

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner



Dear Deering Community Church, UCC and Friends,

I pray you all had a blessed Christmas and now greet the new year with great anticipation and deepest hope. There is no doubt we are in for a ride we cannot imagine. The church engages in study,

worship, prayer and action to bring the music of Love to our aching world and God's moaning creation as the Apostle Paul referred to it. That music is revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus. The birth of the child comes to us every day even as we close out our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Next, we move into Epiphany, the revealing of Christ-Love to the Gentiles beginning with the story of the Magi's (or Wise Men) visit to the Child and his family.

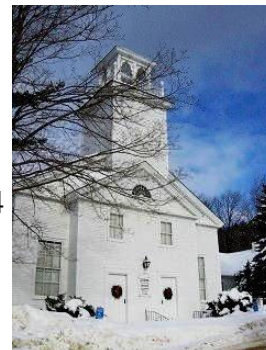
Subsequently, Jesus birth begets a time of trial for his family as they flee and go into hiding as refugees to Egypt after they learn of mad Herod's plot to slaughter all children under two years old. Herod considers the birth of the "new born King" to be a threat to his throne and power. This is just how corrupt, fraudulent and fearful power acts in the world. Jesus will deal with this reality throughout his whole sojourn with us until we enter the Season of Lent, at the end of which he is executed as a common criminal and rebel.

Howard Washington Thurman (November 18, 1899 – April 10, 1981) was an influential African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. His poem on the back page was turned into a hymn contained in the

January, February 2017

New Century Hymnal. Thurman was an activist and mystic. He served as dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University from 1932 to 1944 and as dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University from 1953 to 1965. In 1944, he co-founded, along with Alfred Fisk, the first major interracial, interdenominational church in the United States. Thurman's theology and practice of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists. He was a significant mentor in many of their lives. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. cites Thurman as one of his most profound teachers and mentors from his time at the BU

School of Theology. (Adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Thurman.) Thurman's books are too numerous to name, his insights and inspirations boundless. He comes highly recommended, particularly in this historical moment. This is especially true on the heels of Advent-Christmas as a time of great expectation and hope for each of us personally as well as for the world. I hope Advent-Christmas gave you a deep sense of the glory and



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Pastor's Pen, cont.

Rev. Bill Beardslee

hope of being alive and committed to a better world. Thurman said, *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* The world needs people AWAKE and ALIVE! We heard that theme over and over again.

I feel that Spirit here in our midst as we enter a new year. Our time is fraught with all manner of threats and complications diminishing our possibilities, not only for justice and peace, but even the planet's survival. Yet as persons of faith we move forward with an attitude that is open and full of the possibilities that God holds out for us. We

have our faith, each other and lights going on all over the world as conduits of transformation. Be mindful of them. Thurman said, "The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men and women often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication, they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires." (<https://www.google.com/search?q=howard+thurman>)

This is a guiding thought for the new year and our life together as Deering Community Church. I am delighted to be on this journey with you!

Worship Notes

Rev Bill Beardslee

November and December were filled with many and wonderful activities. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Smith was abundant with gratitude, good music and I hope a good first sermon from the new kid on the block!

AFTER CHURCH DISCUSSIONS have been well attended and very stimulating as we explored the themes of Advent through various lenses.

BLUE CHRISTMAS a special service of Remembrance and Healing was held for people who have lost loved ones. It was a meaningful service for all.

CHRISTMAS falls on Sunday every five years. We had Christmas Eve and a Sunday worship services. Thanks to all who participated and made our worship such a meaningful experience.

STEWARDSHIP

We concluded our stewardship drive at the end of November. I had hoped it would be more successful in drawing more people to give but that was not to be. A full accounting will be in the Annual Report.

ANNUAL MEETING

Speaking of which—the Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 11:30 am, after the church service. We will see you all then in Sherwood Hall.

CONSTANT CONTACT

We will inaugurate a church wide email program called Constant Contact. All who CHOOSE to "buy in" will receive periodic "news of the church" in between our wonderful newsletters. Stuff comes up and we want to insure great lines of communication to you. Those without email can get hard copies.

Christian Education

by Chris Nase

Our focus on Adult Education has continued with discussions on Rev. John Dorhauer's book *Beyond Resistance* and Advent sermon reflections.

On January 29, Mackenzie Nase will present her senior project, *Conscientious Consuming*, focusing on fair labor practices. Please come for an educational and moving presentation. Be prepared to change your purchasing habits.

New Yoga Classes

Bill Beardslee

ADULT AND TOT YOGA please get the word out that Kate Boucher, a recent participant in this wonderful community, will offer her first Adult and Tot Yoga, Monday, January 2, 2017.

