

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Pen



THANKSGIVING

You can take a moment and let your mind dwell on the word "Thanksgiving". What comes to mind? Really, take a moment, now, and let your thoughts go free. What did you notice as you dwelt on "Thanksgiving"? If you are

like I am you smelled roasting turkey, boiled onions, squash, mashed potatoes, and various pies. You may have heard voices of gathering family and friends and you may have heard "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." You may have even, if you are a dyed-in-the-wool Yankee, seen a scene in your mind's eye of John and Priscilla Alden, Miles Standish, Massasoit, and other inhabitants of the Plymouth area gathered round a trestle table (also known as a "groaning board") laden with fowl, fish, venison, and produce.

Those of us who are of our New England Congregational background, as spiritual descendants of the Pilgrims, may access images similar to these from our heritage. If we were to go back in time and step into that scene we might find our sense of giving thanks at that first Thanksgiving rapidly falling away. Times were bad in that wilderness. Many of the Plymouth Colony had died from disease, malnutrition, and starvation. November then was much more severe than we are now used to. We would also find their stark brand of Calvinistic Christianity too severe and harsh to our liking. The idealized images of our heritage would not jibe with its reality and we would long to rush back into the future.

But consider that our Thanksgivings often involve unpredictable air schedules or highways choked with cars as people fit in a last visit with family before winter weather makes travel disagreeable, arrivals of cranky children and weary adults in cramped quarters, along with the beginning a hectic Christmas season filled with commercialism having

nothing to do with the coming of Jesus. Have I thrown enough cold water on Thanksgiving?

Here, from *The Book of Common Prayer*, is a litany which I believe speaks the true spirit of Thanksgiving. You might consider using it or adapting it for your table blessing this Thanksgiving Day.

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of women and men, revealing the image of Jesus Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places



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Pastor's Pen cont.

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS

The spirit of family is particularly strong at Christmas. Often this sense of family is helpful, fulfilling, uplifting, supportive, and comfortable. Sometimes this holiday sense of family is empty, oppressive, painful or uncomfortable. How we respond depends upon our personal circumstances, our personal experiences.

The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, are the epitome of us all. Whatever you have experienced in your life, as you read the gospel stories I believe you will find that most if not all of your feelings are described in the experiences of the Holy Family as well.

This is part of what the Incarnation of God in human flesh is about—God coming to join our humanity in the person of Jesus, joining with a human family and its strengths, joys, and also its burdens. God has given us himself in human flesh so as to experience the totality of our human existence, our human life.

A friend has shared with me the following story. One evening in Advent a pastor was called by her four children to come and be the audience for their living room Christmas play. Usually she entered the play's "set" to find Jesus played by a flashlight wrapped in a blanket, Joseph defined by his bathrobe and mop-handle staff, Mary looking solemn with a sheet-draped head, the angel of the Lord with pillow-case wings, and one wise king with another pillowcase of gifts. This year the king was being played by the youngest child, who explained herself and her mission. "I'm all three wise men. I bring precious gifts: gold, circumstance, and mud."

Consider just how wise those three gifts truly would be, if we lay them before the Christ child.

Our gold: The most common item of our own enslavement. We spend so much of our time and energy trying to save money, make money, manage money that it easily can become the focus of our lives. Handing over our gold to God then becomes a symbol of our commitment to a different set of values.

Our circumstance: We all live within our particular circumstances, sometimes freeing, sometimes limiting, sometimes depressing, sometimes challenging. But it is a safe bet that none of us considers our particular set of circumstances to be ideal—the realization of our hopes and dreams. Instead of wishing that our lives had taken shape in a different way along differing paths, consider offering God ourselves this Christmas, whatever circumstances surround our lives.

Our mud: Through real effort we have all gradually added enough dirt and grit to the clear waters of our lives to muddy them up into a silty, slimy, solidifying mess. By taking our mud to Jesus Christ we do not dirty our relationship with God, rather we obtain fresh water for our lives, water to sluice down our muddy nature and get the flow of pure waters running through our souls again.

Give God the greatest of the wise gifts this Christmas—your gold, circumstance, and mud; that is, your whole life. May the risen and glorified Jesus Christ accept the gifts of your very lives and bathe them with the clear living water which is his own life. O holy Child of Bethlehem!

Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in;

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Emmanuel!

Leonard Zecchini, Interim Pastor

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

In the last newsletter, I mentioned how the formation of the Pastoral Search Committee was imminent. Indeed, at the recent meeting of the Church Council, the recommendation was made to form the committee of church members Steve and Jane Waters, Bryan Terry, Jean Lewis, Hailey Nase, Sam Kelly, and Jane Leveque. The Council approved the motion unanimously, and the Search Committee was formed! Immediately, plans were made to meet with conference ministers to move forward with search planning. However, as many of you know, it was shortly thereafter that Steve experienced health issues that caused us to temporarily postpone our plans. We're fortunate to have interim Pastor Zecchini with us, making the postponement less of an issue. We're all wishing Steve the best through his recovery.

Much has been made of the recent sidewalk project, and those involved in the construction appreciate the support and positive comments from so many people. With the exception of some landscaping on the church side of the walkway, the project is considered complete at this point. Many thanks go to Barbara Glauner, who was able to take pictures through many of the work days.

Of course now that the bushes that were alongside the old sidewalk have been removed, some additional issues with the building have been

uncovered. We have known for some time that the sills were in need of work, but the extent of the damage wasn't made clear until now. Bill Bartlett was hired to repair the sill rot that was exposed along the walk from the front corner of the church back toward the doors, as far as was needed.

With the falling of the leaves and the start of winter preparations, some of us have our thoughts directed to the church budgeting process. Yes, with the annual meeting only a few months away, the Trustees have already begun putting in place numbers for next year's church budget. And while the process of trying to make numbers match resources isn't always a preferred activity, it can stir some real excitement. It's a time when church members can reflect on the areas they feel the church should expand (or lessen) involvement. It's often the case that the areas where the church spends the most money, there is the greatest involvement and interest of its members. If there are areas or issues that you feel the church should spend more of their collective time, talent and resources, let any one of the church's leadership know. The more everyone is involved in the budgeting process, the more our work will reflect the interests and values of us all. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Huggard

This has been a busy year for our church. There has been a lot going on and money has been spent. Thanks to the donated labor of Tim Ferwerda, Bob Fuller, Peter Cram, and Dave Bell the cost of the new walk was kept to the expenses for supplies and heavy machine work by Ray Daniels. The walk was paid for out of funds that were part of our capital campaign, so now we have accomplished three of our goals; the new windows, the doors, and the walkway. We overspent that fund by about \$500.00. Some line items of our budget also have been overspent. The trustees decided early in the year that we needed to pay for lawn care. Barry La Valley gave us a very good cost per mowing because he could do it when he does the town mowing. Still, that was an unbudgeted expense. We also are going to overspend the line items for electricity and fuel oil. All that being said, we are still in a good position financially. Projections to the end of the year suggest that we will be in the black. That will depend on how well we do with our pledge commitments. (see Suzanne's report). It also is due to the fact that we have had several unbudgeted donations this year that have helped immensely.

Financial Secretary's Report

Suzanne Huggard

The report for the 3rd quarter, ending September 30, 2014, shows that income is as expected to this point in the year, with no unexpected losses- and a few nice surprises! The amount pledged by the congregation in support of the church for 2014 is \$42,766.00. At September 30, we have received pledge payments of \$32,028.00. This means we need pledge income of \$10,738.00, or \$3,580/month to fulfill this pledge amount. This is exactly the amount projected at the beginning of the year for monthly pledge giving.

Please make every effort to bring your pledge up to date, if possible. It is very important, as our search for a new settled minister begins, that we show that our congregation is able to support the ministry of the Deering Community Church. Your help is needed.

Trustees Report & Workdays

Nase, Bell and Glauner

The sidewalk and drainage work is finished! When the bushes were removed around the building during the work in September, a large amount of rot was seen on the building requiring extensive repair work. Recently, Bill Bartlett was hired to repair the sill rot and that job is now done. Landscaping will be done later. Peter is pursuing automation for opening and closing of the door, and will get estimates and follow up with Chuck Gaides on his level of contribution.

Hazel researched the price of the lighter weight folding tables - \$79 each available at SAM's. Stuart and David will pick up six tables soon.

