

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Pen

March-April 2016



"We believe in [belove] one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

"We believe in [belove] one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures....

"We believe in [belove] one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

Above I have quoted in part from The Nicene Creed, one of the classic statements of faith of orthodox (traditional) Christianity. It dates from about the year A.D. 381 as a testament to the then current concerns and understandings of the Christian Community. I do not know if the reading of this creed during worship has been part of worship in the Deering Community Church in the past; we have not used it during this time I have been with you as Interim Pastor. It is a primary statement of faith used by many Christian traditions.

I have also placed in brackets [] the word "belove". The original Greek text of the Creed used the word *pisteuo*, which means "to trust" or "to faith". There is no verb in English that means "to faith". The translators came up with the word "believe" which in the context of the Creed did not

mean to have ideas or opinions about something. *Pisteuo* meant "to belove", to be devoted to something or someone. What would happen in worship if we changed a few letters in the word "believe" — how might that change what happens in worship?

Without demanding that anyone use a creed or statement of faith as a "litmus test" to determine the acceptability or authenticity of anyone's faith, I sometimes wonder whether we, the Church, actually consider what those earlier Christians were trying to convey. Do we really believe in [belove] "...all that is, seen and unseen."

Do we really believe [belove] that Jesus "rose again in accordance with the Scriptures..."? Do we really look "for the resurrection" and [belove] that the sort of power that enabled a small, scared, confused group of Jesus' disciples to do an about-face, insisting that Jesus was not destroyed, and rapidly growing in numbers and influence throughout the Roman Empire, that this power can be available to us today, bringing to us and our world new life, new hope, new possibilities?

Or do we believe only in what we perceive in our own experience, or what can be explained in scientifically replicable situations or tests?



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Pastor's Pen Cont.

The Church throughout history has accepted such things and acting in trust that God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is the same today as yesterday and will be forever. Today we still sing in a song of praise to God, the Gloria Patri, "...as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be...." Living out this faith, trust in God, the Church acted with great resurrection power and her accomplishments turned the world upside-down.

Shall we, like them, step out in faith this Easter with the resurrection power of God supporting us in God's endeavors?

This is what Easter and the Resurrection is about. Jesus was not resuscitated, given back his former life. He was resurrected to a new and different life. Before he was available only to those in the Holy Land two thousand years ago. Now he is available to all people, everywhere. We have been made heirs to that awesome power with which the Creator brought the whole cosmos into being. The Body of Christ, the Christian Church, (and that means Deering Community Church as a local manifestation of Body of Christ in our lives), is a conduit, the place where that power is made available to ourselves and our neighborhood.

Are we able to respond to Jesus' call to us to live out this Kingdom-life of Easter faith, and be resurrected to a new and different life?

Annual Meeting Minutes

Chris Nase

The Deering Community Church Annual Meeting was held on January 24th in Sherwood Hall after the church service. Present: Pastor Zecchini, Steve Waters, Jane Waters, Stuart Huggard, Suzanne Huggard, Bryan Terry, Peter Cram, Christine Marcroft, Lee Marcroft, Jeanne Bartlett, Jean Lewis, Ruth Zecchini, Sam Kelly, David Bell, Bob Fuller, Peg Hauschildt, Chris Nase, Jane Levesque, Priscilla Beaudrault, Betty Dishong, Joyce Peace, Kay Daniels (See church website www.deeringcommunitychurch.org for entire annual report booklet with all reports.)

- 1) Peter opened with a prayer. He offered thanks to all those contributing to the annual report and meeting. He made note of the dedication of the report to Suzanne and Stuart and the *In Memoriam* to Margaret Colburn.
- 2) Pastor Leonard spoke about his anticipated departure before the next annual meeting, as a new minister will hopefully be called by then. He expressed his enjoyment of his time here.
- 3) Peter spoke about his job as moderator, leading council and concern about lagging attendance.
- 4) Peter asked us to look at the Annual report from last year. Steve moved to accept the minutes from last year, Bryan seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 5) The clerk's report was reviewed.
- 6) Bryan spoke about the work of the Search Committee. She updated us on the current status. There are several candidates interested in the church. The committee has been meeting faithfully and is very dedicated.
- 7) Steve explained the method used by the Endowment Committee to decide on funds to be used.
- 8) Christian Education was discussed. No children attended Sunday School this past year. It will be offered if children begin to attend. Jeanne B. asked about Adult education and would like to be involved in providing more opportunities.
- 9) Sam acknowledged the hard work his predecessor Jim C. did and how challenging it has been for him to "get it right".
- 10) The Trustees have worked very hard this year on the bathroom and kitchen. Jean mentioned how impressed she was with all the members hard work. She encouraged all to continue to attend

