

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

March, April 2015



I write from under an already overloaded-with-snow home's roof with the prospect of still more snow to come!

We are entering into the Lenten-Easter season of the church's year. The word LENT comes from

an Old English word "lencten" which means "springtime". That is encouraging! The winter burdens are going to be lifted—eventually. The origin of the word EASTER is not so clear. One thought is that the word came from Old English "Oestre", an Anglo-Saxon pagan goddess whose festival was at this time of year. Also, the word could be derived from the German word *Ostern*, meaning Easter, the day of the Resurrection.

Lent is the season of preparation for celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Originally it was a time for preparation for Baptism during the Easter Vigil, the evening before Easter. During this preparation would be a time of discovery of what it meant to join through the rite of Baptism for this community following Jesus and his teaching. Each Sunday is a little Easter, a weekly recollection of the resurrection of Jesus. Following the Sunday worship, here in Deering Community Church, we will be preparing to greet the Resurrection with a weekly time of sharing using the theme "Saving Jesus". Up in the parlor, we will have an opportunity to see a short video presentation by a number of persons who have specialized their studies on various aspects of the life and message of Jesus. Join with us as we prepare to acknowledge and celebrate the festival of Jesus' resurrection.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about a change in our worship for Palm Sunday, March 29. At the invitation of Smith Memorial Church, our choir and their choir will join

together for a presentation of a worship cantata concerning the activities of Jesus and his disciples during the week leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. This will take place during worship at Smith Memorial, March 29 at 10:30 am. Therefore we will be having joint worship with the people of Smith Memorial at the Hillsboro church with the leadership of Pastor Eric Johnson and myself. There will be no Palm Sunday worship at Deering Church on that date. This is not a decision that has been made lightly. The Deacons have discussed it and it was presented to the Church Council

meeting February 10. It was decided by the Council to participate in this joint worship in Hillsboro. We hope the members and friends of Deering Community Church will support and participate in this co-operative worship experience.

There will be Easter sunrise worship with other Christian communities in the Deering-Hillsboro area in our usual hilltop field in Hillsboro at 6:30 AM, April 5. This will be followed by our church's Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus in worship at 10:00 AM in Deering Community Church.



Inside this issue:

Moderator's Desk, Workdays	2
Treasurer & Financial Sec. , Website Update	3
WS & O, Musical Notes, & Sunday School	4
Guild Gleanings, Choir Child GHSS Fund Raiser info	5
PSC Committee	6
FYI Page, Bon Vivant dinners, Passage Dick Mooney	7
March Calendar	8
April Calendar	9
Annual Meeting Photos	10

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

Just a few weeks ago, we had our Annual Meeting, and I found it remarkable on many fronts. Sure, it went smoothly as representatives of the various boards and committees read their reports. Even the financials, as presented by Suzanne and Stuart were discussed with little objection or dissent. We added some dollars to the budget to fund the Search Committee, and we added some cash to the music program, but everyone was very agreeable to all that was said. But the last half hour was where I found the excitement. We honored Jim Carpenter for his 20+ years as a deacon, a remarkable feat, and one that has had a tremendous impact on the life of the Deering Community Church. We thanked him as best we could, honoring him with the title of 'Deacon Emeritus', a distinction that required us to make an addition to the bylaws. Again we thank you Jim for your many years of service.

Honoring him as we did, the thought came to mind that we have many Jim Carpenters in our membership. People who keep the church running smoothly month after month, year after year. Looking at the slate of committee members in the Nominating Committee report, it's clear that we have more positions to fill than those that can reasonably fill them. So the number of people who serve our church family is small, but those people continue to serve us all faithfully. We are fortunate, and give thanks.