Kate writes, "Mini Me Yoga's founder, created Mini Me Yoga directly from the needs of children living in war-torn areas in the Middle East. Kate Bartram-Brown developed Mini Me Yoga as an antidote to stresses on those children and has been wildly successful in translating those early versions of our program to children and families all over the world! Mini Me Yoga is in 25 countries now in only 3 years!

"We serve families and children of all walks of life and needs. We have taught classes to children with Autism and have trained everyday Mums and Dads who want a fun and centering activity for their children. The one thing we know, factually, is that when families integrate our Core 15 Minute Program into their child's daily routine, and do this consistently, the children are calmer, happier and much more able to handle life's daily stressors."

The free Adult & Tot yoga class at Deering Community Church is at 10:30 am and 4:30 pm on Mondays. Folks can contact Katlyn with questions or RSVP at Katlyn.e.boucher@gmail.com

W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

The **Christmas Fund offering** is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who served as clergy (and certain lay employees) and who are now retired or disabled and financially strained. The offering received on Christmas eve at our service will be dedicated to this fund. We will sing carols, the tunes arising in our throats: *peace on earth, good will to all*, and remember this good folk.

We remember also **the Women at the Goffstown prison** who tell us: *please do not forget us*. Snowflakes, cut out of white paper, from the students at John Stark's honor society with messages written and saying: *peace, you are a child of God, love*. Messages cut into snow flakes at the coffee hour in church: *God Bless, Peace be upon you, a friend from Deering Church*. Hold these women in your prayers and be aware of prison reform in our state. Someone will deliver our 150 messages on Tues., Dec. 20, to Rev. Beth Richeson at the prison.

Update on funds received for **Neighbors in Need** stands at \$445.00. Wonderful!

We begin to think about **One Great Hour of Sharing** in March. "I was naked and you clothed me" Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and world wide response and recovery networks, your contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing puts you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.



New Day News

Chris Nase



In case you don't know, New Day, is the name we chose for the group who is working to reenergize our church and reach out to all people in our wider community. Members of the New Day committee are Bill Beardslee, Jane and Steve Waters, Bryan Terry, Christine and Lee Marcroft, Carol and Jack Hubert, and Chris Nase. Many others have been involved in helping this committee and all are welcomed to be as involved as possible. The ultimate goal is to reach out to more people in our community, develop relationships with them, share with them what we love about our faith and church, invite them to join us and grow our church. We are eager to keep everyone informed about our progress.

On October 23, we met with other churches and Paul Nickerson for a Reaching New People Tune Up day. The purpose was to renew our energy,

engage more members of our congregation, celebrate successes and make a new six-month action plan. Part of the Tune Up focused on our outreach during Advent. We have been working on publicity so the community will know about all our events. A somewhat more challenging task is to actively and intentionally meet, greet and invite people to come with us and attend one of these events.

Another part of our plan is to make sure our congregation knows and understands what we are doing. To do this we are having informal dinners so Pastor Bill can meet everyone in a more intimate setting and we can answer questions about the goals of the New Day Committee. We also plan to maintain a bulletin board with current news, have a table at coffee hour so anyone can ask questions and have Mission Moments that will offer updates and information.

Trustees Report

Jean Lewis

We, the Trustees, would like to thank all members and friends of the Deering Community Church for your support in countless ways this year. We appreciate your encouragement at a time of transition to our wonderful new Pastor Bill, transition in our facility--made possible through time, skill, expertise, dedication, financial support and an abundance of very hard physical work of many. Everyone in our Church Community has played a very important role, and for this we give our grateful thanks for all our blessings.

We currently are working to complete the proposed budget for the year 2017. We are looking forward to your continuing support in our congregation's endeavors. We are reviewing our plans for physical building needs and planning the priorities. In the next newsletter, we should be able to report in some detail what those plans may be.

We would like to extend special gratitude to Tom Cavanaugh, whom most of you know as a dedicated Deering Police officer, tireless community participant, and a major contributor of time and expertise on our new kitchen project. Kudos to Tom when you see him!!

More applause to Jane Levesque who is dedicated to keeping our facilities shining!

And to dedicated secretary Debbie, who sends informative emails for me!

A wonderful New Year to all and abundant blessings,
Your Trustees,
Hazel Vogelien, Tim Ferwerda, Jane Levesque, Jean Lewis, Chair



Guild Gleanings

Jeanne Bartlett

Officers for 2017 were voted in: Jeanne Bartlett, president; Joyce Peace, vice president; June Holm, secretary; and Pasca Ferwerda, treasurer. Bryan Terry was a guest at our November meeting.

Pastor Beardslee's installation reception was discussed and it was voted to contribute to the cost of refreshments.

June brought in the sandwich board sign and a check was issued to her for her cost of materials. Members decided to order a second sign. June has researched and found a weatherproof chalk to use for signage. Her contribution and design is very much appreciated. Those members who have not submitted their biographies for our archives were urged to do so.

