

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Pen



I give thanks to God for all the Saints of Deering. ...

One of the more important festivals of the Christian year is relatively unknown in our New England United Church of Christ

tradition, that of the *Feast of All Saints* on November 1st. Vestiges of it run rampant in our secular culture, Hallowe'en, All Hallows Eve, the evening before All Saints Day. Certainly those in our Anglican and Lutheran ancestry still find a place for a liturgical celebration of this festival today. The biblical passage below from Ephesians 1, may be read as one of the readings in the Sunday worship following All Saints.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus [and are in Deering] and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he

November, December 2015

raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

"To the saints who are in Deering ... I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my

prayers ... " I am fond of reminding us all that scripture proclaims us a community of saints, a part of the more encompassing Communion of Saints. Living out our sainthood is a mission of the Church, a mission Deering Church does rather well. May we continue our faithfulness to Jesus' call to us. All Saints leads us on in to the act of Thanksgiving later in the month, giving thanks, a part of our civic and religious landscape following the lead of our Pilgrim ancestors gathered at Plymouth in 1621.

On the Sunday before the holiday, November 22, Deering Community Church will host our joint Thanksgiving Service together with St Mary's Catholic Church, Smith Memorial Congregational Church and Hillsboro United Methodist Church.



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Pastor's Pen cont.

Our Music Director, Jane Waters will be preparing music offerings by the combined choirs of our participating churches.

Thanksgiving will lead us on to the Advent (Latin: *adventus* = leading) season in preparation to

celebrate the Incarnation of Christ in Christmas. During Advent our choir will lead us in a musical worship of "Lessons and Carols", on Sunday December 13, followed by refreshments in Sherwood Hall.

Pastor - Christmas

Pastor Leonard Zecchini

The foremost Christian sign is the Cross, symbolic of our Lord's Passion. If it is not a crucifix (with the corpus) or a Christus Rex (with a crowned and vested Jesus) it is also symbolic of our Lord's Resurrection. St Paul preached Christ crucified and risen. This is central to our Christian faith. However, there would have been no Passion, no Resurrection, without something else first happening. That something is the Incarnation.

Christmas is the festival of the Incarnation. At Christmas there is a tendency get caught up only in the birth of the human baby Jesus. We sometimes overlook those most important words from the prologue to the Gospel According to St John, (1.1-14) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." This is what Christmas is all about—God, the creative spirit or force behind the existence of the whole cosmos, coming to be made known on Earth, our island home in the universe, in the life of a human being. This is a "mind-blowing" concept that we Christians hold as one of the central beliefs of our Faith.

It is one of the greatest adventures in religious thought. The implications of the Incarnation [in-carn-ation = Latin: en-flesh-ment] are staggering. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The Greek text literally says that God "pitched his tent among us." Those of us who have experienced camping in tents may catch the flavor (and odor) of what this means—to become aware that another has moved into the tent-site and joined in the activities of camp.

And that Other is none other than God himself! The Word, not just a sound to be heard, but Word that has power which does things. Flesh, the Word not just to be perceived in some nebulous manner, but to be seen, heard, felt, smelled, even tasted. The message is that this God cares enough about us humans to interact with us in an intimate and sensuous (that is, perceived by biological senses, not merely by intellectual contemplation) way. No other religion has such wild and far-fetched understanding of the Creator's desire to interact with his Creation!

A favorite Christmas hymn is *Adeste Fideles*, "O come, all ye faithful." There is one stanza (often omitted from carol books and hymnals for some reason I do not understand) echoing words from the Nicene Creed:

God of God, Light of Light,

Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Very God, Begotten, not created;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

A stanza from "Hark! the herald angels sing" continues the theme:

Christ, by highest heaven adored;

Christ, the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold him come,

Off-spring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate Deity,

Pastor - Christmas

Pastor Leonard Zecchini

Pleased as man with men to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hark! the herald angels sing,

“Glory to the new-born king!”

All of this means far more than God comes to be with this Earth, or that God comes to be with humans in general, it means that he comes to be with you and with me, individuals! And to have this sort of intimate relationship with our Creator opens

us to immense possibilities for new life with new meaning!

