

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Interim Pastor Leonard's Pen

March, April 2014



This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. There have been requests for a Lenten program, possibly following worship on Sundays, so that still another probable week-night activity won't be added to our busy

lives. I am checking into the possibility of a video-discussion program. When I was younger and the practice of religion was a greater influence (perhaps) in the life and standards of our communities, I heard a lot about "giving things up for Lent". I don't much hear that these days, and I am not particularly advocating giving things up for Lent. There might be good reason to give something up, but why just because it is Lent! Do it anyway, any time, if there is good reason to do so.

The original Lent, or at least what we commemorate with our Lent, was Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness for forty days. This story in the Bible (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13) is essentially that of a young man coming of age, breaking away from his family and his community and going out into the wilderness of the world and being tempted by all that there is out there, struggling to find his own identity, his own standards and values, how he is going to live his own life. It is obvious from the biblical text that Jesus' struggles with the Devil. Satan, the Tempter, did not consume every minute of those forty days. Jesus was out there away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to talk to God, and what is more important, to listen to God.

We hear much in our lives but I question just how much we listen. We live in a very noisy world and quite frankly I tune out much of it. I hear but I don't listen. Rather than Giving Up For Lent, how about if we all Added For Lent, intentionally adding some time in our already busy schedules to be a part in whatever our own personal wilderness might be, to listen to God, and if that is a bit too intimidating, to

listen to whatever it is that we hear. It might be just quietness. That certainly would be a significant addition in my own life! It might be listening to that "still, small voice of calm" (John Greenleaf Whittier).

As part of your quiet time with Jesus I would hope that you also talk to him — share your deepest concerns, desires, frustrations, angers (even angers at Jesus, if you have any). The God of Christianity is not a wrathful god out to get us. One story that shows what kind of relationship might be helpful for us to have with God and Jesus is this. "A friend was traveling in Spain.

He visited a large, ornate cathedral. While he was inside looking about, a man came in and walked over to a life-size crucifix hanging on the wall. The man started shouting angrily in Spanish (unintelligible to my friend) and waving his finger in Jesus' face. He would quiet down, start to walk to the door, come back and shout at Jesus again. This went on for several minutes. At last the man seemed finished. He walked towards the door, paused a few moments and returned to the crucifix, stood there looking up at Jesus silently, then kissed his hand, reached up and planted the kiss on Jesus' feet. With a smile on his face he walked briskly out the door and disappeared." (reference source not found)



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April Services

Jim Carpenter

During the month of April, we will be participating in Holy Week.

Palm Sunday service is April 13 at 10 am. Maundy Thursday service is on April 17 at 7 pm and takes place in Sherwood Hall with a tenebrae, the extinguishing of candles, music featuring members of our choir, communion and the optional foot washing. Following Good Friday, we will have the Easter Sunday Service at 10 am on April 20.



WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett

World Service and Outreach News

Look for ways that show your OGHS dollars at work. Impact stories will be updated weekly in the Sunday bulletin the four weeks preceding March 30, the suggested date to receive this offering. **One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.**

At this writing snow is falling again and Christine's and my visit to the Goffstown Women's Prison and delivery of the mountain of fabric and craft supplies, will be postponed. Thanks to all for your generous contribution to the women!

The Hillsboro Ministerium will be receiving winter coats to benefit middle school children. Our church will be asked to contribute. Smith Memorial Church will receive and store the coats prior to delivery to the Hillsboro Deering School. Details, about sizes, dates, etc., will be provided by the WS&O committee as soon as they are known. Stay tuned! Jeanne's phone # 529-2540:milsite4@comcast.net .

World Day of Prayer notice from Marian Baker:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Our local service will be held on **Friday, 7th March** at **Hillsboro Methodist Church, Main St.** Women from churches in Hillsboro, Henniker, Deering, and Washington have started organizing this service. Women of **Egypt , (North Africa)**, have written the service on the theme of: **Streams of Living Water in the Desert.** It includes Bible study of John 4: 1-42 (The woman at the well) .The program is as follows:

6PM- Simple potluck supper - a variety, including Egyptian cooking. We suggest that those not bringing food, make a donation during the service.

