barbara Luckett Currie

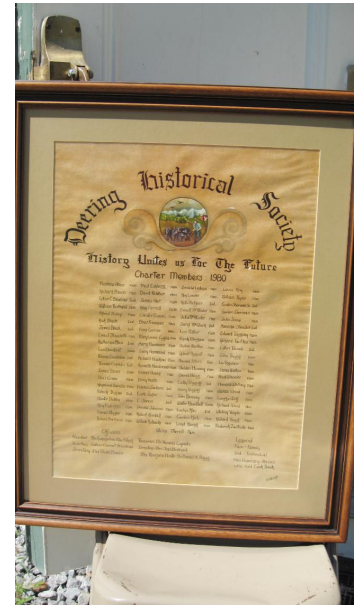
We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



FLU CLINIC: October 27th, 11:30 to 12:30, Parish Hall, given by the Concord VNA

The Deering Historical Society had a display at the Town Hall on August 10th showing a selection of artifacts, old photos, maps, paintings and newspaper clippings from the early days of the Town of Deering. many of which were provided by Tom Copadis. Photos by Dave Glauner



The mountain bikers race on August 17th used the Deering Church pavilion as a way station to stop over during their ride. Lots of their families and friends supported them with liquids, food and loud encouragement as they swung in for their pit stop. Photos by Christine Marcroft.