As you plan your holiday activities remember with thanks your life as a friend of this Jesus, God-with-us, Emmanuel, and worship with us our Incarnate God on this eve of Christmas at 5:00 p.m. at Deering Community Church, or wherever you may be this Christmas.

A very happy Christmas to you all, and may all heaven and nature sing!

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

It's October, which to me means the start of our stewardship campaign. Like most years, I've gotten off to a slow start. I'm still looking for someone to head up the program this year. If anyone is agreeable to take on this most important of tasks, please let me know. I'll give you all the support I can.

Stewardship is especially important this year. The Search Committee has been doing excellent work, and has completed some of their more significant milestones. That is to say, the paperwork preparation has been completed. They're at that stage where they'll be interviewing possible candidates very soon! Through the course of their work, they have given great consideration to what we can expect to pay for a settled pastor. The committee, our financial experts (Suzanne and Stuart) and I are all convinced that what we'll be offering a candidate is competitive and doable. It is however most important that this year perhaps more than ever, we all be committed to making a pledge in support of the church.

Every year when the Stewardship campaign is underway, the pitch is always made asking people to consider raising their pledge a bit more to help keep the church and its mission going strong. This year I'll say the same thing, but this year it couldn't be more important to do so. Our taking on a new settled minister is perhaps one of the most significant things we can do as a church body. The individual we choose can have an incredible impact

on the life of the church and all we do here. Our support of the minister through our yearly pledge is our part in the bargain. Let's all do what we can. Thank you.

I don't know about you, but I'm quite excited about the progress on the new bathroom. If you haven't seen the new ceramic tile that Dave and Tim put in, please stop by and check it out. Why just recently I got to witness first hand a fresh coat of joint compound being put on the bathroom walls. The fixtures are ready to be installed, and I understand that Dave is soon going to be ordering the new bathroom door. Sometimes the smallest of accomplishments bring the greatest reward! I'm certain that I can speak for all those who have put time into this project that we appreciate your patience. Sure, we're saving some cash by doing much of the work ourselves. Still, it can be frustrating not having the kitchen and bath in order for so many weeks. Again, thanks for your patience!

There's new excitement about the possibility of revamping the kitchen. Stuart has put together some design possibilities, so after we get the bathroom complete and know what our final expenses for that project are, we'll consider what is possible for the kitchen. I expect there will be a time for an open discussion on the option that Stuart and the church council will be promoting. Stay tuned for an announcement for that meeting.

Moderator's Desk - cont.

Peter Cram

So now that fall is upon us, I find it a bit sad to see the wilting gardens, the leaves now covering the lawns and flower beds that we worked so hard on all summer long. It's hard to believe, but by the time you read this, it will be less than a month before the

Thanksgiving holiday is upon us, and less than two before Christmas. If we don't get those leaves raked, they could be covered with snow before we know it! Have a warm and safe Thanksgiving!

Treasurer & Financial Secretary

Stuart & Suzanne Huggard

Once again we approach the end of the year and soon will be busy with all that entails, a stewardship campaign, budget preparation, and a winding up of the myriad details that make up the financial structure of our church. My job as treasurer has been made easy this year by the commitments that were made and kept by our members and friends. Our church's support of special mission projects and fund raising efforts has been amazing. One area where we could do a little better is our financial support of our local food pantries. We are not going to be able to make our usual monetary donations this year. We might, however, be able to eke out our donations from the operating account because we have done so well in many areas of our budget.

All in all, I have nothing but good things to say about our financial well- being.

Looking ahead to next year, we have some areas of unknowns. Sometime during the year, if all goes well, we will call a settled minister. This might entail a somewhat larger commitment of funds. That remains to be seen. Now it is time for each of us to think about what our financial commitment might be for the year 2016 and continue the good work we have been able to do.

.....and from the Financial Secretary

I have nothing to add to this good report except to thank those who have 'caught up' their pledges in response to the 3rd quarter statements recently sent.