At the end of the meeting, when people were starting to get itchy to head home, I called for additional new business. It was remarkable that so many people had something to say. It was clear that

many wanted to have a discussion on the direction the church should head. Ideas were thrown out on how to attract new people to our church, and activities that we should pursue. In those somewhat chaotic moments, it was clear that we needed to provide an additional forum, to gather again to discuss these issues. Now that was exciting! Perhaps we should open it up to the community, offering a means for people to express what the wider community is looking for, and how they might like to get involved. With the Deering Church the only church in town, it would seem to me that there are people out there who would want to join us in our work. People with their own energy and creative ideas on how to serve the local and wider community. Let's have that forum, and invite them to join us.

So last week we cancelled church again due to the weather. The forecasters had predicted yet another foot of snow, and the driving was to be treacherous. It made sense for us to announce the cancellation the Saturday afternoon before the storm. An email went out to the congregation, and Channel 9 was notified to add us to their long list of cancellations. It's funny, I recall years ago when our then-minister Rev. Stan Keach used to say, "I don't care if I have to get there on skis, we will hold a church service!". That hearty New England-style anecdote is fun to say, but times are certainly different now. I'm told that some schools are having so many closings due to weather that they may hold classes until June 29th! Current thinking is that it's better to be safe than sorry, and while I do hesitate to make the call and actually close church for a Sunday, I do agree.

Workdays, March 7, April 4

Peter Cram

The February 7th workday was cancelled due to bad weather. On Saturday, February 14 (Valentine's day), workers were finishing the painting of the walls in the basement, Dave was coordinating the installation of new smoke detectors, and work was done on the lift (elevator), along with any other projects that we could tackle. **Weather permitting, the next two workdays are Saturdays, March, 7th and April, 4th.** It is hard to believe, but by April, the snows will have melted, plants and bulbs will be sprouting and we will have to address our continued list of chores and improvements around our church. So be on the outlook for notices and just show up to help out those Saturday mornings and see what havoc the winter has brought.

Budget Report, Treasurer

Stuart Huggard

At the annual meeting of the church held in January, the budget presented was approved with a few minor additions. \$250.00 was added for possible search committee expenses and \$250.00 was added to the music accompanist line to reflect actual expenses for 2014. The addition was covered by

adding \$500.00 to the carryover income line which reflects the actual carryover from 2014 which was larger than expected.

As of the middle of February, there are no unusual expenses to report.

Financial Secretary's Report

Suzanne Huggard

This church, like all UCC congregations, is self-determining and self-supporting. We do not receive any financial support from state or national UCC boards. Our annual pledge drive is an indication of the amount of support our church family is willing to promise to the Deering Community Church. This pledged amount is the primary basis for budget planning, and to this amount is added income from the endowment, fund raising (Fair) and miscellaneous other small amounts.

The annual pledge drive, which usually has occurred in November, this year did not happen until just before the Annual Meeting on January 25th. This meant that the proposed budget for 2015 had to be prepared without knowing how much support the congregation would be pledging. Last year you promised to support the mission of the church with \$42,766.00, so the amount of \$42,000.00 was placed in the budget for 2015, and the budget was adopted at the Annual Meeting. This could really be called a "Faith" budget since people's circumstances change

over the year, and, in fact, the makeup of the congregation also changes so the pledged amount was really an unknown.

But this church family can be counted on, and at this writing we have received pledges totaling \$44,600.00, which is not only more than the amount in the 2015 budget, but is also more than was pledged in 2014.

If you may be someone who has not yet pledged, your promise of support can be added anytime to this total. And, if you have pledged, and your circumstances change, your pledge can be easily adjusted anytime. There are also members and friends of the church who choose not to pledge, but give as able, many times for special projects/events. All of this creates a picture of a caring supportive church community, which is important as we move forward with our search for a settled pastor. This small, energetic, caring congregation should be proud of all it accomplishes.

Annual Report & Meeting Minutes

Barbara Glauner

David Glauner , our church Webmaster, will be posting a copy on our website of the Deering Community Church Annual Report booklet for 2014 prepared by Debbie Matthews our church secretary. It was distributed for the annual meeting held on January 25, 2015. The minutes of the January 2015 meeting, taken by Chris Nase, will be posted on our website also, along with this latest church newsletter.

