

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor Leonard's Pen

May, June 2014



As I have been pondering what I might share with you in this May-June newsletter, I looked at both a secular calendar and a calendar of the Christian Church. Sunday, May 11th is Mothers Day. I notice also that Thursday, May 8th is the day of commemorating "Mother Julian

of Norwich" (England). You may never have heard of her. Yet she, a lady who lived over 650 years ago, is one of the more interesting figures in Christianity. She is remarkably modern in her attitude and outlook for one who lived in mediaeval times. I thought it would be interesting to share something about her since Mother Julian's day is so close to Mothers Day.

We do not know her real name. She is called Julian because she became an "anchorite" living in a dwelling attached to St Julian's Church in Norwich, the principal community in the English county of Norfolk. An anchorite was a person, male or female, called of God to live as a solitary person, a life of separation from the world, a life of prayer and contemplation (not necessarily a nun or monk), a life also as what in today's world we would call a counsellor or therapist. The "anchorhold" was a dwelling of two or three rooms physically attached to the side of a church. There was an entrance from the street to an anteroom where people would come to consult the anchorite through a window into the anchorite's "cell". Members of the nobility as well as the common folk came to anchorites for counsel. Lady Julian lived from 1342 to around 1417, dying at the age of seventy plus, an ancient age in that era. We know of her primarily through a book she wrote. Julian produced the first known book in the English language written by a woman. This is remarkable since women certainly were not educated in mediaeval times. Most of the nobility were also illiterate. It is also remarkable that her book has survived down through the centuries. *Revelations of Divine Love* is quite modern (although it is a difficult read) in its outlook and understanding of God's love. In that time God was perceived as the heavenly judge, maintaining very high standards for humans to live up to. When they, of course, failed, God was ready to cast them into the pit of hell or to inflict them with some dire

disease in punishment.

It was in 1372 when she was thirty and suffering from what was considered a terminal illness (she was given the Last Rites) that she experienced a series of sixteen visions revealing various aspects of God's love. She recovered from her illness and spent the next twenty years pondering the meaning of these visions and recorded them in her book. Here are two quotations from Lady Julian's book.

"From the time these [visions] were first revealed [to me] I had often wanted to know what was our Lord's meaning. It was more than fifteen years after that I was answered in my spirit's understanding. 'You would know our Lord's meaning in this thing! Know it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it you? Love. What did he show? Love. Why did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Hold on to this and you will know and understand love more and more. But you will not know or learn anything else — ever!'"

Many have found strength in these words the Lord gave her: "I [the Lord] can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and you can see for yourself that all manner of things shall be well."

May we cling to that message as we live in a world that desperately needs to know the love and hope of God! For those of you would would like to learn more about Julian of Norwich I can suggest some reading that will not be onerous..



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Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

Easter was joyful, and what a wonderful church service we had. It started out by being such a beautiful morning with a bright blue sky and crisp spring air. With the sanctuary filled with the lovely smell of flowers, great attendance in the congregation, the choir well in tune, Pastor Leonard's message strong, and with the help of Warren Geissinger at the organ, the entire service was a moving event. Once again, keeping with tradition, the Easter service was very special indeed.

Workday, Saturday May 3rd: I'd like to take the opportunity to suggest that wider Deering church community consider giving some time during the next workday, on Saturday May 3. This will be one where many of us will be focusing on cleaning up the outside of the building, removing leaves, brush and other debris from the church grounds. Much has collected after such a long winter. The regular crew will be there, but they are in the middle of a larger project of sealing the basement walls. We'll need all the help we can muster to work on the outside of the building. Remember that you needn't come at 7:00 for breakfast, although all are welcome to do so.

After 8:00, there will be the somewhat reduced offering of coffee and coffee cake. We start work at around 8:00, and try to keep our projects to under two hours, so you should be home sometime shortly after 10:00.

Bring a rake or other outdoor tools you feel comfortable with, and dig in! It's not that much time, but will have a significant effect on the overall appearance of our beautiful facility.



Let me also give you an update on where we are in the ministerial search process. As you must know, we've been delighted with our having Rev. Leonard Zecchini as our interim minister. We have come to know both him and his wife Ruth, and they have found their way into our hearts. Leonard's casual yet

powerful words from the pulpit are inspiring, making us want to hear more. How incredible the turnout for his Lenten study series! Often is the case where a church will be delighted with their interim minister, to the point where the inevitable question arises, "why don't we just keep our interim minister on a permanent basis?" I've heard it already from more than one member of the church. Please know that while it has so far been wonderful having Leonard and Ruth with us, having them stay permanently is not a possibility. To guard against such a thing from being seriously considered, it was explicitly included in the words that Leonard spoke in the Liturgy of Welcome we held in January: "... Trusting the Holy Spirit, through the search process, I promise not to seek or encourage or accept a call to become the permanent pastor..." He has so far done his job well, and in the short time he has been with us, we have gained much from him sharing his faith and experience. We have, and will continue to enjoy his time with us. Know that at some point however, he will depart. Assuring are the words that we spoke in response to his: "... We promise Pastor Zecchini our love, respect and support as a minister of Christ's gospel. We promise to accept his gifts of ministry and experience. We promise to say farewell at the end of the interim time, grateful for our mutual ministry..."