Pastoral Search Committee

Steve Waters & Brian Terry

It seems an endless project, so much so that many may have forgotten to think about it, to pray for it, or even remember its existence. The Search Committee is very much alive, working through a detailed process that will lead us to our new minister. Each committee member brings individual talents, abilities, and view points to our working table. Our leader's task continues to utilize and blend these individual gifts into a cohesive, effective team leading to our ultimate goal. With our Profile, Brochure, and an Advertisement all completed this October, we are on the brink of placing an ad in various print media that will attract prospective applicants. In the meantime we have prepared a default process for interviewing candidates as they come. It is important that each candidate be evaluated on the same basis to assure fairness and a professional approach. The Committee will undergo

a mock interview to be prepared for the real thing. During this process there will be no information publicized regarding individual candidates. While everyone may be eager to hear how a particular candidate is considered, it is an important rule in conducting this process to maintain the highest level of integrity, which includes confidentiality. As time goes on please keep our work in your thoughts and prayers.

Chairperson Bryan Terry wants you to know that the committee meets every Monday at 6:30 pm at the church to work on our search for a pastor. David Glauner, our webmaster, has put the new brochure about our church on our website so it can be seen by all. Go to: **www.Deeringcommunitychurch.org**, click on the search committee title on the home page, and the brochure pops up.

W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett & Don Johnson

This is part of a letter sent to W S & Outreach from prison chaplain, Beth Richeson).

Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves are also in the body...Hebrews: 3:3

"I am ever grateful for the support and prayers and donations from your World Service committee. Please extend my gratitude to all--- And yes--- the women have an on-going need for certain items. Right now it is yarn (no blue and no black though). The women make many things that are then donated out to the community. Also--- several of the women like the "Jesus Calling" devotional book and we are out at the moment. I wasn't sure if that might be something you could donate. Even one or two would be helpful. Or if any on your committee has a favorite daily devotional book---".

Note: The response from the church has been wonderful. Devotional books and yarn are flowing in! Thank you so much and, while in the mode of gratitude, it is a pleasure to express thanks, also, for the most generous sum of \$470.00 collected on

Sunday, Oct. 4, for the UCC Neighbors In Need mission.

The Welcome Basket project is "alive and well" as more than six baskets have been delivered to new residents in Deering this fall. Contact information and a list of these people is being maintained as we continue to extend a welcome and reach out to the community. Thanks to Hazel Vogelien for her enthusiasm and attention to this important mission.

Delivery of snack bags for the Genesis Teen Center in Hillsboro has resumed. Peg and Karl Hauschildt are important players shopping for and packing the bags which are delivered once a month and gratefully received by the youth who gather there. We welcome donations of money to purchase supplies and donations of fruit cups, small microwaveable meals, and healthy snacks. We try to supply 24 bags and the cost of supplies amounts to approximately \$80.00 each month. To help, you may make checks out to Deering Community Church with "Teen Snack Bags" on the memo line.

The UCC Stand on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

For several years the United Church of Christ has supported various resolutions calling for divestment in companies carrying on significant trade with Israel and a boycott of companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. At the annual national meeting on June 30, 2015, the Conference voted by an 80 per cent majority on a resolution to "engage in specific, nonviolent actions to help end the ongoing conflict and establish justice and peace." The New Hampshire Conference of the UCC was one of many to support this action and recently our conference minister, Rev. Gary Shulte, sent a Pastoral Letter to the New Hampshire churches asking their opinion on supporting the national UCC resolution. The international movement to carry out policies to divest and boycott is sponsored by BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions). The New Hampshire Conference will hold its annual meeting on October 24, when a vote on a similar resolution will be considered. If any member has an opinion on this important issue, please let our Pastor know your feelings. You can also talk with Lee Marcroft, our delegate to the NH Conference or to any member of the World Relations and Outreach Committee (Jeanne Bartlett, Chris Marcroft, Peg Hauschildt, Jean and Don Johnson).

"The Middle East"

On September 20th @ 11:30 pm, the last forum of the summer was held. It was on "The Middle East" sponsored by the NH Humanities Council, arranged by Don Johnson. Mohamed Defaa explored major issues facing nations in that region and the world powers.



