

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Moderator's Desk

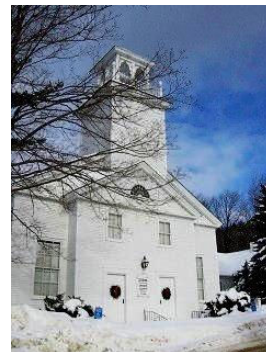
As I write this, I find myself still smiling from having seen the Christmas Pageant held this morning. It was a wonderful performance and service. All who participated in its preparation and performance are to be commended for their hard work. And Lauren Warner can't be thanked enough for all she has done this year. Of course she has taken on the special task of writing, then directing the church Christmas Pageant for many years. We are fortunate indeed to have her keeping this holiday tradition alive and vibrant in our church.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our Christmas Eve service. I'm not able to be there this year for this service, but no doubt the celebration with Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve will be meaningful and beautiful. I sincerely hope your Christmas holiday was warm and wonderful.

I was delighted to announce a couple weeks ago that the Interim Search committee had completed their work, and that they were able to successfully find an interim minister for us. Recall that their semi-formal deadline was actually next March, but they were trying hard to find a suitable candidate to start on January 1. With the makeup of the committee, it's no wonder they were able to meet this more aggressive target. At the Church Council meeting on December 10, the committee recommended Reverend Leonard Zecchini to the Deering Community Church as its interim minister. Jim Carpenter gave a detailed and glowing report on Rev. Zecchini, and after much thoughtful discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to accept the search committee's recommendation. The Council was fortunate to meet with Rev. Zecchini later that evening, and we were able to chat and get to know him a bit better. I believe I can safely speak for all the Council members when I say that he is a warm and friendly person, and I'm certain that he will be a wonderful and positive presence in our church and community.

January, February 2014

Pastor Zecchini, or 'Leonard' – he considers either a suitable way to address him - is from Lyndeborough, and has a wealth of experience. He has specialized in interim ministry work, having served as an interim in many churches over the course of twenty or more years. He is also currently serving as chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital in Nashua, and it is expected that he will continue to hold that position through his time with us. The first Sunday of 2014 will be our first Sunday with Reverend Zecchini. I hope you are all able to come and welcome him.



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There is one other thing I wanted to mention in this, the last newsletter of the year. It's hard to believe that the church year is coming to a close. The Trustees are busy putting together next year's budget, for approval at the annual meeting on January 26, 2014 after the church service. And perhaps most importantly, the Nominating Committee is busy looking to fill positions necessary to keep each of the boards and committees running smoothly. As a small church, we find that most everyone who is able is already taking an active role in the business of the church. However, if you or someone you know is ready to be that much more involved by filling one of positions that are still vacant, please see either Lee Marcroft or me to discuss it. Everyone's help is very much appreciated. Thank you, Peter Cram.

Interim Minister Selected

Stuart & Suzanne Huggard

On Tuesday, December 10, the Church Council unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the Interim Minister Search Committee to call Rev. Leonard Zecchini as our Interim Minister. Rev. Zecchini will begin his ministry with us on the first Sunday of 2014, January 5.

Rev. Zecchini, (prefers to be called Leonard, or Pastor Leonard) will be a half-time pastor, and will acquaint us with his schedule once he is settled. While recognizing the limitations of a half-time position, he has made it clear that he intends to function fully as our pastor, and will be available to the congregation 24/7 as needs might arise. In our several meetings with Rev. Zecchini, we have been impressed with his experience, his kind, caring ways and his intention to meet our needs as a congregation, as well as to guide us through this interim period as we search for a settled pastor.

There is much in his background and experience that qualifies Rev. Zecchini to be our interim pastor. Below find Leonard's bio as provided by him. We look forward to getting to know him better.

The Rev. Leonard Zecchini grew up in Andover, Massachusetts. He attended the University of Maine and UMass–Lowell, studying engineering and business administration. Following university he worked for the US Navy in Kittery, Maine, supporting the construction of nuclear submarines at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He then attended Andover Newton Theological School and was ordained in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition of the United Church of Christ, and served as a parish minister in western Pennsylvania where he met his wife-to-be, Ruth Smyres. He was both a counsellor and a chaplain in addictions rehabilitation for thirteen years. During the past twenty-one years he has served as Interim Pastor of seven parishes in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, most recently in Boscawen. For the past seventeen years he has also served as a staff chaplain in St Joseph's Hospital, Nashua founded by the Grey Nuns of Montréal. He and his wife Ruth, who is a Master Weaver, live in Lyndeborough, NH.

WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett



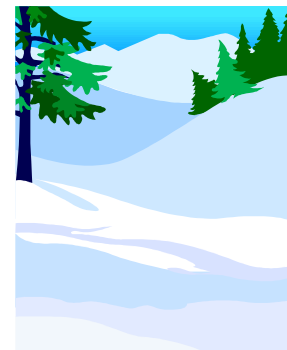
Rev. Beth Richeson, chaplain, was so pleased to receive all the Christmas cards, containing such heart-warming messages from the Deering congregation. More than 125 cards will be distributed among the women at the Goffstown Prison.

