

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Pen

May, June, 2015



Mothers' Day

During this coming month of May many of us will be celebrating Mothers' Day on the 10th. With gratitude we remember our mothers, or grandmothers, or those who functioned as surrogate mothers. These surrogates may have been aunts or some influential female in our lives. This surrogate could even have been a male whose nurturing presence has made all the difference in us becoming who we have grown to be.

This Mothers' Day I invite into your conscious awareness a particular mother, Mary (Miriam), the mother of Jesus. Those of us who have been nurtured in the reformed church tradition of the Christian family perhaps have not given the mother of Jesus appropriate consideration. Given the excesses of Marian devotion in the Middle Ages it is understandable the reformers in the 16th century would downplay the role of Mary in the devotional life of the church. The New Testament takes her very seriously, as does the Qur'an of Islam. When naming the best woman who ever lived, the prophet Mohammed named Mary (*Maryam* in Arabic), the mother of Jesus. We know little about the details of her life. We see her in the context of her son's life.

Being the worried Jewish mother when the youthful Jesus remains back in Jerusalem. Being there with other members of the family when Jesus' behavior is perceived as being so far from the norm that he is considered out of touch with reality and needs to be brought home. Being there when Jesus' first "miracle" enables a Jewish wedding feast to continue when the wine runs out. She is perhaps the first recorded Christian evangelist when she says to the servant at the wedding feast, "Do whatever he tells you to do." Being there at the foot of the cross, when most of Jesus' friends have gone into hiding. Being there on the first day of the week when the Resurrection is revealed. Being present in prayer with other disciples in an upper room following Jesus' ascension. If we conclude nothing else, we can say that Mary, mother of Jesus, was one of Jesus' most faithful disciples!



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Deering Community Church Directory Updates: A new church directory will be published soon and we are requesting all members and friends of Deering Community Church to check your listing in the past directory and, if needed, update your contact information. That would include names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please send your updates to our church secretary, Debbie Matthews, by e-mail (deeringchurch@mcttelecom.com) or by phone @ 603-464-5643, where you can talk to her if she is there or leave a message for her. In addition, please update the separate birthday and wedding anniversary names and dates (unless you object) for church information. Thank you very much. **Debbie Matthews.**

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram



An interesting discussion took place at our last Church Council meeting. Pastor Leonard had asked that we put on the agenda a line item to

discuss 'community'. He wanted to extend a conversation that had taken place at the recent World Service and Outreach meeting. It centered around people's concern that we don't have more involvement from people outside the church, and more mission activities at the local level.

Basic to the discussion were some facts regarding some characteristics of the town that pose challenges to the church. We have no post office, and no store. We share a zip code with Hillsboro and Antrim. There is a tiny library, and the town's most dense population is right close to Hillsboro, quite a distance from the town hall and church center. We have no place to hang out, no real center, and that lack of identity can have an effect on us. If people in Deering tend to look to Hillsboro as their downtown and center of activity, perhaps they go to churches there as well, foregoing one that could actually be closer.

We tend to beat ourselves up for not having more people coming to church, and perhaps for not having a more vibrant Sunday School and the like. We work hard at increasing our numbers, so we have our barbecue, our forums, our suppers, and our outreach programs that we invite others to participate in. But we don't grow to the extent we'd like. It's difficult.

Others counter with the idea that we're actually doing pretty well. We know who we are, and what we do is strong and good. We have an excellent Sunday service. We continue to do our outreach, and given our numbers, we do exceptionally well at it. We continue to invite others to join us. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't.

That's ok too.

We should never stop looking at where we are, what we're doing, and how we can extend our good works to the community and beyond. There will always be people who will come and join us. We will look forward to that, but regardless, will always keep our eyes focused on the future, and the work at hand.

We have a lot going on this Spring, as you well know. The Search Committee is in full swing, and with Bryan Terry serving as the chair, they're making sure they're not wasting any time. You all should have access to a survey that the committee is hoping you will fill out soon, if you haven't done so already. Everyone's opinion counts!

But one thing I wanted to mention is something that happened a week ago (April 12th) during our church service. This is something that characterizes more than anything else, who we are as an organization. Jeanne B. and Peg H. made the announcement that the 'teens and food bags' project had been going well, but it suffered from a lack of funds. They didn't have enough cash to continue their work at the same rate they expected. Their appeal for help we met with a resounding response that morning, with well over \$200 raised.

Ok, so \$200 isn't necessarily an earth shattering amount. But it does show that we place a high value on the outreach programs we are involved in. It was a small turnout that Sunday, but the people who were there were eager to help. Like so many of the other organizations within our walls, our World Service committee goes above and beyond the call, continuing the work that they do. We all do what we can to support them in their efforts. All they needed to do was to mention a need, and the congregation was there to support them. It doesn't get any better.