7PM - Official program begins. It starts with a joyous processional up into the sanctuary, and includes choruses, drama, and parts for women and children from the different churches to take part. An offering will be taken that will help needy projects from all over the world (including USA) that apply for assistance from the World Day of Prayer USA office. Check the website at wdpusa.org for details of where last year's offering went.

ALL ARE WELCOME- WOMEN, MEN, CHILDREN

Annual Meeting Minutes

Chris Nase

Present: Pastor Zecchini, Steve Waters, Jane Waters, Pasca Ferwerda, Tim Ferwerda, Kay Daniels, Stuart Huggard, Suzanne Huggard, Bryan Terry, Peter Cram, Christine Marcroft, Lee Marcroft, Jeanne Bartlett, Jean Lewis, Angela Bell, Ruth Zecchini, Sam Kelly, David Bell, Bob Fuller, Peg Hauschildt, Chris Nase, Bob Santagata, Jim Carpenter, Jane Levesque, Lauren Warner



1.1) Peter opened with a prayer and Pastor Zecchini offered some opening remarks.

2. 2) Peter spoke about our time of transition and reminded people about *Prepared to Serve*. He thanked Debbie Matthews for her willingness to quickly put together the annual report.
3. 3) Minutes from 2013 were reviewed. Peter Cram asked for a motion to accept the minutes, Steve Waters moved the motion and Bryan seconded it, the minutes were approved.
4. 4) Committee reports reviewed –
 - a) Jim also thanked Debbie Matthews for her service and reminded people about the benefits of attending *Prepare to Serve*. He reminded people that the search committee for the settled pastor will require dedication and time and those that are asked to serve or offer to serve should take this into consideration.
 - b) David mentioned the importance of the projects completed on workdays.
 - c) Jeanne mentioned how generous our church is with supporting **5 for 5**, (UCC churches that give to Basic Support and all four Special Mission Offerings) and any requests to address needs are promptly filled.
 - d) Jeanne spoke to how the Women's Guild

does follow their mission statement.

e) Jane offered her thanks to the dedication of the choir members, requested additional help for the soiree and mentioned an upcoming singing evening with other local churches.

f) Chris spoke about several special events this year in C.E. – caroling, confirmation – thank you Bryan, Peter and Pastor Barbara for their time in planning confirmation.

g) Peter thanked the Glauners for their work on the newsletter and website.

h) Thanks were offered to Priscilla for her work with the archives.

Peter asked for a motion to accept the reports – Steve Waters moved the motion, Bryan Terry seconded the motion, the committee reports were approved.

1. 5) Suzanne reviewed her financial report – the “to be raised” line item was met this year – Joyce Peace added the final few dollars!
2. 6) Stuart reviewed the 2013 budget, noting that Pastor Barbara's retirement was a budget saver this past year. Account balances were reviewed and Stuart pointed out an error – should be \$400 to Neighbors in Need not \$100 – he also mentioned how often members donate materials.
3. 7) Angela reported that it was a good year for the Endowment Fund. She mentioned that the allocation from the Endowment to the church budget is the second biggest income amount behind pledges.
4. 8) Stuart reviewed the proposed 2014 budget. Last year the donation from the anonymous donor was included in balancing the budget; previously the amount had not been formally counted but was used in the overall equation. This year the anonymous amount is not expected and

Annual Meeting Minutes

Chris Nase

1. plan to use it as extra if the money does come in. Other adjustments in the budget have been made primarily due to Pastor Barbara's retirement. Bob Fuller was thanked for the donation of wood benches/stools which he made. The sale of these items was a large part of how the "to be raised" money was raised. Steve offered a motion to accept the financial reports with the one correction, Sam seconded the motion, the financial reports were accepted.
2. 9) Lee reviewed the Nominations for 2014. Peter mentioned a change to the report - Jeanne Bartlett will be on C.E. - Peter Cram and Bryan Terry will help with C.E. but will not be officially on the committee and Lauren Warner will no longer be on C.E. She was thanked for her long, dedicated service to C.E. Steve moved the motion to accept the nominations, Bryan seconded the motion, and the nominations were approved. Officers were installed. Meeting was adjourned.

Note: The entire copy of the **Annual Reports** booklet can be seen and read on the church website at www.deeringcommunitychurch.org . Click on it on the home page.