Annual Meeting Minutes

Chris Nase

workdays. One correction to the Trustees report was noted – Ray Petty bought one stove and David Bell purchased the other stove.

- 11) Joyce reported that the food pantry has been very successful and the contributions from our church are valuable. Peter wondered if we could get more information about how many people are served by the Weare food pantry.
- 12) Peter expressed thanks for all the work the Glauners do for our Newsletter and Website.
- 13) Betty reviewed the Guild report.
- 14) Jane reviewed the Music Committee report. She mentioned several opportunities to sing with the community and the success of those endeavors. Jane recognized the long time contribution of Stuart to the choir.
- 15) Jeanne reviewed the World Service and Outreach report.
- 16) Priscilla expressed thanks for all the help she has received in maintaining the archives.
- 17) Peter asked for a motion to accept the annual reports as modified. Steve made the motion, Bryan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
- 18) Suzanne mentioned a change in the financial report – the miscellaneous line should not have any specifics after it. She commented on how close we came to matching our pledges in actual income.
- 19) Stuart reviewed the 2015 budget. Lawn work and custodial service was added during the year as needs of the church dictated. He reviewed the 2016 proposed budget with the proposed \$40,000 salary for an incoming Pastor. This budget has a \$7,997.50 deficit – “to be raised”. There is still furniture Bob has made to sell, as well as a few other larger ticket items that could be sold. Someone would need to help with marketing these items. On the Account Balances sheet, there is a mistake – the endowment fund line is incorrect, refer to Angela’s number from her report. The information below the Total Current Assets line is incorrect. Peter noted

that the income and expenses are very close indicates good money management and faithful pledging commitments. Steve made a motion to accept the financial and budget reports as modified, Jeanne seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- 20) The Nominating report was reviewed. Bryan offered to be on Christian Education to help with adult education. Peter will need someone to take his position as moderator, as his term is up at the end of this year. Peter is willing to take on Stuart’s job as Treasurer (a replacement is needed by April 1) if someone becomes moderator earlier. Pasca will take on the Financial Secretary position. An additional delegate to the NH conference is needed. Jean asked for additional help on the Trustees. Steve motioned to accept the Nominating Committee report, Bryan seconded it and it was unanimously accepted. Pastor Leonard installed those members on boards and committees.
- 21) New Business: Steve reminded members about *Prepared to Serve* on February 20, 2016 and encouraged all to attend.
- 22) Peter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve moved the motion and David seconded it, it was unanimously approved.



*Pictures by
Christine
Marcroft*

Lenten Program

Chris Nase

Lenten Programs after church in the parlor.

On the basis of discussion at the January Church Council meeting, Deering Church is having a **Lenten Program Sundays, February 14 through March 13 or 20 after church in the Parlor.** It will feature a short video presentation with group discussion on *Living the Questions*.

Topics will include:

Incarnation, Divinely Human;
Prayer, Intimacy with God;
Compassion, the Heart of Jesus' Ministry;
Creative Transformation;
Embracing Mystery

Pancake Brunch

Chris Nase

Pancake Brunch (Shrove Sunday)

Jeanne presented a unique idea; offer a community pancake meal in the tradition of Shrove Tuesday. With the New Hampshire primary scheduled for that Tuesday we moved the event to Sunday, February 7 after church. Quite possibly a new tradition was created. Peter and Chris made pancakes from two different family recipes; a light buttermilk batter similar to what Peter made with his mother and a thicker applesauce batter that Hailey frequently makes for family and friends. Sides of sausage, juice, syrup, jam, and monkey bread rounded out this sweet meal. Peg helped organize everything and ran home several times for forgotten ingredients. All in attendance left satiated in body and soul. Pictures were taken by Christine Marcroft.