Musical Notes

Jane Waters

As the leaves fall, our thoughts turn to special music to celebrate Thanksgiving followed by Christmas. This year our church will host the Ecumenical Service on Sunday, November 22 @ 7:00 PM. Joining us will be churches from Hillsboro: Smith Memorial, St. Mary's and the United Methodist. Our choir is preparing a Thanksgiving anthem to share with their choirs and everyone in the congregation singing the refrain.

December's schedule follows:

Dec. 13, Lessons and Carols at the usual 10:00 am

service followed by special holiday refreshments.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service @ 5:00 PM with special music and carols.

As I write, our choir is looking forward to a potluck supper and hymn-sing at Smith Church on Friday, October 25. If you ever wondered why people love to sing in a choir, I recommend reading *Imperfect Harmony* by Stacy Horn. Subtitle is: "Finding Happiness Singing with Others".

Peace and Joy

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner



September and October were busy months at the Guild with nice weather bringing members to the meetings. We got an update from Stuart as to how well the August fair had done. We talked about the fair, our expanded offerings this year, new ideas and anything we could do next year to make things better.

There was no meeting planned for December 2nd, but it was decided that we would have a special memorial celebration that day of the life of Margaret Colburn, a long standing member of Guild from 1927 on, who died on her birthday at age 107. A light luncheon will be served and a gold leaf will be presented by Stuart Huggard for the church memorial endowment plaque as a result of donations to the church in her memory. It will be an opportunity for members, friends and family to speak of their memories of Margaret. All are welcome.

Sunday, November 15th, some members will go to a play in Manchester to see Peter Pan, put on by the Manchester Community Players, with luncheon at the Currier Museum beforehand. We will carpool from the church on Sunday after the service.

Joyce Peace, a Guild member and a board member of GHSS, asked the Guild and the church council if they would like to have a vendor's table at the upcoming "Not-at-home House Party" on November 7th at the Deering Town Hall. People can shop their favorite house party vendors. The Guild and the church council agreed to participate with a table. We have 20 lbs of cheese left over from the fair, so will sell that along with other fair items like jam, stationary, knives, church history books, dolls, one of Bob Fuller's hand crafted stools and other crafts depending on space availability on the table. We would call our table "**Summer Fair Revisited**".

Our last two meetings of 2015 are November 4 and December 2 at noon. See you then!

Apple picking & Pressing

Christine Marcroft

We had a lovely time at the Apple Picking and Pressing Event at Angela and David Bell's home after church on Sunday October 11th. The weather was absolutely wonderful, sunny and warm, and Angela had prepared a lovely soup, along with sandwiches, apple cake and coffee. The freshly pressed apple juice was so delicious - like none other! We also were able to pick apples and pears (which had dropped to the ground). Twelve people, including the hosts, enjoyed this interesting afternoon!! Thank you so much, Angela and David!!



Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling

Barbara Glauner

On Saturday, September 12th, a team of workers began the bathroom and kitchen renovation project with money that was donated for this purpose. As a public building, the church needed a handicap accessible bathroom. The effort was to enlarge the existing bathroom near the church entrance by taking away space from the adjacent kitchen in order to make the current bathroom large enough for handicap use. Tim Ferwerda came up with the drawings to be able to make this happen. We hired an electrician, Tim's son, and a plumber, Sam Harding, to do some of the specialized work and the rest was done by church volunteers from the workers group including Peter Cram, David Bell, Tim Ferwerda, and Bob Fuller. Some of the ladies pitched in to unpack the kitchen shelves and the appliances, and some cabinets were moved into Sherwood Hall to clear the rooms for renovation. Some pictures of the progress have been taken by Peter Cram, Barbara Glauner and Christine Marcroft over the weeks of the project.



Bathroom & Kitchen cont.