The website is **www.deeringcommunitychurch.org** . Check it out near the end of February. We are grateful to David for all he does for our church.

WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett

One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication Sunday March 15, 2015

During what the Apostle Paul calls a "severe ordeal of affliction," the early churches of Macedonia somehow managed to "overflow in a wealth of generosity" for their sisters and brothers in need. Their own extreme poverty combined with their abundant joy resulted in this overflow, and as Paul testifies, they not only gave according to their means, they gave beyond their means. Yes, beyond their means! Even more remarkable, they actually begged "earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints". Giving is a privilege.

For almost seven decades, we have been putting our faith into action and making a difference, alongside literally millions of other Christians throughout North America, through the ecumenical One Great Hour of Sharing offering which funds disaster relief, food security, clean water, resettles refugees, empowers women, and provides sustainable development all over the world. For example, your gifts have been hard at work in places such as the

Philippines, where Typhoon Hagupit caused major damage impacting over 1 million people. Our response helps the entire community. Praise be to God!

Prison news: Christine and Jeanne visited the women in Goffstown at their Thursday worship service in January and delivered another donation of fabric and knitting supplies for their craft center. A personal note came to our committee from a woman inmate: *Your Christmas card made my day!* (180 cards were delivered this year, all with personal messages from a generous church family).

Teen Bags for Genesis Center: There has been an effort to find a more healthy content in the small, microwaveable meals we provide. The cost is higher, so more than ever, we need your support. Please consider this project and send a check or add to the envelopes provided in the church pews. The teen center supervisor offers his appreciation each time we deliver these bags on the third Friday of each month.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters



It's that time to be ready to perform at the Soiree on **Friday, March 6 @ 7:00 PM**. Sam Kelly has brought together a variety of performers among whom are Heidi Welch, vocalist and composer, Peter Beard and Jeanne Bartlett to read poetry, Sissi Shattuck to sing Gershwin, and the Bible Hill Boys along with several other familiar faces. And here's the big news for **March 28, Palm Sunday**. Mark your calendar to come to Smith Memorial Church when we are scheduled to have a combined service featuring a cantata (words and music) for Holy Week, which will be sung by both church choirs. There will be narration by the respective ministers, Eric Jackson and Leonard Zecchini, as well as parishioners. We encourage everyone to come for the 10:30 service. Finally, a **Hymn Sing and Potluck Supper** will bring our two congregations together again. Our two choirs will perform. **The location will be at the Deering Church. 6:00 – Supper; 7:00 – Music. The date is Friday, May 15.**

Sunday School

Chris Nase

We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter Service on April 5th**. Be ready to locate your eggs in the snow!

If you have children who are interested in attending Sunday School please contact Chris Nase at (603) 660-6790 or cnase@comcast.net so we can prepare for them.

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

2015 has seen the continuation of a snowy and cold winter, but we take heart that spring begins in about a month. The Guild met on January 6th and February 4th since weather permitted. Jeanne Bartlett took minutes in January and Jane Levesque substituted for Jeanne in taking minutes in February. Hazel sent out her annual Treasurer's Report for 2014, showing we are in good financial shape. The new officers for 2015 were voted in. Barbara prepared new 2015 membership booklets with yellow covers that were handed out by Jeanne Bartlett during the January meeting. The 2015 budget was reviewed and accepted with one new addition to the charitable giving list. A by-laws committee was formed to review and recommend changes to the 2009 by-laws. The committee has not yet met due to the terrible weather, but Barbara sent around copies of the last two bylaws for review by the committee members to look over and make suggestions for changes when they meet, hopefully in April. By Laws presentations are tentatively set for the May meeting. Instead of business meetings every month after lunch at Guild, Jeanne Bartlett

suggested that the Guild have some program meetings some months with business meetings other months. The idea was well received by those at the February meeting and **the first program that will follow our luncheon will be "Color Me Beautiful" at the March 4th meeting run by Kay and Jane.**

In addition to other charitable giving in the budget, the Guild voted to sponsor Timothy Chari age 13, through age 18, under the Global Ministries, who will receive \$360 a year in personal financial support each year from the Guild. Here is a photo (somewhat blurry) of our child. See further information below.