Pastoral Search

Bryan Terry

Things are really heating up!

Spring will be upon us before you know it, even though we just had several inches of snow today! New grass and flowers will be springing up all around us soon!

Your Pastor Search Committee has been working furiously to find a new Pastor. Someone who can - as befitting Spring - help us blossom with new energy, new life, a new beginning embraced with love, compassion...and spiritual growth.

As we said at the Annual Meeting, the PSC is filled with excitement that our Church will soon be refreshed and feel the full effects of Spring. That's all I can say for now, but keep your eyes and ears open, and *stay tuned!*

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

Trustees Report & Workdays

Jean Lewis

The Trustees are currently focusing on the kitchen renovation project. The new cabinets are currently being assembled in the lower level, under Sherwood Hall. At present there are numerous social events scheduled needing the kitchen in the coming weeks. Your Trustees are planning the timing of the work to cause as little inconvenience as possible. However, as removal, installation, plumbing and electrical work are required, it is not a simple matter. We all thank you for your understanding and patience. Meanwhile, we continue with the on-going coverage of maintenance and needs. Please note that Jane Levesque has graciously volunteered her time and expertise as a Trustee. Thank you, Jane, we are all most grateful.

Here is a reminder of the Work Day on March 5th, with a superb breakfast at 7 and work from 8-10. We can't thank you enough for the 2 hours of your talents and service, as you may be available to join us---we will enjoy and appreciate your company and assistance. As you know, "Many Hands make Light Work", and this group has given so much. Do join us if you are at all able. Tasks big and little all need to be done! **The April Work Day will be held the SECOND Saturday, the 9th of April due to other activities at the Church on the 2nd, & 3rd. Please mark your personal calendars.**

Your Trustees: Jean Lewis, Chair, David Bell, Tim Ferwerda, Jane Levesque, Hazel Vogelein.

Poem

Submitted by Angela Bell

Be patient toward all

Live the questions now.

That is unsolved in your heart

Perhaps you will then gradually,

And try to love the questions

without noticing it,

Themselves like locked rooms and like books written

live along some distant day into the answer.

In a very foreign tongue.

Do not seek the answers

By: -Rainer Maria Rilke

Which cannot be given you

Because you would not be able to live them.

And the point is to live everything

WS & O

Jeanne Bartlett

March 6 is dedication Sunday when the annual appeal for One Great Hour of Sharing will welcome your gifts. Here are some frequently asked questions re OGHS donations:

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and rehabilitation

What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 92 cents is used directly for mission programming. Most administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic support.

Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. UCC responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. Nearly

one-third of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?

This offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way. You may also make a secure on-line contribution by visiting our One Great Hour Sharing website at www.ucc.org/oghs, and click on the "Donate" button.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

The students at John Stark regional high school are once again volunteering to make one hundred cards with hand written messages to give to the women at the Goffstown prison in honor of Mother's day. If you would like to enter in on this effort please remember that your message must be on a sheet of white paper, using only black or blue ink or a message using your word processor. Jeanne Bartlett will be happy to deliver your messages to the prison chaplain, Rev. Beth Richeson, for distribution among a grateful group of women asking that they may not be forgotten. Deadline: Sunday, May 1.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

As we approach the second week of the Lenten season, our thoughts turn to its defining events of Palm Sunday on March 20th followed by March 27th Easter. The first musical presentation by our choir will be a reprise of last year's cantata, "Thy Will Be Done" composed by Lani Smith. This music is most appropriate as a cantata. It is a series of dramatic scenes tied together by a narrator. An example would be the St. Matthew's Passion by J. S. Bach with the Evangelist as narrator.

The essence of Holy Week follows closely in music with the words that Charles Dickens wrote in "The Tale of Two Cities": "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times".

Dates to mark on your calendar for March are:

Friday, March 4 – Soiree @ 7:00 PM

Potluck and Hymn Sing – Friday, March 18 @ 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday Service – Sunday, March 20 @ 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday service – March 24 @ 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday Service – March 27 @ 10:00 AM



Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

The Guild held their regular meeting on January 6, but the February 3rd meeting was canceled since Jeanne Bartlett and Joyce Peace were both having different surgeries at the end of January so would not be attending a February meeting. Winter finally showed up with very cold weather and snow in February.