Barbara Glauner

The first group of photos on page 7 show the initial work of removal of appliances and kitchen things from the kitchen into Sherwood Hall for storage and clearing out of kitchen things from the cabinets and countertops. The photos below show the existing bathroom being demolished and the kitchen wall adjacent to the bathroom being gutted. The wall between the kitchen and bathroom was moved further into the kitchen space, enlarging the bathroom space for handicap access. During the following weeks, evidence of work by the plumber and electrician could be seen. Saturdays were devoted to continued work by church members to keep things moving through September and October. At this writing, construction is not yet finished, but final pictures will appear in the January / February, 2016 issue of the newsletter. In the meantime there are two other bathrooms in the church for use. One is in the office area and the other is downstairs. There is discussion about continuing the work into the kitchen, providing there will be enough money left to do that. Stuart is looking into what could be done with the kitchen after the bathroom is done.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

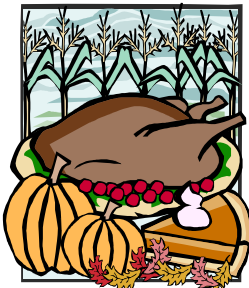
We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the food pantries.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **November**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, turkey etc., and paper products for **December**, such as tissues, paper towels, and toilet tissue, but each week we welcome whatever food or personal-care items you can bring. 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



NOVEMBER

Timothy Finn, 2

Peg Hauschildt, 8

Hope Thomas, 13

Barbara Glauner, 18

Jane Waters, 27

DECEMBER

Christine Marcroft, 5

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Kate Kelly, 12

The Deering Church choir participated in the installation service of Pastor Eric Jackson, the new pastor at Smith Church in Hillsboro. Here are a couple of photos of that event.



Happy Anniversary

There are no wedding anniversaries these months.

Not –At-Home House Party Reminder

Joyce Peace, a board member of GHSS, asked the Guild and the church council if they would like to have a vendor's table at the upcoming **"Not-at-home House Party"** on **November 7th at the Deering Town Hall from 9 am to 3 pm**. People can shop their favorite house party vendors there including Norwex, Tupperware, Discovery Toys, Pampered Chef, Stampin Up, Traveling Vineyard and Mary Kay.

The Guild and the church council agreed to participate with a table. We have 20 lbs of cheese left over from the fair, so will sell that along with other fair items like jam, stationary, knives, church history books, dolls, one of Bob Fuller's hand crafted stools and other crafts depending on space availability on the table. We would call our table **"Summer Fair Revisited"**. Please volunteer to help the church with this fund raising effort that has fallen into our lap unexpectedly on Saturday, November 7th from 9 am to 3 pm.

We need your help!

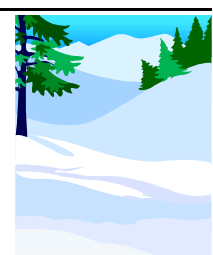


November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion, CE Daylight Savings Time Ended, EST today	2 PSC - 6:30 pm Every Monday	3 YOGA 9 am Every Tuesday	4  Guild @ Noon	5 7 pm Choir Practice every Thursday	6	7 Church Workday 8 am after breakfast. Town Hall 9am to 3pm GHSS sales & church table
8 10 am Worship, CE	9	10 7 pm Council	11 7 pm WS&O	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship, CE 3 pm Pflag Concord, NH	16	17	18 7 pm Trustees	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship. CE 7pm Ecumenical Service @ DCC	23	24	25 7 pm Deacons	26  Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 10 am Worship, No CE	30					



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 YOGA @ 9am Every Tuesday	2  Guild @ Noon Margaret Colburn Remembrance	3 7 pm Choir Practice each Thursday	4	5 Church Workday 8 am after breakfast
6 10 am Worship & Communion, CE	7 PSC- 6:30 pm Mondays	8 7 pm Council	9 7 pm WS&O	10	11	12
13 10 am Worship, CE Lessons & Carols plus buffet after	14	15	16 7 pm Trustees	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship, CE 3 pm Pflag Concord	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 5 pm	25  Christmas Day	26
27 10 am Worship No CE	28	29	30 7 pm Deacons	31  New Year's Eve		

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We're on The Web
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*We're on Facebook at Deering
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Church of Christ*