The Trustees plan to fix the elevator/lift. David checked with someone at the Weare town hall about what they do, because there is a similar lift there. They said that there is a state requirement to have the elevator inspected yearly. At the Council meeting in October, Stuart suggested that repairs be made and then put the cost of the inspection in the budget for next year. Bryan had cleaned the lift area on a work day.

In the church kitchen, one of the stoves had three burners that were not working. It was decided that rather than do some minor repairs to the old stoves to make them functional again, the Trustees would look into replacing both old stoves. In October, as a result of two generous donations, (Thank You!), two new stoves were delivered and set into place, and the old ones taken away.

Bob Fuller decided to resign from the Trustees board but said he will still continue to help on work projects. Al Glauner decided to resign from the Trustees Board due to his health problems and inability to contribute as a member.

WORKDAYS

The next two Saturday workdays are November 1st and December 6th. We will need to pursue outdoor fall cleanup and indoor general cleaning, so please show up to help keep our church and property in top shape! Bring your rakes and gloves for leaf cleanup. We badly need your help, so please give some of your time the first Saturday morning of each month to help maintain our facilities and help our budget.



NEW STOVES

Construction Report

Barbara Glauner

Drainage Work and New Walkway Construction

Construction began on Thursday, September 4th, continued Friday, September 5th, and then through the regular Saturday workday of September 6th. Workdays continued every Saturday after that during September into October to finish the huge job. The crew consisted of Peter Cram, Tim Ferwerda, Bob Fuller, David Bell and help from Ray Daniels. David ordered and arranged for delivery of the concrete pavers and granite edging for the walkway along with other necessary items for this job. Ray Daniels brought his heavy equipment to bear on this project, digging up the old walkway and digging down about three feet or more, then carting that all away in his dump truck. He returned with loads of crushed stone to fill the walkway cavity and drainage trenches, then topped the walkway area with sand for the laying of the concrete pavers. Bob Fuller joined the group to lay the porous drainage pipes and attractive concrete pavers, lending his expertise in stone work to this project.

Earlier in this construction, Tim dug trenches with his equipment for the porous drainage pipe used around the church front to drain away the accumulating water from the church building. He dug a trench from the southeast corner of the Sherwood Hall at the end of the stone wall where the ground remains soggy throughout even in the driest times of the year, to the drainage system put under the sidewalk. This trench was filled with crushed gravel, drainage pipe, more crushed gravel, then topped with topsoil to replant grass along the building. The drainage pipe continued along the sides of the new walkway and the side of the

building, then continued across the front of the church and down the roadway to the new street drain on Rt 149, collecting and taking water away from all areas. Work was inspected by the DPU.

Over the years, we have had several projects that involved taking underground water away from the church building, and they have been quite successful. The additional actions that have been pursued as part of the sidewalk project will be a significant step toward making the Sunday school rooms in the basement as dry as can be, with walls that don't flake from the moisture that seeps through them, and floors that remain dry, even with heavy rains. This is a significant project that will yield many benefits.

We are so fortunate to have this group of dedicated church workers with their expertise, planning, equipment, and time and talent to thank for this **huge** amount of work to fix the problems of spring water from around the church seeping into the church basement and walls, plus a new walkway of safe level concrete paving stones up to the blue entrance doors.

During this whole process, the sills under the church building were exposed during the removal of all the bushes, showing the rot that needed replacing. Bill Bartlett was hired to repair the sill rot that was exposed along the walk from the front corner of the church back toward the doors, as far as was needed.

Peter indicated that once they are all finished, the town will come in and lower the height of the road in front of the church. Years of town maintenance has built up the height of the road. Removing some of this will make it level to the walkway.



Construction Report cont.

Barbara Glauner



Construction Report cont.

Barbara Glauner



Sunday School News

Chris Nase

Boogie On Alice performed at the pavilion on October 4. Despite a very chilly and rainy day and other conflicting events, those in attendance enjoyed the lively music and good food. Thank you to the band for being so good-natured and to Peter for organizing this event.

Sunday School continues to be available each Sunday with the exception of November 30, December 28 and January 4.

We will not be having a pageant this Christmas season but are talking about having a couple seasonal events such as caroling. Stay tuned for more information.

WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on Nov. 23, supports the UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, 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 also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED HELPS MAKE ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE. It needs your support.