Nancy Mooney, a long time member of the Guild while she lived in Deering, died on a Saturday. Nancy was born on June 30, 1924 and passed away on Saturday, December 5th, 2015 at age 91. She was a resident of the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover at the time of her death. She was a 1941 graduate of Lynn English High School and a 1979 graduate of Drew University with a BA degree. Nancy and her husband Richard had been residents of the Town of Deering after their retirement from the work force, volunteering their time in activities of the town and the Deering Community Church. Nancy worked on many of the lovely handmade quilts that were raffled off at the church fair in the summers and she was a member of the Women's Guild. In 2000 they moved to the retirement community in North Andover where they spent the rest of their lives. Dick died in December, 2014 and Nancy passed away in December, 2015. At Nancy's request, there was no memorial service.

A regular Guild meeting was held in January with lunch, coffee and cake. The business meeting covered all the usual department reports that were available. The Guild voted to offer \$100 for a matching gift challenge to collect \$8000 which would then be matched by others, sponsored by the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, for a donation to the Hillsboro Food Pantry. This is in place of the Einstein challenge of past years. The money will be given if there are enough pledges from others to match this amount. Jeanne wrote the Guild annual report for the church booklet. Barbara Glauner produced 20 membership booklets with a hotline update, which Jeanne passed out to Guild members. The January meeting ended with discussions about ideas for the Summer Fair to be held on August 13, 2016.

The next scheduled meetings will be March 2 and April 6. We look forward to seeing everyone there along with any new women from the communities who would like to come and make new friends.



Party @ the Huggard's House

Suzanne Huggard

Saturday April 2, 2016 3-7 PM

9 Reservoir Road, Deering NH

Come help us celebrate nearly 20 years in Deering as we say goodbye
to our friends and neighbors in Deering and Hillsborough.

Come early, stay late, enjoy good food and good company

Suzanne & Stuart Huggard

9 Reservoir Road, Deering, NH, 03244

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

The harsh comic anecdote about a funeral goes something like this –The memorial service of a powerful and disliked movie mogul was surprisingly well attended. One ambivalent mourner asked another to explain the existence of the large crowd of attendees. The acerbic response was, *'Give the public what they want, and they'll come.'*

A lot of our discussions these days are focused on how we might attract new people to the church. We aren't unique. Most mainstream churches these days are facing similar dilemmas as that which we're seeing. At the same time, we hear that some of our more evangelical brothers and sisters are not seeing these problems with their congregations. Not true. From what I'm hearing it's an issue across the board.

I was recently told of a book written on this subject by the president of the United Church of Christ, John Dorhauer. The title of the book is 'Beyond Resistance – The institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World'. I picked up a copy, and while I haven't finished the book yet, I'm finding it a fascinating read. He addresses the issue head on, right from the first page. He doesn't shy away from stating that many of our churches are dying, and he clearly says that perhaps some of them should go. He attributes the decline in interest in today's church to several factors, including a declining birthrate, the ever increasing costs associated with maintaining historic buildings when that money could be better spent on mission work, and the tendency of the 'millennials' to shy away from the notion of universal truths. He's a huge believer in 'mission' as being the one thing that we can collectively believe in and focus our attention towards. The book gives us great food for thought, and my guess is that as a congregation, we may be taking a closer look at more of what Dorhauer has to say in the months and years to come.

So one of the questions we might consider is, how in the long run do we keep our doors open? We have a lot to offer, and as we all know, we continue to offer it! We work hard at doing our part in the community to feed the hungry, clothe the poor and heal the sick. Don't we? Sure we do. Perhaps there's more we can and should do. I can't help but feel that others in the community want to join us in doing exactly that too. We need to somehow let them know what we're doing. To come around to the initial thought, If we offer it and it's really what people want, they'll come.

We've talked about more advertising, though the great snippets that Jeanne put in the paper regarding our Shrove Pancake luncheon didn't seem to bring us more attendees. Perhaps a better sign out front that is updated frequently with the events we're holding would help. We can always use more events that are not just work, but fun! We've tried some of these things in the past, and they've been successful. We need to keep after it.