Trustees Minutes, Workday

David Bell, Bob Fuller,

The Meeting was called to order on January 15, 2014 at 7:00. Present were Bob, Tim, Stuart and Dave.

We finished working on the 2014 budget and prepared it for the annual church meeting. Major changes this year are more money (\$2000.00) for maintenance and repair of the church, and a budget that does not include the anonymous gift. With Pastor Barbara's retirement and the hiring of an interim Pastor at half time, we are hoping to make this work, though our "to be raised" amount is higher then last year.

We authorized Stuart Huggard and Angela Bell to make transactions with Ameriprise Financial in the investment account representing the endowment of the church.

We discussed what could be done in the fund raising area and will bring this up at the church council in their Feb meeting.

We also made a list of tasks to accomplish at the next Saturday work day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

WORKDAYS:

At the Trustee meeting on January 15th, we discussed the projects for the next Saturday workdays and chose some to concentrate on. At the February 1st workday, we looked at all the faucets to replace or repair those that needed it. Sherwood Hall was cleaned and we put a couple more coats of poly on the stairs to the Sunday school room. We cleaned, sanded, and coated the banisters with a couple coats of poly. The window well and cover for the furnace room window have been deferred to another workday.

On the longer range list of things to do, we will assess the sill work that's needed at the front corner of the church, assess the walk to the blue doors, and see if we can find the water leaks in the tower.

We want to remind everyone that the next two Saturday workdays are March 1st and April 5th. We need the help of all our members and friends to keep the church building clean and in good repair. We ask that you come out for a few hours on those mornings to help with the tasks at hand. Peter makes an early morning cooked breakfast for the workers at 7 am with coffee at 8 am. We look forward to seeing as many helpers as possible those mornings whenever you can come. Thank you all!

Women's Week

Jeanne Bartlett

New Date: United Church of Christ will celebrate Women's Week this year during the first week of March, **March 2-8, 2014**. This brings us into line with other denominational and secular observances of Women's Week (World Day of Prayer for Women is March 7; International Women's Day is March 8). The week encompasses Sunday March 2, Festival of Transfiguration, and Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday.

Women's Week will explore a new world of prayer possibilities, using social media to connect us with one another and with the Divine. Wisdom is shared from generation to generation—elders and youth learning to pray together. **Women and Girls, (Men, too) come to the World Day of Prayer being celebrated In Hillsboro on March 7.** Note to our W S & O and CE: maybe we could think of other ways to celebrate Women's Week.

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

The Woman's Guild met at noon on January 8th, but the February 5th meeting was cancelled due to the all day snow storm. Ten members and interim Pastor Leonard made the January meeting. Joyce P. and Jane L. were the hostesses and served coffee, tea and a delicious chocolate cake. The business meeting started afterward. Joyce P. did devotions, reading a poem about slowing down, freedom from fear and having hope. Joyce's mother, Edith Daniels, had saved this poem years ago from a newspaper. The November minutes and Treasurer's reports were accepted. The 2014 Guild budget was reviewed and accepted after removing one line item. There was a report on members welfare including Margaret, Esther and others. Some members are away for the

winter in sunnier climes for now, but will be flocking back in March or April. Members are starting to bring handiwork into the meetings to show what we might make for the August Summer Fair crafts table. Marian Sullivan's phone number was corrected in our membership directory and since then Betty Dishong has a new phone number. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm after an enjoyable session. **The next two Guild meetings will be on March 5th and April 2nd at noon.** Please consider coming to a meeting for fun and friendship. Bring along a bag lunch for yourself and enjoy cake and coffee or tea prepared by the hostess of the month. There is always room at our table for more friends!

Quilts for Summer Fair raffle

Barbara Glauner, Debbie Carpenter

Debbie Carpenter of Cottage Quilters in Deering has made two quilts for the church to raffle off at the Summer Fair on August 9, 2014. Pictures of both quilts will appear in the May - June newsletter issue. Quilt #1 is called "Dancing Stars", a broken star variation consisting of stars within stars complemented by star and floral appliqué in background areas. It is queen size, (approximately 92" by 92", exact size to be determined upon completion of quilt); it is multi-colored with a "country" feel; and is made of 100% cotton fabric and batting. Quilt #2 is called "Nine-patch and Rails". Simple blocks are set on point and set off by feather-quilted borders. It is a large couch throw, approximately 58" by 75" in rose, green and cream, made with 100% cotton fabric and batting.