We will soon have the pleasure of welcoming another visitor from Zimbabwe. Mr. Tellme Madidi will be in New Hampshire from October 10 – 27. Tellme, a resident of Harare, Zimbabwe, is President of the National Christian Youth Fellowship in Zimbabwe. He will visit local churches, attend youth and Confirmation events and the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference. Delegates from NH Churches will be going to

Zimbabwe on Oct. 26 so please take this opportunity to have your letters, to your pen pals in Rimbi, mailed or hand delivered by members of this group. Call Christine @ 529-2863 to connect with this project.

Marian Baker @ quakerbonnet@gmail.com is off to Kenya on Oct. 27th, where her focus is on enabling and encouraging Kenyan women pastors to travel in ministry to Uganda and Tanzania to help empower the women in those neighboring countries and to take leadership roles. Marian writes: "I have found that women from Kenya can minister to fellow African women in better ways than we Americans." One Kenyan woman writes: ***In Uganda we introduced how to start small income-generating projects using resources they already have in their land, citing the Biblical passage from Acts 3:6b "stand up and walk".***

Please consider helping Marian with her travel costs by sending your tax-deductible contribution to Elizabeth Straw, treasurer of Weare Monthly Meeting, and earmark it for the African ministry. Her address is 61 Flanders Memorial drive, Weare, 03281.

UKAMA

Christine Marcroft

On Oct 15, we had a festive potluck and welcome for Mr. Tellme Madidi, visiting the New Hampshire partner churches for two weeks from Zimbabwe. There was also the change-over from Rev. Kim McKerly as the UKAMA/Partnership Coordinator to Rev. Michele Bagby Allan. Rev. McKerly was presented with a handmade prayer shawl as a thank-you for her 10 years of service as our coordinator. Rev. Michele Allan is the pastor at the UCC church in North Hampton. She will travel to Zimbabwe this November with Rev. McKerly to familiarize herself with the partner churches there.



Mr. Madidi spoke about how blessed they all are in the partnership with the New Hampshire UCC churches. Tellme answered many questions about daily life and especially the economy in Zimbabwe. He also talked about the dire need of child sponsors, especially in Rimbi, because of the many orphans. Christine and Lee Marcroft have information about becoming a sponsor for these children. Tellme has a very full schedule during his stay-- visiting churches, schools, universities, attending luncheons and the confirmation retreat at Plymouth, staying overnight in

various homes. He is a delightful, friendly and open young man, and it was such a pleasure meeting and listening to him.



Musical Notes

Jane Waters,

Nov. 7 - Hymn sing with pot luck supper at Smith Church with special music to be performed by the combined choirs of our choir and the Smith Church choir. Dinner @ 6 PM; singing @ 7 PM.

Dec. 21 - Lessons and carols will be read and sung during the regular service on Sunday, Dec. 21 @ 10:00 AM with a holiday buffet to follow.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service: Location TBA, November 23rd

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM with your choice of hymns to round out 2014 very nicely.

Accents & Attitudes Concert

Christine Marcroft, Pastor Zecchini



The 'Accents and Attitudes' concert was on August 24, performed by Ellen Nordstrom, mezzo soprano. Ellen teaches at the Music School in Concord. She was wonderful! She brought her own props and sang favorite tunes from various shows with gusto and

changed into different costumes all along! We could have listened to her forever! Ellen was accompanied on the piano by Katherine Southworth, and she also performed a lovely duet with one of her students, Sophie Shaw. An altogether delightful afternoon! These pictures were taken by Leonard with his phone.



Jami Boyle's Installation

Christine Marcroft

Jami Boyle's installation was at Bethany Chapel in Manchester on October 5. This is a perfect church for her - small and cozy! Jami seems to be very happy there. The young girl in the picture sang a lovely solo during the service. After the service, delicious refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner



The Guild was very busy helping to organize and run the summer fair with the church in August. The Guild made \$1753.64 as their share of the fair proceeds. During the recent meetings, talk revolved around what new ideas we could offer at the 2015 Summer Fair. There were suggestions like smaller packages of homemade baked goods, holding a farmer's market out on the pavilion for fresh produce, more food items with tasting samples offered like the bean casserole idea from this year's fair, and a hula hoop demo with some for sale. Making herbal vinegars and the possibility of floral bouquets for sale were also suggested. Since we will not have a quilt to raffle off, suggestions for raffle ticket sales were an Apple I Pad and an I tunes gift card, and getting a new bicycle donated to offer. Impressions of the fair day were that there was a good energy and bustle among those attending, and that it was a worthwhile event bringing people and community together in a festive atmosphere which demonstrated the church's vitality and presence in the area.