Christmas is a particularly difficult time at the prison.

Snack bags continue to be provided for the Teen drop-in center in Hillsboro, Genesis, on the third Friday of each month. This is a comfort to some teens who may be facing hunger, especially over the weekend.

The Christmas Fund, one of four special mission offerings received in our church, supports ministries to lower income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy in times of financial crises, was received on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22.

We are aware of several new residents in Deering and we, weather permitting, will be visiting with our Welcome Baskets.



Pastor Barbara's Farewell

Jeanne Bartlett

It seemed like an impossible task, but fellowship hall was set up to accommodate 70 to 80 sit-down diners who came to salute retiring Pastor Barbara Currie on Oct. 27, 2013. The Huggards had presented a festive scene with rainbow-like place settings and tablecloths. Debbie arrived with a bouquet of purple/lavender balloons and Angela Bell's flower arrangements graced each table.

There are potlucks and then there was this potluck: Soup, roast pork, rosemary chicken, lentil salads, a magnificent trifle and apple pie (only a few listed). Moderator, Peter Cram, introduced the evenings speakers with a moving message of his own about Pastor Barbara's outstanding leadership these past ten years. He introduced Rev. Joyce Lovejoy and Rev. Bill Salt, past ministers in Deering, among the guests that night. Jeanne Bartlett spoke about how she has become a "look-a-like" for Barbara and how she hopes to become her "be-a-like" as well; she thought that many have been encouraged to be a more loving, forgiving people. Moderator emeritus, Steve Waters, recited the church's mission statement: *Compassionate, Open to All, where Christ's Teaching leads to Spiritual Growth and Action* and told everyone how Barbara has led members in that direction. Jane Waters, music director, expressed her pleasure in working with Barbara to present meaningful worship. Deacon, Jim Carpenter, recognized her leadership toward significant outreach and a deepening of prayerful life. The deacons gave her a beautiful, embroidered

pillow and scarf as well as a gift of money. Guild president, Betty Dishong, presented her with a gift of a hand woven shawl in some of Barbara's favorite colors, as suggested by members of the Guild, and spoke about Barbara's compassionate visits among her parishioners. Trustee, Stuart Huggard, had had a poster of the church in an autumn setting elegantly framed and completed with signatures of church members on the glass which came from the old church windows. (This picture is still available for those who have not yet added their signatures.) A very generous check was presented to Pastor Barbara, the sum of which included the gifts of many community friends as well as church members, many of whom were there that night adding to the applause. The Sunday School had made a beautiful, tie dye scarf to give to her. The Ministerium was well represented, also, with pastors from St. Mary's, Smith Memorial and United Methodist Church of Hillsborough in attendance. One pastor spoke about the sunrise Easter service he had shared with Pastor Barbara. A very touching closing to the evening came when Jocelyn Luckett, Barbara's daughter, stood to tell everyone how much the church and community has enriched her mother's life's work and how proud she was of her mom. That is when many people in the room, perhaps, felt the pain of loss along with the sincere, well wishes they had for Pastor Barbara's happy retirement.



More Pictures

Pictures by Christine Marcroft & others



Attendees, Speakers and presenters

Bon Vivant Dinner

Picture by Christine Marcroft



The Last Bon Vivant dinner of the year was held at Lauren Warner's house on November 15th. Due to the holiday festivities in December, no new dinners were scheduled. Look for notices on the bulletin board in Sherwood Hall for any plans after the start of 2014, weather permitting. Lauren Warner with help from Suzanne Huggard will be organizing the dinners in 2014. Look at the church website Events Page for information as to how these potluck dinners are run in people's homes and join in the fun to get to know people better at these smaller gatherings.

Sunday School Pageant

Chris Nase

By the time you are reading this, the Christmas pageant will have been performed, but to provide a better understanding of how this year's play came into being, Lauren Warner graciously provided the following information.

This year's Christmas play is a short history of the Salvation Army. I wanted to do a play about the Salvation Army because, although I always gave Ben and Ruth some coins to put in the kettle whenever we would see one at Christmas time, I've never really known much about the organization. I knew part of their mission was to raise money to help the homeless and that they try to give ex-cons a new start, but why are they called an army? I wanted to learn more about them and a play is always a good way to learn.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with this year's play. Thank you Jane Waters; you tie our efforts together with music. Thanks to all the actors and actresses. Thanks to all the Sunday School kids, who have played sheep, angels, and shepherds since they were toddlers. Thank you to all the adults who hurried down from coffee hour and conversation so we could start play practice. Thanks to the brand new actresses, who agreed to not only act, but also get up on stage and sing a very difficult old Salvation Army hymn. Thanks also to those who were very skeptical about a play about a homophobic organization, but let it go forward anyway.