There will be one raffle ticket sold for both quilts. The first person drawn will choose one of them and the second person drawn will receive the remaining quilt.

Pieced and machine quilted by Debbie Carpenter of Cottage Quilters, Deering NH



Musical Notes

Barbara Glauner

A musical soiree, followed by refreshments, was held on February 28 at Deering Church. Pictures and a write-up will appear in the May / June Newsletter since it occurred after the newsletter deadline.

The Praise Band will participate in our church service on March 16th.

A Hymn Sing will be held at the Deering Church on March 14th with Smith Church. A pot luck supper is scheduled at 6 pm with the hymn sing thereafter.

Sunday School

Chris Nase

We are hoping to team up with World Service to participate in some earth healthy events in support of the UCC's 2014 Mission 4/1 Earth campaign.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Bon Vivant Dinners

Suzanne Huggard

The once-a-month get-togethers started by Pastor Barbara Currie are continuing, organized by Lauren Warner and Suzanne Huggard. Those who have attended over the past year have enjoyed the company of small groups of church family and friends in settings as diverse as a campground and an island, as well as being welcomed warmly into many homes.

It works like this: a sign-up sheet is posted with the date of the next dinner (usually a Friday or Saturday evening). It is available for 2 weeks for those interested to sign up. Some volunteer to host. Depending on the number of people who sign up, we will assign 4-8 people to each host for a total of 6-10 at each dinner. The host decides the menu, prepares the main course and will call/email you to determine what you might like to bring.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to become better acquainted with those who sit in the pews with them on Sunday or work with them on committees. These dinners are not limited to just a small group, but are for all who are part of this community of faith. Not everyone is able to host a dinner, but that should not stop you from enjoying this special fellowship. Not everyone is an accomplished chef, but everyone can contribute something simple to any meal. The food is always good, but the fun and fellowship are more important. Please do not stay away because you don't drive (or don't drive at night). There is always someone to pick you up, and we would be happy to arrange for a ride. Friends are always welcome, so if you'd like to bring someone along, please sign them up.

If you have any questions at all- contact Lauren ,529-3701, 4321lauren@gmail.com or Suzanne, 464-4781, shuggard@mcttelecom.com .

A Bon Vivant dinner was held at the Marcroft's house on January 24th. At the dinner were Sam Kelly, Ruth and Leonard Zecchini, Phil Holmes, hosts Lee and Christine Marcroft, Bob Fuller, David Holmes, daughter Suzanne Marcroft and her friend Vicki. Good and fun conversation was had by all!!



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. March 2 donations start with Weare & April 6, Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for cans of meat for **March**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and for **April**, paper items such as toilet tissue, paper towels and Kleenex type tissues, along with things like 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



MARCH

Esther McLain, 11

Timothy Ferwerda, 31

APRIL

Maggie Carter, 5

Sean Carter, 5

Robert Compton, 7

Jane Levesque, 14

Jeanne Bartlett, 16

Ruth Ann Robinson, 25



Thank you to Christine Marcroft for many of the photos used in the Newsletters, making them more interesting to read!

Checks for the Feinstein Challenge participation should be made payable to and mailed to:
Hillsboro District Food Pantry
107 Windsor Road
Hillsborough, NH, 03244

Happy Anniversary

It is here again - that time of the year when the Hillsboro District Food Pantry participates in the Feinstein Challenge. For the past 14 years, a man named Allen Shawn Feinstein has given away \$1 million dollars of his own money to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country. During the months of March 2014 and April 2014, all monies raised and items donated to the Hillsboro District Food Pantry (each given a value of \$1 per can or pound) will result in the receipt of a proportionate share of the **Feinstein \$1 Million Dollar Grant**. The more money we raise, the more money we may receive. This is our third year participating in the Feinstein Challenge. If you would like to help there are several ways to do so: (1) Make a donation by cash or check to the Hillsboro District Food Pantry, (2) Plan a food drive. (3) Plan and put together your own fund raising effort, (4) Spread the word to local organizations and churches encouraging them to support the effort. **Remember to be eligible for the Feinstein monies, all monetary donations, pledges and food item donations must be received between March 1, 2014 through April 30, 2014.** Please feel free to contact Norma Hubbard at (603)478-3923.