The search committee for a 'settled' minister has not yet been formed. The timing for that to happen is discussed regularly at Church Council meetings. Collectively we believe that it is appropriate for a bit more time to pass before this next step in the search process is begun. It's reassuring to know that several individuals have already approached me, wanting to be considered for committee membership. As I've mentioned before, when the time is right, the process will move forward and all will have the opportunity to nominate themselves or others. It continues to be an exciting time in the life of the Deering Community Church. My deep and sincere thanks to all who make it a reality.

Financial News

The Huggard's

A little bit of info about pledging and the budget— more than you probably wanted to know!

As you know, each fall there is a Stewardship Campaign during which the congregation is asked to make a pledge of money in support of the church and the next year's annual budget. When the total amount pledged is known, the Trustees can then prepare the budget largely based upon this pledged amount. Then they estimate other income, such as fundraising and 'loose offering' based on several years' history to arrive at a bottom line of 'budgeted' (expected) income.

As the first quarter of 2014 has ended, you may be interested to know just how the income flow is, and what may affect it. In 2014, there are 28 'pledging units', which may represent single individuals or two person households, so there are more than 28 people represented in this figure. This year, all are members of this church – some years they are not. The range of pledge amount is from less than \$100 to \$5000 plus. Every single pledge is important, no matter the amount. There are also a number of people who generously and regularly support the church with cash donations, but choose not to pledge any given amount. These donations count as 'loose offering' and are not counted against the pledged income noted in the budget, as they are an unknown figure that cannot be included in budget planning. This is why some years the 'loose offering' figure is a lot more, or less, than the budgeted amount.

Sometimes, pledges are paid in advance of the budget year, and this is true this year. If that is the case, the income from pre-paid pledges is shown in the year it was received (2013) and does not show up in 2014 income. However, it is important to know how we are doing- is pledged money coming in as anticipated- so in reporting 'pledge performance' (at the bottom of the Financial Secretary's report) this figure includes money received in 2014 as well as amounts pre-paid in 2013. The total amount pledged for 2014 was \$42,766. As of March 31, 2014, the total amount

received as pledge income was \$13,005.00, which includes pledges pre-paid in Dec. 2013.

In 2013, we came very close to completely fulfilling the total pledge amount, missing the goal by less than \$1,000. This was really quite impressive, as it is very normal in most churches to fall short of pledge fulfillment by 5% or more. We have started 2014 very well. Let's keep up the good work !

Suzanne Huggard, Financial Secretary

From the Treasurer

The good news for the first quarter is that we are in the black. The not so good news is that just like everyone else, the church was hit with high oil bills and the budget was blown away by the cost of snow removal. So, we hope that next winter begins with mild weather and that the snow holds off until the new year. Other than those two line items, everything is about where it should be at this time of year. I am sure the WS&O Committee will report on the wonderful response to the OGHS appeal. That will be paid to the NH Conference when it is all in. Even the coffee fund is in the black at the moment and that almost never happens. So, all in all, there is a good outlook from the treasury.

Stuart Huggard, Treasurer



Trustees Report

The trustees have been busy working on their to-do list around the church this winter despite the cold weather. Dave Bell dealt with fixing or replacing leaky faucets throughout the church sinks. Jean Lewis tackled the fire extinguisher issue, as it was found upon inspection that all the old fire extinguishers were obsolete and had to be replaced. Since then she has gotten us on an annual schedule to have the extinguishers checked. Bob Fuller manufactured a panel to mount the extinguisher in Sherwood Hall and installation was accomplished at the next workday. Another workday project that was tackled was the wall preparation and sealing of the north wall in the Sunday School room. Bob brought in brush mounted angle grinders to prep the wall and Tim brought a gallon of UGH waterproofing sealer to apply to the wall. The same treatment for the south wall will begin with warmer weather so that the water problem can be addressed from the outside. The Trustees will continue to work on items from their master list each workday with the help of any and all workers from the church.

