

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Pen



A Franciscan Benediction (source unknown)

May God bless you with
discomfort

At easy answers, half-
truths, and superficial
relationships,

So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of
people,

So that you may work for justice, freedom
and peace.

May God bless you with tears

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,
hunger and war,

So that you may reach out your hand to
comfort them and

To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness

To believe that you can make a difference in
the world.

With this benediction we at Deering Community Church closed our Advent Lessons and Carols service of anticipation of the yearly coming of Jesus into the world. I chose this blessing because it seems appropriate in stating what you already know and live in your life together as friends and followers of Jesus. I have shared with some of you my first experience of the spirituality of Deering Church at a meeting with leaders

January, February, 2016

of our parish in November 2013. Over the course of my ministry I have encountered many church communities. I left that evening gathering excited because of the spirit I found in those meeting with me. Each time I set out for Deering Church I do so with anticipation, wondering in what way that spirit will be shown. I am never disappointed. Ruth and I count as blessed to be part of your community for this time. You challenge us in our spiritual growth.



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We have been celebrating again Jesus' presence with us. May we continue living Jesus' promise, the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear. We are entering into a New Year. Former things are in the past. What we have is the present with new possibilities.. May the Holy Spirit's blessing continue to be with us as we live into our mission proclaiming good news to all God's people.

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

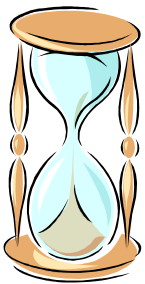
As I was leaving last Sunday's Christmas Vespers service, I was reminded once again about how fortunate we are in our little church community. We're small, but the ties that bind us are tightly drawn. We're fast approaching the end of our calendar year, and through the holidays we reflect on what this community has been through. We do much, and we endure much. I'm incredibly thankful to be a part of it.

The end of the year also brings us some renewed challenges. The Trustees along with our finance team of Suzanne and Stuart are working on the budget for next year. More power to them. This isn't an easy task, and is one that many of us just assume will get done without our involvement. Done correctly, all of us have a say in the budgeting process and how our collective money is being spent. We've been fortunate to have wise stewards of our dollars over the past years, ensuring that we make the most of what is given. Where our money goes is a clear reflection of what our values are as a church. Anyone looking at our budgets and year end totals over time can see that we continually make the best of what we have to work with. It's remarkable how this all gets done. If you have thoughts on this process, and would like to be more involved in the budgeting process, please let us know.

The challenge for others at this time of year, including myself is to work on nominating for next year's annual meeting. It has me a little concerned, given all of the positions we need to keep filled. Go to church on any given Sunday and it's clear that the Nominating Committee has its work cut out for it. Everyone it seems is already busy serving on one board or committee, or is active serving in one capacity or another. As you know, many people serve in more than one position! As people fulfill their time commitment of two terms on the various boards, presumably their time commitment is over and they can take some much deserved time off. An issue is that we can't afford to have anyone sitting idle! Over the course of the next several weeks, and prior to the annual meeting, I'll be speaking with many of you about your feelings about serving the church, and how we make the commitments that people make reasonable. Asking for too much of an effort can lead to hard feelings, and the desire to walk away. We certainly don't want that. We want as much help as we can get, but in a way that is rewarding for everyone. We all very much appreciate the work that is done by so many to keep the church running smoothly. I hope that we can all continue to work together to make sure it continues to do so. Thank you. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Huggard



As we come to the end of 2015, I can report that our budget for the year has done very well. We are over in some areas and under in others, which means that we will come out pretty even in the end. The proposed budget so far for 2016 is looking pretty tight. We are looking forward to a year of unknowns. We can be sure that sometime in the year we will call a settled minister. This will affect our budget. I also project that we will not have as large a carryover from this year to help our new budget.

So, please everyone, if you have not made a pledge yet, now is the time to do so. Suzanne and I both thank everyone for their continued support. You make our jobs easier.



Trustees Report

Jean Lewis

The Trustees have had a wonderfully busy fall, as many of you have likely seen!! We are so delighted to announce the completion of our new handicap bathroom! With the lift and the new bathroom, we are able to accommodate anyone in need of a bit of special consideration. If you have not seen this dream-come-true, please do take a look!! This truly is the accomplishment of our church community, members and non-members, who care. The talents of all certainly came together with a great deal of energy. The electrician and plumber were hired and completed their work efficiently, working with us on timing. The rest came from our church community and made the dream come true.

We were fortunate to have Tim Ferwerda's planning and knowledge, drawing and re-drawing of the bathroom design to accomplish the end result, plus his hard work at all times of the day and evening to get the work done. Peter Cram's nourishing breakfasts and hard work many days and evenings, as well as David Bell's talents in plumbing and electrical as needed on the side were wonderful. David did the tiling, and Angela the painting of the bathroom. Bob Fuller's talents in so many areas of construction, as well as the most necessary dump runs and cleaning out of the lower level were a great contribution. The folks who cleaned out the kitchen

cupboards, as well as removing the demolition debris were a big help. From physical work, to gifts of funds, to words of encouragement, all these made this accomplishment possible. THANK YOU! A giggle or two from the project: plumbing fixture on the front lawn, Pasca standing on the counter discovering what years of dust look like on the fridge, Tim and Peter with the old ceiling raining down on them.....! We have photos...!