The next two Guild meetings will be on March 4th and April 1st. The women's Guild welcomes new members, so bring your lunch and enjoy the meetings! There is always room at our table for new friends.

Choir Child Sponsorship

Christine Marcroft

The choir was given the opportunity to sponsor a child from Zimbabwe. The New Hampshire Conference, through the UKAMA Mission Group is working with the Child Sponsorship Program of Global Ministries to find sponsors for more than 100 children. The choir chose to support Edith Marera, 4 years old, from Rimbi with a donation of \$30 a month. This is a commitment for us until Edith is 18 years old. One hundred percent of our donation is used to support the child to provide food, basic health care, and clothing. Little Edith is living with her Grandmother who is a farmer. Her father is deceased and her mother is not working. They are struggling for food, school fees and clothing. We will receive letters from our sponsored child to see how she progresses and are encouraged to write to her as well. It is an honor and a joy for us to assist this child in this way.



GHSS Fund Raiser

Joyce Peace

Do you have an account at TD Bank? We have partnered in our fund raising effort and joined TD Bank's AFFINITY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM which provides our organization, GHSS, the opportunity to earn an annual cash contribution directly from TD Bank, based on the banking participation of business and personal qualified member and supporter accounts, at no cost to the TD Bank subscribers, our organization, members or supporters. We are thrilled with the ease of participating in this program. For additional information visit your local TD Bank or call TD in Hillsboro at 603-464-4863. Thank you for your willingness to participate.

“PSC” Committee

Bryan Terry

The journey of searching for a new Pastor began when we were first notified of Pastor Barbara Luckett-Currie's intention of retiring in October, 2013. An Interim Pastor Search Committee then worked together to bring Pastor Leonard Zecchini to the Deering Community Church. He has been, and will continue to guide us through this search for our next Pastor.

Throughout the Summer and Fall of 2014, people were asked to step forward if they were interested in being on the Pastor Search Committee. The Pastor Search Committee, or “PSC”, as we will generally be referred as, had officially begun on January 8, 2015. Our Church Moderator, Peter Cram, held the first meeting, with guidance and support from Pastor Leonard Zecchini. Peter told us that we would be working with Gary Shulte, the UCC Conference Minister assigned to support us through this process.

As duly elected Chairperson of the committee, I had asked Peter if we might be able to open up the committee to a couple more people so that we could better represent Church Committees and the whole Congregation. In a Special Meeting held after Church on February 1, 2015, the Congregation elected Stuart Huggard and David Bell to join the PSC. Now our robust committee was ready and anxious to get underway. The committee will be meeting regularly on Monday nights, once we get started with Gary Shulte.

However, bad weather and other commitments have both made it difficult for our committee to yet meet with UCC Conference Minister, Gary Shulte. He will be providing materials and resources as well as an outline of steps in the search process as support to the PSC. Until we meet with him, and I have more information to provide the congregation, I can share what Peter told us at the first PSC meeting.

This will be a lengthy journey, possibly up to two years. The process had already begun with procuring Pastor Leonard. There would be a number of steps on this journey. In our first meeting, the committee had to elect people to fill various positions. We were informed that our committee would be bound to strict confidentiality with regards to names and other personal matters. Peter will likely not be attending all PSC meetings, but will support us as a non-voting member. Thank you for your support, Peter!

As part of the Pastoral Search, a big part of this process will be in creating the Deering Community Church Profile. Before we can determine what to look for, and possibly what we will want in our next Pastor, we need to discover and/or describe who we are as a Church; where we want to go and do and be in the future. This will become our Church Profile. While we will be getting materials and support from the UCC Conference as to ‘how to’ garner information for our Church Profile, it will ultimately be up to our Pastor Search Committee to decide what process or procedure might work best for the Deering Community Church. Rest assured, your combined in-put will be sought, and considered vital for the Church Profile which will also help represent your voices in guiding the PSC in the search for our new Pastor.