From the minutes of the meetings, David Bell

Workdays:

As mentioned in the Moderator's report also, **the next two Saturday morning workdays will be May 3rd and June 7th.** With warmer weather, we are gearing up for spring clean up of the outside grounds now that the snow has disappeared and we can see the ravages of winter around the church. Since the trustees and helpers will be concentrating on the waterproofing of an outside wall, **we need all hands on deck from the church for this additional outdoor clean up effort.** To celebrate Earth Day, please muster as many people as possible from 8 to 10 am for indoor cleaning, as well as the very important **outdoor spring clean up**, weather permitting. Bring your own tools like gloves, rakes, etc. Breakfast is served for early workers at 7 and the work day begins at 8 am or as soon as you can come. We thank everyone who volunteers a couple hours of their valuable time for these chores to help ease the strain on our budget.

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

By the time you see this, we will have hopefully already done our walk to church. The plan is to meet at Lauren's house at 8:45 a.m. on April 27, but if the weather was bad our rain date is May 4, same time and place. We will call and email if we need to use the rain date.

Why are we walking to church you may ask? The Sunday School and World Service are working together to offer several different activities in support of the **Mission 4/1 Earth**. This mission helps us remember to do our part in taking care of our earth and natural resources. In addition to the walk, we can participate in the Weare town wide clean up on April 26 (completed prior to this newsletter), the Deering town wide clean up on May 3, and the plant sale which benefits the food pantry with the May 30 set up day, and May 31 plant sale day. For additional information on these activities please contact Chris Nase or Jeanne Bartlett.

On Easter, over 100 eggs were hidden and hopefully found on the snow free church lawn. The children were mistakenly released slightly early and several members still in church remarked at how they saw the children running to find eggs as they were singing "Alleluia". Quite a joyous scene!



W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

From New Hampshire to Zimbabwe... another shipping container is being filled with much needed items from churches all over NH. Please consider participating in this powerful humanitarian effort! Here is a list of things that would be most appreciated by our friends in Rimbi and other towns and villages in Zimbabwe: **Pain relievers-ibuprofen, aspirin, vitamins (children and adults), toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap. Reading glasses and sunglasses. Gently worn clothing for children and infants, sneakers and shoes in great condition (all sizes), socks for males and females, kids.** We hope to fill a box or two and keep shipping costs at 30.00. (It costs \$10.50 per cubic foot) Buy a cubic foot or bring some socks or vitamins, etc.!! Look over the list; a box will appear soon to receive your gifts. Deadline is May 18. Speak to Jeanne, Lauren, Christine, or Peg for more info.

The **women at the Goffstown prison** always enjoy our handwritten messages on **cards for Mothers' Day**. Please pick up some cards from the table in the foyer and bring them back on or before May 4 with your thoughtful words to someone you have never met. No envelopes, please. More sewing supplies and greeting cards have been donated and will gratefully be delivered to the Goffstown Women's Prison ASAP. Thank you!!

The **Welcome Basket project** is alive and well and now that most driveways are clear of ice and snow (albeit we now have mud) we will be visiting several new residents. Thanks to those who alert us to newcomers in the area.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** yielded \$449.00, to this date. Included in that sum is the generous donation of \$200.00 from the Deering Women's Guild.

Jami Boyle's Ordination



Jami Boyle is being ordained at the Deering Community Church on Sunday, June 1st at 3 pm and everyone is encouraged to come to send her on her way as a new Vicar, having sponsored and supported her through her years of study and training to reach this goal. She is very happily serving as the settled pastor of Bethany Chapel in Manchester where she started on March 16th. We all wish her well.

Bon Vivant Dinner

Picture by Christine Marcroft

A wonderful dinner was held at the Carpenter's home in February. Here is a photo showing that gathering. Now that the recent holidays are over, look for sign up sheets in the parish hall announcing new intimate dinner gatherings. Lauren Warner with Suzanne Huggard are in charge of organizing these evening events at different people's homes. Everyone has a grand time getting to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

With the very cold and snowy winter, the February meeting was cancelled and there was light attendance in March. The April meeting brought a swelling of the ranks in attendance. During our luncheon, we chatted, catching up with everyone since the winter. We got reports that Margaret Colburn and Esther McLain are doing well from those who have visited them recently. During the business meeting, Barbara Glauner turned in the quilt raffle tickets she had made and they are ready to sell. Deborah Carpenter brought in her two quilts and Barbara photographed them for this newsletter. The couch throw is finished and the queen size quilt is approaching completion. That brought up the fact that we need a few people from the church to organize the sale of the raffle tickets starting in late

May or early June. We decided that Joyce Peace and Jeanne Bartlett would bring this up at the Tuesday April 8th Council Meeting, as well as the need for fair chairman from the church to work with the Guild. Since the Summer Fair is the one church wide major fund raising project, we need volunteers from the entire church to get behind this event. Then we talked about the fair and any new ideas that the ladies had for that. Jeanne Bartlett came up with a great idea for a dried bean soup kit for sale with tasting samples to try, which will give us something new and different to offer. We touched on other areas of the fair that the Guild covers as well. Our meeting ended with a prayer around 2 pm.