Next up will be our first work day of the new year on January 9th, 2016 at which time we will start to plan the next phase of our construction and do some small chores! Please join us at 7 am for Peter Cram's notable breakfast, and the fantastic fellowship! The workday on February 6th will begin with the kitchen renovation! We will be removing cupboards, repairing walls, looking forward to painting, installation of new cabinetry, tiling the floor and a new dishwasher installation! All is paid for, and on budget, with gratitude to all who have gifted with spirit, talents, hands, hearts and funds.

Your Board of Trustees,
Jean Lewis, Chair. David Bell, Tim Ferwerda, & Hazel Vogelein.



W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

Jeanne Bartlett appealed to the church members to write Christmas greetings to the women at the Goffstown Prison. There are new DOC guidelines which say that only writing or typing a message on plain white paper with blue or black ink will be accepted. No other colors or stickers or envelopes. Paper can be cut into interesting shapes. Chris Nase, Mackenzie, Hailey and two high school friends from John Stark H S prepared 100 of the 150 snowflakes cards cut from white copy paper. Each one will carry a written message of greeting and hope that the women are not forgotten.



Devotional books, many skeins of yarn and fabric have been delivered to Rev. Beth Richeson, prison chaplain, to distribute to the women who knit and sew items which find their way into the lives of those in need both here and world wide.

We are glad to be able to have a member of our committee, Peg Hauschildt, continue to participate via SKYPE at our meeting. She is now working in

Waltham during the week. Peg and Karl, her husband, are so appreciated for the shopping and packing of food bags, each month, for the Genesis teen center in Hillsboro.

Our committee will be preparing a suggested Outreach budget for the new year. Riverbend, NH Council of Churches, UCC Coalition LGBT Concerns, Campus Ministry, and Andover Newton are among our considerations.

Be sure to check out our new look and location in Sherwood hall where we display photos, maps and items we have received from our partner church in Rimbi, Zimbabwe. There is a mailbox (shoe box) on the table where letters can be "mailed" to your pen pal in Rimbi. The flag is up! We are anxious to increase the flow of information and news between friends in Rimbi and our church. We are looking into economical and secure ways to send mail back and forth.

Pastor Search Report

Bryan Terry

The committee has been diligently meeting Monday evenings with seemingly endless responsibilities involved in the search process. We are officially online as an active 'Church in Transition', meaning we are actively seeking a new Pastor. Our ad and brochure can be seen on the "New Hampshire United Church of Christ Conference" (NHUCCC) website. The brochure is also posted on our own church website. Check it out! Several profiles of potential Pastoral candidates have arrived and are under consideration. There is no way of knowing just how long it will take for the committee to find the Pastor that we feel confident is the right one for the Deering Community Church. While we are optimistic, it is not uncommon for this phase to take many, many months to complete. With prayer and belief in the guiding Spirit of God, we will ultimately find what we want in a new Pastor. The "we" means collectively, in the representation of the congregation through the various PSC members, who have taken congregants' answers on the survey very seriously. There are still numerous steps involved, but it is exciting to be in this phase! Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and faith in your Pastor Search Committee.

Bryan Terry, Chair, Steve Waters, Jane Waters, Jane Levesque, David Bell, Stuart Huggard, Sam Kelly, Jean Lewis, Hailey Nase, and with support by Church Moderator, Peter Cram

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

Singing for the Ecumenical Service with choir members from Smith Memorial, United Methodist, and St. Mary's Churches joining ours was a joy for everyone. The selected anthem, *We Come to Say Thank You*, went over very well by bringing in the congregation to sing with us. It was a most enjoyable and well-attended evening.



The Annual Service of Lessons and Carols took place on Sunday morning, December 13th, and featured mostly familiar music sung by our dedicated choir. There were nicely sung solos by Jeanne Bartlett, Bryan Terry, Stuart Huggard, and Sam Kelly in *Gabriel's Message*, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, and *Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming*.



A new musical feature for the Advent Season has been *Light A Candle for All to See*, which includes the congregation. Each of the five Sundays has a theme: Hope, Prince of Peace, Gift of Love, Boundless Joy, and Light of Life. As we approach Christmas Eve, our musical offerings are planned to be a joyful presentation.



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

On November 4th the Guild had their regular meeting at noon followed by our regular business meeting including devotions, review of October minutes, treasurer's report including a budget for 2016, and discussion about the possibility of a scholarship depending on our investment earnings through 2016 - to be decided. We approved the new budget and a new slate of officers for 2016 which included Jeanne Bartlett, President; Joyce Peace, VP; Hazel Vogelien and Jane Waters. Co-Secretary; and Hazel Vogelien, Treasurer.