I will do my best to keep everyone informed of the status of the process and progress of the PSC, through the Newsletter, during announcements in Church, possible Church Bulletin inserts, etc.

So stay tuned! And please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers, so that we may best represent each of you, the Deering Community Church, and have guidance through the Blessed Spirit, along our journey.

Pastoral Search Committee members, and elected positions are as follows:

Bryan Terry, Chairperson

Sam Kelly, Chaplain

Hailey Nase, Scribe

Jean Lewis, back up Scribe

Steve Waters, Correspondence Secretary

Jane Waters

Jane Levesque

Stuart Huggard

David Bell

Peter Cram will be providing support as a non-voting, ex officio member.

Pastor Leonard Zecchini will also be providing support as requested.

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 small cans of meat for **April**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **March**, 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 in need of large brown paper bags and the larger plastic grocery bags from Hannaford or Market Basket.

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

Jeanne Bartlett, 16

Ruth Ann Robinson, 25

Jane Spragg, 28

Happy Anniversary

MARCH

Barbara & Neill Currie, 20



PASSAGE, Dick Mooney

Dr Richard W. Mooney, a long time resident of Deering in his retirement years and member of the Deering Community Church, died at age 91 on December 24th, 2014 at the Edgewood Retirement Community where he and wife Nancy moved to in 2000. Dick was always a generous, loyal and giving person who volunteered his time willingly to his community of Deering and was an important part of the Deering Community Church. Dick and Nancy celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in September 2014. A memorial service was held at Christ Church in Andover, MA on Friday January 2, 2015 at 10 am. If you want to send a note to Nancy, her address is: Mrs. Nancy A. Mooney, 575 Osgood St, #1211, North Andover, MA, 01845.

Bon Vivant Dinners

A dinner was held at Bob Fuller's home on January 17th. He made a delicious lamb roast and conversation was enjoyed by all. The next dinner will be held at our church on February 20th hosted by Carol and Jack. Hope to see you all there! Watch for sign up sheets in the parish hall for dinners in March and April.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship , Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE Lenten Study each Sunday	2	3 Yoga 9 am Every Tuesday	4  Guild @ Noon	5  7 pm Choir Every Thursday	6 Musical Soiree 7 pm	7 7-8 am Breakfast & Workday Turn Clocks forward tonight
8 10 am Worship, CE	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Begins		Council 7 pm	WS&O 7 pm			
15 10 am Worship, CE	16	17  St Patrick's Day	18 Trustees 7 pm	19	20	21
Pflag, 3 pm Concord			Spring Begins			
22 10 am Worship, CE	23	24	25	26	27	28
Deacons 7 pm						
29 Palm Sunday 10:30 combined Worship @ Smith Church	30	31				



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Guild @ Noon 	2 Maundy Thursday, 7 pm Service Sherwood Hall	3 Good Friday	4 7-8 am Breakfast & Workday
5 10 am Worship, & Communion Easter Sunday CE, Easter Egg Hunt	6	7 Yoga 9 am Every Tuesday	8	9 Choir 7 pm Every Thursday	10	11
12 10 am Worship, CE	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Council 7 pm	Trustees 7 pm			
19 10 am Worship, CE	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pflag, 3 pm Concord	Newsletter Deadline		Earth Day			
26 10 am Worship, CE	27	28	29	30		
			Deacons 7 pm			

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We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



Annual Meeting Photos by Christine Marcroft



Peter Cram, Moderator



Jim Carpenter



Pastor Leonard



Bryan Terry



Presentation by Stuart
Huggard to Jim
Carpenter, Deacon
Emeritus, for 20 years
service to our church
at his official
retirement.