Trustees Report & Workdays

Jean Lewis

The Board of Trustees had to reschedule meetings several times due to poor weather and illness. However, much has been accomplished. The rooms in the basement of Sherwood hall have been scraped, sanded and brightly repainted with material to prevent moisture seepage. At the same time the bathrooms on that level have been freshened. A great deal of old material and trash was removed and properly disposed of. The church has received a very generous anonymous donor gift in an amount to allow the creation of a handicapped bathroom on the Sherwood Hall level by modifying the existing bathroom. This may also involve some modifications to the kitchen. It is anticipated to require considerably less cost than the gift amount so earmarked and estimates are being collected for this work. Another anonymous gift, approved by the Trustees, was offered to complete the granite curbing work along the new sidewalk in the near future. The new sidewalk enabled us to traverse the walkway safely this winter. And thank you to all who helped to salt when needed!!

Next up it is time for outdoor clean-up. The winter dirt and tree debris removal will be done very reasonably by the man who does out lawn care. Gardens will be done by church members, as you may be able. Angela Bell and Jeanne Bartlett are landscaping the front sanctuary area with approval of choice made by the Trustees. We now look forward to a thorough spring cleaning of the interior of our buildings. If all members and friends could please remember that the **FIRST Saturday** of each month is work day from 8-10 am. If you wish a scrumptious breakfast prepared by our own Peter Cram, breakfast chef extraordinaire--join us at 7am. There is no job too small for someone to do which helps us all!! WE are the maintainers of our church home. No one else does this!!! Thank you each and everyone! Also, we truly could use an additional Trustee. It is not difficult, but when folks are on vacation, or unable to attend for another reason....help! **Next workday, May 2nd. Planting two holly bushes, finish outdoor faucet install, apply sealer to sidewalk and interior cleaning.**

Financial Secretary & Treasurer

Suzanne & Stuart Huggard

Financial Secretary's Report

For the first quarter our income seems to be about normal. It is important to maintain a steady income and this can be done by keeping pledges current. You recently received your first quarter statement. I do **not** plan to send a statement for the second quarter. This seemed to work last year and the third quarter statement will alert you to any 'catch-up' that needs to be done before the end of the year. As always, if your circumstances change, please let me know so we can adjust your pledge and our expectations for income.

It comes as no surprise that when there is a special need this congregation is very responsive and generous, as you proved recently with the OGHS collection (\$362) and the Teen Bag request (\$227). We also have some anonymous 'fairy godmothers' (and fathers!) who quietly contribute to special projects needing attention to maintain our lovely old building. And there cannot be a dollar amount put on the volunteer labor by so many. It all works together because of you- keep up the good work!!

Treasurer's Report

So far this year there have been no surprises to make our budget run amok. Everything is moving along as expected. Our well pump replacement seems to have done what we hoped in regard to reducing the electric bill, and the lower cost of oil has helped the fuel oil line of the budget. There have been a few very nice donations dedicated to the repair and maintenance of the church, so much has been able to be accomplished without affecting the budget. At this point in the year, I can foresee no budget problems. What a nice position to be in. Thanks to all who help with their work, their time, their talent, and their money.

Pastoral Search Committee

Bryan Terry

The Pastor Search is moving along nicely. Surveys have been handed out in Church. They have also been emailed to members and friends of the Deering Community Church. If you know of someone who may not be on the church list who is somewhat connected to, or even just interested in the church as part of their community, please get the survey to them – or let a Search Committee member know. We really hope to reach out to the Deering and surrounding communities. The surveys will be anonymous, unless one chooses to put their name on it. Please take your time and fill these surveys out to the best of your ability. There may be some questions that you don't feel are pertinent, however, please put something down to that effect rather than leaving blank. You can insert questions and/or your own comments throughout the survey – if you wish. Otherwise, we have striven to make the survey as meaningful, but as simple as possible to fill out. Completed surveys may be dropped into a box which is set up in the front hallway, marked "Completed Surveys". If you prefer, you may send it to the Church: Attn:Survey, Deering Community Church, 763 Deering Center Road, Deering, NH 03244. Thank you for your help, as well as your sincere, deliberate, and thoughtful answers.

The Search Committee will take the information from these surveys to be presented in the Church Profile. The Profile is used as part of the Pastor Search process, and will contain information that will be useful to prospective ministers.

The Search Committee will also create a brochure, which will include much of the survey information summarized in it. The brochure will be sent to the Concord office of the "New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ". Prospective ministers will be looking for churches that they feel would be a good fit for them, largely through the information in these brochures.