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 & 8 am Breakfast & Workday
2 Worship 10 am with Communion, Deacons Fund CE	3	4 Yoga 9 am Tuesdays	5 Ash Wednesday Guild @ Noon 	6  Choir Practice most Thursdays 7 pm	7 World Day of Prayer 7 pm Service Hillsboro Methodist Church	8 Clocks go forward, Day- light Savings begins Sunday
9 Worship 10 am, CE	10	11 Voting Dat Deering Town Election	12 7 pm W S & O	13	14 6 pm Deering Church Hymn Sing & Potluck with Smith Church	15 Deering Annual Town Meeting @ Town Hall
16 Worship 10 am, CE, Praise Band Pflag Concord 3 pm	17 St Patrick's Day 	18	19 7 pm Trustees	20 Spring Begins	21	22
23 Worship 10 am, CE	24	25	26 7 pm Deacons	27	28	29
30 Worship 10 am, CE	31					

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Yoga, 9 am Tuesdays	2 Guild @ Noon 	3  Choir Practice most Thursdays @ 7 pm	4	5 7 % 8 am Breakfast & Workday
6 Worship 10 am with communion, Deacons Fund CE	7	8	9	10	11	12
		7 pm Council	7 pm W S & O			
13 Palm Sunday Worship 10 am, CE	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
			7 pm Trustees			
20 Easter Sunday Worship 10 am, CE	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 10 am, CE	28	29	30			
			7 pm Deacons			

**Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
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603-464-5643
Interim Pastor Leonard
Zecchini**

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

These days, I'm reminded of the great Christmas carol with text by Christina Rossetti that says to us in part, "In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds made moan; Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow; In the bleak midwinter, long ago." The several snowfalls we've had over the last week make me feel that shoveling snow is more than a part time job. School closing are all too common and in our house an abundance of hats, coats and boots are left out to dry near the woodstove.

However, midwinter at our church is anything but bleak. This is an exciting time in our church year and in our church history. To me, the annual meeting told it all. It was an inspiration to hear of the activities, events and work being done by members in their various committees. But perhaps even more inspiring was to see the report of the nominating committee. I don't recall a time when every board and committee in the church had such a full slate. When the Christian Education committee needed one more person, Jeanne Bartlett spontaneously stepped up and offered to serve beyond her otherwise busy church schedule. She had been on Christian Ed for years some time ago and now she is ready to lend a hand again. Our church provides equal opportunity for all to worship and participate in the tasks involved in keeping our church community going strong. Pastor Zecchini assured us that though we are a small church in numbers, we are just as active if not more so than the best of them. I'm grateful to all of those who so willingly give their time to keep the church moving forward.

Jim Carpenter eloquently spoke of those who have come before us, and that we must never forget them, and what they personally brought to our lives and the community. Couple this with pictures that Christine Marcroft brought to church last Sunday destined for the archives, showing many of the people we've all known so well over the past ten years or so who are no longer with us. They included images of Cynthia Ward, Beverly Yeaple, Ruth Palmer, Leo Vogelien and others who were such close friends and regularly brightened the pews with their presence and their quick smile. These archives are carefully managed by Pricilla Beaudrault. They serve as a reminder to us of our place in the history of the church. We are the stewards of the institution at this point in time, and are entrusted with the care and maintenance of the church, both spiritually and physically. It is reassuring to me to know that those who made commitments at the annual meeting have done so with enthusiasm and verve. We would hope that succeeding generations will look back at pictures of us and agree that our job was done well.

Our commitments are further reinforced by our involvement in the 'Prepare to Serve' program being held by the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ Church in Concord. We have a sizable contingent from our church planning to attend, and indeed, Jami Boyle, Steve Waters and Lee Marcroft have all agreed to lead individual forums. It is again a great testament to the people of our small community that we take such an active role. We show that we are not only interested in learning about accomplishing our tasks and how to do them even better, but then we lead others in the process.