During September, Hazel reported that successful delivery of Welcome Baskets were made to new residents of our town. These baskets contain helpful information about our town plus a collection of items from and about our town and our church. .

Betty researched an outing for the Guild for October 19th, starting with carpooling to lunch at the Currier Museum after our church service. Then there would be a short walk from the Currier to The Manchester Community Theater to see the Sound of Music in the afternoon. A great time was had by all.

The Guild is looking for new members to join our group of ladies who meet the first Wednesday of each month at noon in the parish hall. We bring our own lunches, and cake and coffee or tea is provided by the hostess of the month. Following lunch, we have a business meeting to talk about what is happening in and around our town. We really enjoy each other's company and would like to expand our number of friends living in this area, so please consider coming to a meeting to see who we are.

The next Guild meeting will be November 5th at noon. There is no meeting scheduled for December.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries.

Hillsboro: There is need for personal care items in **November**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and for **December** canned meats or fish such as ham, turkey, chicken, tuna, salmon, etc., but each week we welcome any items you have to offer. The Food Pantry is in need of large brown paper bags and the larger sized plastic grocery bags from Market Basket or Hannaford.

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

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

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

Suzanne Huggard,
Financial Secretary



NOVEMBER

Timothy Finn, 2

Peg Hauschildt, 8

Barbara Glauner, 18

Jane Waters, 27

DECEMBER

Christine Marcroft, 5

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Kate Kelly, 12



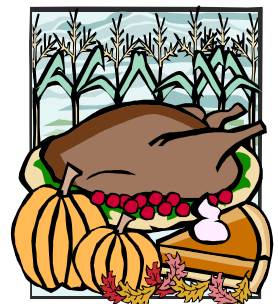
There are no wedding anniversaries to report during November and December

Greater Hillsboro Senior Services

Once a month, this organization will offer a prepared luncheon at the Deering Community Church in the Parish Hall for senior citizens living in and around the area. You can check the GHSS website for more information about the organization and what kinds of activities they offer in Hillsboro and Deering at www.ghseniorsnh.org. The November luncheon in Deering will be at noon on the 20th, and the menu is lasagna, salad and tiramisu at a cost of \$5. Rsvp for lunch reservations to Marie Merrow @ 464-3067. There is no lunch scheduled for December at this time.

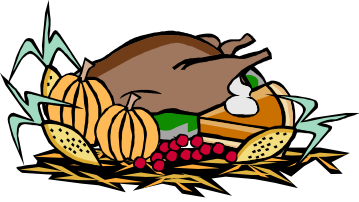
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We all have so many reasons to be thankful - -for our family, friends and all our blessings.





November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 1 WORKDAY - 7- 8 am starts. Turn Clocks back tonight
2 10 am Worship & communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	3	4 Yoga, 9 am each Tuesday	5 Guild @ Noon 	6 7 pm Choir Rehearsals 	7 Hymn Sing at Smith Church 6 pm potluck, 7 pm singing	8
9 10 am Worship, CE	10	11 Veteran's Day 7 pm Council	12 7 pm WS&O	13	14	15
16 10 am Worship, CE	17	18	19 7 pm Trustees	20 GHSS @ Noon- Lunch @ Deering Community Church	21	22
23 10 am Worship, CE Ecumenical Service TBA	24	25	26 7 pm Deacons	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 10 am Worship No CE						



December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Yoga 9 am each Tuesday	3	4 7 pm Choir Rehearsals 	5	6 WORKDAY 7 & 8 am start
7 10 am Worship & Communion Deacons Fund, CE	8	9 7 pm Council	10 7 pm WS&O	11	12	13
14 10 am Worship, CE	15	16	17 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Deacons	18	19	20
21 10 am Worship - Lessons & Carols, and a Holiday Buffet	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 10 am Worship no CE	29	30	31 New Years Eve 			

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