Hopefully you can see how important your in-put will be in finding our next settled minister! To further assist the congregation, as well as any interested friends of the church, in understanding the Search process, **the Search Committee will be holding a "Pastor Search Question and Information" forum after church, on May 17, 2015.** Please come and share thoughts and questions, hopes and concerns about the survey, the Church Profile, Church Brochure, where we are in consideration of all the steps in the process, or *anything related to our search* for the next Pastor of the Deering Community Church.

Thank you,

Pastor Search Committee

Steve & Jane Waters	Jane Levesque
Stuart Huggard	Hailey Nase
David Bell	Bryan Terry
Jean Lewis	Sam Kelly

Sunday School News

Chris Nase

On Easter Sunday, children attending were treated to egg dying and almost 100 eggs were hidden in the melting snow for the lucky children to find.



Currently we have no regular Sunday School attendees but would welcome any children and their families who are interested. Please contact Chris Nase at (603) 660-6790 or cnase@comcast.net so we can prepare lessons for them. This year the availability of a Sunday School program will end on June 21, 2015. We will resume the Sunday School program on September 13, 2015.



Guild Gleanings

Jeanne Bartlett & Barbara Glauner

We have had a cold and snowy winter, making light attendance at Guild meetings. When meetings occurred, those in attendance enjoyed each others company at lunch and the delicious desserts provided by the hostesses.

At the March 4th meeting most business matters were postponed to have time for a delightful program presented by Kay Daniels assisted by Jane Levesque called "Color me Beautiful". Through this program, the focus was on choosing the color



palette that makes you glow and understanding the basic four color seasons, gaining an understanding of what clothing colors are best for you. Kay provided the fabric colors to drape on the shoulders of a participant while

other members judged the result and chose what was most becoming to that person. So when all was completed one had no excuse to wear a color "which doesn't go and doesn't suit me." It was great fun! Be looking for more beautiful women in the community!

Stuart dropped in to tell us that some securities from our endowment fund have been sold in order to release \$2000.00 to provide for our scholarship commitment. He also had some news about an offer of a new vacuum cleaner won by Jack and Carol Hubert which could be used for a raffle item. At the Council meeting, it was suggested that one of Bob Fuller's benches also could be raffled off at the Summer Fair. Betty thought Guild members could begin work on a quilt square each which might become part of a finished quilt in the future and offered for a raffle in 2016. Kay will design a pattern for this project which was greeted with enthusiasm.

At the April 1st meeting, no by-laws discussions took place due to low attendance at the meeting. New ideas for future Guild programs were discussed including an oral reading of a play as an idea from Jeanne. Joyce Peace said that Margaret Colburn has adjusted to her new life at Presidential Oaks Home and she continues to be cheerful. Jane has started experimenting with embroidery for a quilt square for the potential quilt project. Kay brought in a book and sketch, suggesting fabric amounts, colors, design and size of the quilt.

The next two meetings are at noon on May 6th and June 3rd.

Palm Sunday @ Smith Church

Photos by the Marcrofts

A joint Palm Sunday service was held at Smith Church in Hillsboro with our combined choirs.



Easter Sunday

Photos by Christine Marcroft



W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

On Pentacost Sunday, May 24, World Service and Outreach will be accepting The Strengthen the Church Offering. Your gift will awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, local Church Ministries, and the Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes. **INVEST IN THE VISION!**

One Great Hour of Sharing offering yielded \$362.00 and a donation of \$250.00 from the Deering Women's Guild is forthcoming for this mission. Thank you, All.

Two forums are being planned for the third Sunday of August (16th) and September (20th) -- titles to be announced. As always, the community is welcome to attend at 11:30 am on these dates.

Earth Day celebration: It's walk-to-church day on April 26th (rain date is May 3.). Participants leave their cars at Lauren Warner's house, save on fossil fuel, and join in the joy of fresh air and fellowship on the way to church.

Mother's Day cards are in production at this writing. Our goal is to present 160 handwritten greetings on cards for our Women's Prison in Goffstown, "They are not forgotten." Delivery date is May 7. Call Jeanne @ 529-2540 for pickup. Blank cards are available at the church. Thanks to Carol Huber for the beautiful cards she donated for this purpose.

A very generous response to an appeal for funds to supply the Teen Bags, delivered once a month to the Genesis center, was gratefully received in the amount of \$227.00. Thank you, so much.

photos by Gilman Shattuck

A Hymn Sing and Potluck Supper will bring our two congregations of Deering and Smith Churches together again with our two choirs musical performance. The location will be at the Deering Church with a 6 pm supper followed by 7pm music. **The date is Friday, May 15.**



“Women’s Prison” by Jeanne Bartlett

Written 2012

Imprisoned in my trepidation, I
give up my license and car keys to
a man in blue behind a darkened window.
My eyes adjust to the dimness after
assault from sun bouncing off razor wire
lining the path to the entrance.
Signing in, I check off my purpose here,
visitor, volunteer, legal, or other.
No line or space to check: prisoner.