The church community decided to participate in the "GHSS Not At Home Hillsboro area Expo" held at the Deering Town Hall on November 7th with a Guild /church table called "Church Fair Revisited" to sell items to the public.

On November 15th, the Guild had their annual outing with lunch at the Currier Art Museum followed by a Manchester Community Theater production of Peter Pan.

Jane Waters suggested having a reception to honor Margaret Colburn who was a church and Guild member for many years and died recently at age 107. We decided to hold this event on Wednesday December 2nd and invited all friends and family of Margaret to a luncheon at noon in her honor. We went on to organize the event before the meeting closed.

M. Colburn's Celebration

Jeanne Bartlett

Guild members and guests assembled on December 2, 2015 at noon to share a wonderful luncheon prepared by Guild members. Nearly twenty people were on hand to celebrate the life of our Guild sister, Margaret Colburn with this special meeting. Jane Waters provided a beautiful table setting and seating arrangement. Fond memories of interaction with Margaret were recalled by many people. There was a wonderful collage of photos showing Margaret involved in many church and Guild functions prepared by archivist Priscilla Beaudrault. Family members also brought photos of Margaret at various stages of her long life of 107 years. Christine Marcroft took pictures during this event.

Betty Dishong, past president, displayed the gold leaf engraved with Margaret's name which will be installed on a church plaque that holds the names of persons for whom monetary gifts have been given, in their memory, to the churches endowment fund. President, Jeanne Bartlett greeted guests and offered her own cherished recollections of Margaret, encouraging others to do so, as well.



For Your Information

Food Pantries

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

Hillsboro: There is need in **January** for various types of soaps like laundry detergent, bath soaps and shampoos. In **February** we need small cans of meats like chicken, turkey, ham and tuna, but each week we welcome whatever food or personal-care items you have to offer. The Food Pantry is in need of large brown paper bags and the larger plastic grocery bags.

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



JANUARY

Carol Hubert, 2
Marjorie Bryce, 8
Jack Hubert, 12
Charlotte Price, 31

FEBRUARY

Ray Petty III, 2
Stuart Huggard, 8
Glenn Price, 9
Samuel Kelly, 13

November 29, 2015 Special all church meeting to discuss kitchen renovations.

Peter Cram, moderator, opened the discussion at 11:10 am, reviewing kitchen plans which are a collaboration between, church trustees, moderator and financial rep. Stuart distributed floor plan of proposed renovations to the congregation and outlined the costs involved to install more convenient cabinets and counter top. The Work day crew, volunteer labor, which has been provided to accomplish the building of a handicap accessible B R, was such, that a great

Happy Anniversary

JANUARY

Pasca & Timothy Ferwerda, 26

FEBRUARY

Kathleen & Raymond Daniels, 14

savings within the original budget of \$7500.00 was realized.. There have, also, been some sizable monetary donations given, as well as a new dishwasher, for the kitchen project. Cost of cabinets: \$4800.00. Laminate counter tops are suggested. With volunteer help and a putting-together-day for cabinets it all appears to be within budgeted monies on hand. Stephen Waters made a motion to go ahead with project as stated, motion was seconded by Bryan Terry. Voice vote was a unanimous yes. Stuart said the current stated costs, as quoted, do not include a new floor or a range hood. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

REMINDER:

The annual church 2016 meeting will be held after church service on January 24th at 11:30 am. Please plan to attend this important event.



January 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



1 2

3 10 am
Worship &
Communion,
No CE

4
PSC- 6:30 pm
Every
Monday

5 Yoga 9 am
each Tuesday

6

Guild @ Noon

7

7 pm church
choir practice
each
Thursday

8
9 Church
Workday 8
am after 7 am
Breakfast

10 10 am
Worship, CE

11

12

13

14

15

16

7 pm Council 7 pm WS&O

17 10 am
Worship, CE

18

19

20

21

22

23

Pflag, 3 pm
Concord

7 pm Trustees

24 10 am
Worship,
11:30 am
Annual
Meeting

25

26

27

28

29

30

7 pm Deacons

31 10 am
Worship



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> PSC -6:30 pm Mondays	<i>2</i> Yoga 9 am Each Tuesday	<i>3</i>  Guild @ Noon	<i>4</i>  7 pm Choir Practice each Thursday	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Church Workday 8 am after 7 am breakfast
<i>7</i> 10 am Worship & Communion, CE	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7 pm Council	<i>10</i> 7 pm WS&O	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10 am Worship, CE	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 7 pm Trustees	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10 am Worship, no CE, Pflag 3 pm Concord, NH	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7 pm Deacons	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10 am Worship, CE	<i>29</i>					

**Deering Community Church
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We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



Visiting Christmas Carolers from our church