We all appreciate each other so very much, in all that we do, individually and in our groups. Let's continue to talk about this most important issue. I can imagine that the new ministerial leadership we expect to be seeing within the next several months will have a lot to say as well. We look forward to that coming our way. It will be interesting to see thoughts and ideas, and what we consider the right thing to do to meet our challenges.

One thing is for certain, the life and lifeblood of the Deering Community Church is always changing. Our members are ever willing to stand up and take on what needs to get done. As we evolve through to the next ministry, I hope we will continue to stick together and focus on not only the needs of those in the community as a whole, but what it takes for us to hold ourselves together as a church community.

The Deering Community Church Website — www.deeringcommunitychurch.org

Take a look at our lovely and informative website designed and maintained for us by David Glauner. The full annual report is posted there along with all our newsletters, information about our church organization and how it runs, and so forth. We also have a facebook account for postings about current 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 **March**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, turkey, etc., and for **April**, paper products such as paper towels, toilet tissue, regular tissues and so forth, but each week you're welcome to bring whatever food, paper products 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 !**

Pasca Ferwerda,
Financial Secretary



MARCH

Esther McLain, 11

Timothy Ferwerda, 31

APRIL

Robert Compton, 7

Jeanne Bartlett, 16

Ruth Ann Robinson, 25

Jane Spragg, 25

FYI: Yoga classes on Tuesdays have come to an end.



Happy Anniversary

MARCH

Barbara & Neill Currie, 20

Leaving Us

We will all miss Stuart and Suzanne Huggard when they leave our community and move away to Florida in June or so. They have been such an important part of our town and especially our church. It is always sad when we lose friends who mean so much to us.

We want to wish them the best of luck in settling into a new life there and making new friends.



March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  Guild @ noon	3  Choir 7 pm each Thurs	4 Music Soiree 7 pm	5 7 am Breakfast, 8 am church workday
6 10 am Worship & Communion, Lenten Program	7 PSC 6:30 pm Mondays	8 7 pm Council	9 7 pm WS&O	10	11	12 Clocks spring forward
13 10 am Worship, Lenten Program Daylight Savings	14	15	16 7 pm Trustees	17  St Patrick's Day	18 6 pm Potluck with Hymn Sing after	19
20 10 am Worship, CE Palm Sunday First day of Spring	21	22	23	24 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 Good Friday	26
27 10 am Worship Easter 	28	29	30 7 pm Deacons	31		

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						House Party 3 to 7 pm @ Huggards
3 10 am Worship & communion	4 PSC 6:30 pm each Monday	5	6  Guild @ Noon	7  Choir 7 pm each Thurs	8	9 7 am Breakfast & 8 am Workday @ church
10 10 am Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Council 7 pm	WS&O 7 pm			
17 10 am Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pflag Concord 3 pm			Trustees 7 pm		Earth Day	
24 10 am Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Deacons 7 pm			

Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244
603-464-5643

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



Citizens of the year award on January 27th, 2016

Suzanne and Stuart Huggard were nominated and won the "Citizen/s of the Year" Award through the *Greater Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce*. Citizens who have had a great impact on Hillsboro and surrounding towns are included for this recognition. These two people have had their "hand in" on virtually any and all events, organizations, committees, boards - and/or in whatever was 'happening' in Hillsboro and Deering. What haven't they been involved in? Between them, they have put in years of working for the Historical Society (Treasurer and Secretary), Living History Events, Balloonfest, Schnitzelfest, Deering

Treasurer, Ballot Clerk, helping put on an Olde Fashioned Christmas with the Deering Fire Department for children (of all ages), helping provide scholarships on the Eleanor Campbell Scholarship (formerly the Deering Foundation), Guild Fair, Greater Hillsboro Senior Services, etc., etc. At least one or the other, or often *both*, have blessed our towns with their talents, energy, dedication, hard work, wit, compassion, and selflessness. No fuss, just 'do it'...

Stuart and Suzanne, have both graced the Deering Community Church with so much. One or the other - or both, have served on a zillion committees, performed many duties, coordinated church restorations, serving local food pantries, have been or are Moderator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Tenor voice in the choir, kitchen and/or heat commando, wicked good church holiday decorations combo, on and on and on...We all get the picture! They will be missed when they leave.