Summer Fair Quilts to Raffle

By Deborah Carpenter



"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"); is multi-colored with a "country" feel; and is made of 100% cotton fabric and batting.

"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. Both quilts are pieced and machine quilted by Debbie Carpenter of Cottage Quilters, Deering, NH.



Musical Notes

Jane Waters

On February 28th a Musical Soiree was held at Deering Church at 7 pm. The evening included Steve Waters MC and Jane Waters accompanist along with:

"The Three of Us" -- guitar and vocals by Peter Cram, George Kelly, and Bob Pope.

Ruth Robinson -- Clarinet

Sam Kelly - Banjo and vocals

Bob Santagata - Soloist

Sissi Shattuck - Soloist singing folk songs

Deering Community Church Choir

Heidi Welch -- Solos with guitar

"Ladies in Treble" - HDHS Quartet

Jeanne Bartlett - poetry

In addition to these, little Kadie, Angela's grand-daughter stole the scene with her violin. We had a talented young lady pianist. Jami and Jonathan rendered some really lovely harmonies and Peter and his guys closed the evening with wonderful sing along tunes. It was a very special and well attended evening.

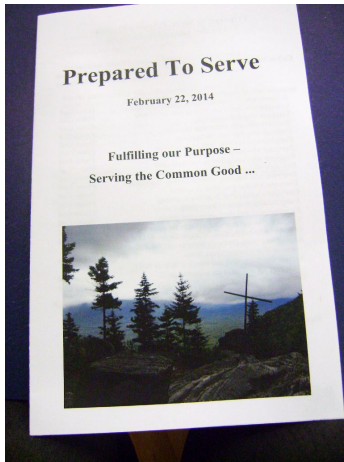


The hymn sing here was a joyful sharing with Smith Church on **Friday, March 7**. As always the potluck supper was delicious and we all enjoyed singing our favorite hymns with Barbara Daley accompanying and Jane Waters directing. It was suggested we have another get together in the Fall at Smith.



Prepared to Serve, Ukama

Marcroft



Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries. May 4 and June 1 donations start with Hillsboro.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **May**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **June**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, 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



MAY

Stephen Waters, 3
Marjorie Weeden, 12
Joyce Peace, 14
Hailey Nase, 19
Angela Bell, 20
Suzanne Huggard 26

JUNE

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



Happy Anniversary

JUNE

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

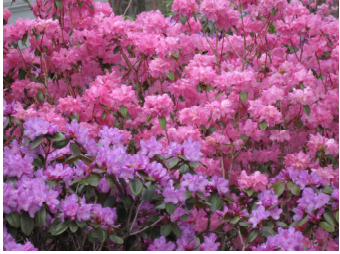
FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 15

We are grateful for
our father's and
grandfathers who
have made such an
impact on our lives
as we celebrate
Father's Day on
Sunday June 15th.

Deering Roads Clean Up Day

On **May 3**, after our morning grounds clean up at our church, you can pitch in and help clean up the trash on your roadsides around the town of Deering. These events celebrate Earth Day.

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  2 Choir Practice 7 pm most Thursdays		3 7 am Breakfast & 8 am Workday 
4 10 am Worship with Communion Deacon's Fund CE	5	6 Yoga, 9 am Tuesdays	7 Guild @ Noon 	8	9	10
11 10 am Worship, CE Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
		7 pm Council	7 pm WS&O			
18 10 am Worship, CE	19	20	21	22	23	24
3 pm Pflag Concord			7 pm Trustees			
25 10 am Worship	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31 Deering Plant Sale @ Town Hall 9 am
			7 pm Deacons			

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion, CE 3 pm, J Boyle Ordination	2	3 Yoga, 9 am Tuesdays	4 Guild @ Noon 	5  Choir Practice 7 pm most Thursdays	6	7 7 am Breakfast & 8 am Workday 
8 10 am Worship, CE	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 
		7 pm Council	7 pm WS&O			
15 10 am Worship, CE Father's Day 3 pm Pflag, Concord	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Begins 
			7 pm Trustees			
22 10 am Worship, CE	23	24	25	26	27	28
			7 pm Deacons			
29 10 am Worship,	30					

**Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244
603-464-5643**

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deeringcommunitychurch.org

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Community Church, United
Church of Christ*