Though Jesus said to visit the prisoner
I cringe at the sound of locks turning,
doors slamming shut behind me,
the soft tread of women in red tees
filing into the visitor's room for
Holy Communion

At an orientation class
rules and regulations poured out
of an official mouth, piece of authority,
preparing the way of the innocent
good citizen, safe for now, on the outside.

Guilty as charged. I've paid my fines
worn my seat belt, stopped at red lights.
So why do I feel so guilty?
Guilty over my good fortune. . .
daughters surviving the sixty's, their
excursions into a world of radical
songs, illegal smoke, and protests.

The Reverend assures us all, me too,
that we are loved; forgiven,
that we may begin again.
A fellow volunteer asks
a prisoner: “Did you find justice?”
In her innocence she says yes.
I look into faces, at someone's daughter.
In her innocence she smiles at me.

Out in the hall I retrieve my identity.
The door opens to the outside
darkness, stars gleam palely
against the cooled razor wire.
lining the path; a way out.

GHSS Senior Luncheons in Deering

Chuck Gaides

In March, 32 people attended a Greater Hillsborough Senior Services Luncheon, “Viva Italian”, at the Deering Community Church UCC, which included spaghetti and tomato sauce with small meatballs, a tossed salad with dressings, coffee, tea or water, and lots of garlic bread. The desert was a wonderful home made Tiramisu (kudos Patty!!). Everyone had a good time meeting with friends, new and old, and talking/laughing in a communal sense about many things. We had a new person, Dave McNair, join us from Prince Edward Island, Canada who commented that he comes down here because it is too cold up in Canada (think about that!). As we were cleaning up, he strolled over to the piano and began to play; oh my gosh he was great! We all applauded and Yvonne went right over to sign him up for the many “gigs” she puts on in Hillsboro. I’m sure that you will hear more from him at our luncheons and at some Hillsboro venue. And yes, Stuart won the 50/50 again! On April 9, we had 36 attending a luncheon at the Deering Community Church UCC, which consisted of baked ham, potatoes, green peas, salad rolls and a dessert of a wonderful chocolate bread pudding. Some of our seniors also brought desserts to share. A thank you to all the workers who make these luncheons happen. Yvonne brought the flowers for the tables and the servers were Gary, Joyce, and Yvonne. Pat and Marie Mogavero were the check-in people and the kitchen crew was made up of Patty, Gary, George, Richard Lee, and Joyce. We all stayed to clean up and break down the tables and chairs and bring the hall back to its original condition.

The next luncheon was at the Deering Community Church UCC also on Wednesday April 22, with homemade macaroni and cheese on the menu. With the nice warmer spring weather of late, we expect a good turn out at these events. Look at the GHSS newsletter for upcoming dates of various events.

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 **June**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and paper goods products for **May**, such as paper towels, tissues, toilet paper and so forth, 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
Bob Santagata, 23
Alfred Glauner, 24
Bryan Terry, 24



Happy Anniversary

JUNE

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

FYI: Upcoming events in the planning at GHSS for our seniors

Just a head's up: GHSS is looking into running two exercise courses in the coming months; Arm Chair Yoga and Tai Chi: Moving for better balance. No dates or times as yet but if you or someone you know are interested in either/or both of these offerings, please call to let us know that you want to be part of these programs. I am sure that they will fill up fast, so your call will give us a good indication of the numbers of participants that we should expect. Call Marie Mogavero @ 464-4726 to let us know of your interest.



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7 am Breakfast & 8 am WORKDAY
3 10 am Worship, & Communion, Deacon's Fund, CE	4	5 Yoga 9 am each Tuesday morning	6  Guild @ noon	7  7 pm Choir practice each Thursday	8	9
10 10 am Worship, CE	11	12 7 pm Council	13 7 pm WS&O	14	15 Hymn Sing in Deering, 6 pm supper, 7 pm sing.	16
Mother's Day						
17 10 am Worship, CE Forum: Pastor search Pflag 3 pm	18	19	20 7 pm Trustees	21	22	23 Memorial Weekend
24 10 am Worship	25 Memorial Day	26	27 7 pm Deacons	28	29	30 Deering Plant Sale 9 am @ Town Hall
31 10 am Worship, CE						



June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Yoga 9 am each Tuesday morning	3  Guild @ noon	4  7 pm Choir Practice each Thursday	5	6 7 am Breakfast & 8 am WORKDAY
7 10 am Worship & Communion, Deacon's 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	18	19	20
21 10 am Worship. CE Father's Day Pflag, 3 pm Concord	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 7 pm Deacons	25	26	27
28 10 am Worship, No CE for summer	29	30				

Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
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We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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