Thank you Lauren !!!

Sunday School will not be held on January 19, 2014 and February 23, 2014.



Musical Notes

Sam Kelly

On the schedule will be choir rehearsals beginning January 2nd in preparation for the first Sunday service with our interim pastor. Much enthusiasm has been generated by the recent addition of drums and electric guitars to Sunday worship. This will continue on a monthly basis to enrich our services.

Events to watch for: the annual musical soiree to be scheduled in February; a hymn sing and pot luck supper in participation with Smith Church is scheduled for Friday, March 14. And that's about it. Make a joyful noise.

On December 22nd, some of the choir went caroling and stopped at the Glauner's house. The joyful singing was much appreciated. Here is a picture of the group at the house. Then they went on to other families in our church.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

A Guild meeting was held on November 6th. (Due to the holidays, there was no meeting scheduled in December.) Following a luncheon at the Deering town hall sponsored by the Greater Hillsboro Senior Center, a Guild business meeting was held at 1 pm back in the Deering Church fellowship hall. In lieu of a nominating committee, the group asked the present officers if they would continue to serve in their current positions for 2014. They agreed to that and the officers for 2014 are Betty Dishong, President; Kay Daniels Vice President; Jeanne Bartlett, Secretary; and Hazel Vogelien, Treasurer. The Treasurer's report was accepted. A budget committee was formed to meet and come up with a proposed Guild budget for 2014 which will be presented for review and approval at the January 8th meeting. Jeanne collected information updates for the 2014 membership booklet which Barbara has prepared and printed for distribution. The booklet will be mailed to those not at the January meeting.

Ideas for the Summer Fair were discussed. It was voted to have gift baskets for sale again. Members were urged to think about new ideas and suggest a craft item or a fresh approach to fair offerings. Betty asked members to bring some handiwork like knitting, crocheting or some other craft to the January 8th meeting. Joyce Peace was asked to bring up at the December Council meeting the summer fair problem we face with the loss of a quilt

to raffle, and ask Council members to come up with some new ideas to raise that money. She was to ask the Council for a church representative to co-chair the Summer Fair. Barbara produced a new Guild poster to advertise for new members in two sizes for distribution in welcome baskets and posting elsewhere.

Since the first Wednesday of January is New Year's Day, it was decided that the Guild meeting would be held on January 8th at noon instead in the parish hall. The February meeting is on Wednesday, the 5th, at noon in the parish hall. All meetings are subject to weather permitting. The new hotline at the back of the membership booklet will be used to inform members of any changes in the schedules.

Note: Stuart spoke to Debbie Carpenter about making a quilt for the church fair. She is offering to make two quilts—one big and one smaller. The church would pay her \$600 to make these. The Council unanimously voted to accept this offer at their December meeting.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. January 5 and February 2 donations start with Weare.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **January**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and for **February**, paper products and laundry detergent, but each week you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have. The Food Pantry is still in need of large brown paper bags.

Weare: Donations of all types of food and personal care products are sorely needed.

Cash donations are always welcome. Please make checks payable to Deering Community Church and note "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Periodically, accumulated cash donations are divided and half is sent to each of the above food pantries.

Food Pantry donations are part of our outreach program to help others less fortunate. Please help if you can. **THANK YOU!**
Suzanne Huggard,
Financial Secretary



JANUARY

Benjamin Robinson, 2
Carol Hubert, 2
Marjorie Bryce, 8
Jack Hubert, 12
Deborah Carpenter, 22
Charlotte Price, 31

FEBRUARY

Ray Petty III, 2
Noah Carter, 8
Stuart Huggard, 8
Glenn Price, 9
Samuel Kelly, 13



Happy Anniversary

JANUARY

Pasca & Tim Ferwerda, 26

FEBRUARY

Kay & Ray Daniels, 14

Other Photos taken during church services



January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2  Choir Practice Thursdays @ 7 pm	3	4 7 & 8 AM Breakfast & WORKDAY
5 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	6	7 Yoga, 9 am on Tuesdays	8 Guild @ Noon  7 pm WS&O	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship, CE	13	14 7 pm Council	15 7 pm Trustees	16	17 Teen Food Bags due today	18
19 10 am Worship, No CE 3 pm Pflag in Concord	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship, CE, Annual church meeting 11:30	27	28	29 7 pm Deacons	30	31	

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 						
2 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	3	4 Yoga, 9 am Tuesday mornings	5 Guild @ Noon 	6 Choir Practice Thursdays @ 7 pm	7	8 7 & 8 am Breakfast & WORKDAY
9 10 am Worship, CE	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day 	15
16 10 am Worship, CE	17	18	19	20	21	22
3 pm Pflag in Concord			7 pm Trustees		Teen Food Bags Due Today	
23 10 am Worship, No CE	24	25	26	27	28	
			7 pm Deacons			

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We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

*We're on Facebook at Deering
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