The 2017 budget was approved. Jeanne and Hazel met with the churches' investment representative, and moderator, Peter Cram. It was decided that the Guild's investment should be established separately from the church endowment fund. This will facilitate a prompt and regular statement allowing us to budget more efficiently. It is our intention to draw at least \$2,000.00 each year to meet our

commitments. Depending on the earnings we hope to contribute to the scholarship fund for our local high school scholars, as well.

A discussion about the Guild's role and representation at church council took place at their December meeting. It has been established that a representative from the Guild should have a voice at council but not the right to vote, as it is with any church member who attends council. Jeanne has offered to research how groups associated within other churches are represented.

We thank Hazel, out-going treasurer/secretary (along with Jane Waters as temporary secretary, also) for her service and her willingness to continue to receive information and report on our investment funds.

Thanks to Barbara Glauner for preparing updated contact information booklets for members.

A KIDS ONLY attic treasure shopping day was planned for December 17 but postponed to December 24 because of a significant snow storm.

Musical Notes

Jane Waters



What an uplifting celebrative time the choir has had this fall in preparing wonderful music! It began with Pastor Bill's Installation. We were fortunate to have Jon Doharty to play the trumpet for "God Has Called Us". For the ecumenical service on November 20th we joined our voices with the Methodist and Smith Church choirs.

Finally, the musical highlight was the presentation of the cantata "Morning Start" by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 11 at 3 PM. This was a joyful presentation of familiar carols interwoven with Larson's original music and interpretations again combining our choir with Smith Church. Barbara Daley gave superlative supportive accompaniment; Sissi Shattuck and Sam Kelly were soloists; last but not least Pastor Bill and Pastor Eric from Smith Church spoke as narrators. So much preparation went into all of this which was well received by a congregation of about 50. A nice reception followed including special treats. A very joyful occasion!

The major upcoming event is the annual **Musical Soiree on February 10 @ 7 pm**. Contact Sam Kelly for more information. The Soiree is always a lot of fun. Come and bring your friends.

Moderator's Desk

Peter Cram

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that the end of another year is fast approaching. Perhaps by the time you read this, we will have already celebrated the New Year. With my Moderator hat on, I tend to think of the business at hand, and in particular, the upcoming Annual Meeting. This year, it will be held after church on January 22nd. I always find this to be an exciting occasion, when we can look back on the things we've accomplished, and set targets for the upcoming year. It's a time for some analysis as well, as we look over budgets and our financial standing, to see how we've been able to manage with the income we've brought in, and how well we've used those resources to best meet the needs of the church and our wider community. So far, the Stewardship Committee is telling us that our projected income is down somewhat from what it was last year. With our membership being what it is, this was to be expected, but it tells us that we need to collectively put our heads together to find ways to be even more effective with less. It's a challenge we can and will meet. I genuinely hope that you all attend the annual meeting. Our mission and the way we approach is a group effort.

In preparation for the meeting, we will be having a discussion period after church on January 8th. At that time, some ideas about a potential church restructuring will be presented. Many of us have been challenged by our inability to meet the committee obligations as dictated by our bylaws. We need to face the fact that given our current membership, some of our bylaws are impractical. We should face this dilemma, and make some positive adjustments where necessary. We think the timing of this discussion period is good in that it will give people time to think about these changes prior to the annual meeting, when more formal motions on the reorganization will be offered.

The annual meeting also marks the transition from one team of boards and officers to another. This year marks the end of my second term as Moderator, so it is a time when I will be moving out of that position, making way for my successor. The

Nominating Committee is still working on filling that particular position, but there are possibilities in the making. Looking back over the past four years, I am heartened by the support I have received from everyone. We have done a lot together, and I have certainly learned a lot. Perhaps the one thing I've come to appreciate more than ever is how well everyone in the Deering Church works together, despite the challenges. The people who work on the various boards do so with a loving spirit. They will do whatever they can to make things happen, and to complete tasks with the greater good in mind. This is such a wonderful church community, and I have been proud and humbled as Moderator to have been part of it. I'm not going anywhere, and do expect to maintain my position as Treasurer going forward.

So we move confidently into the future. And there is much to be confident and hopeful for. We have new leadership and guidance under the direction of Rev. Bill Beardslee. As I mentioned in my last newsletter article, I find Bill to have such wonderful qualities that will help us enormously, including a wealth of fresh ideas, and the energy and enthusiasm to move them forward. We also have a newly formed 'New Day' committee that has already had an impact. We joyously have seen and welcomed several new faces on Sunday mornings!

With the 2016 year coming to a close, and the spirit of Advent in the air, I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and the hope and joy that comes with new beginnings and opportunities in the New Year. I hope you're able to experience the joy that comes with spending time with friends and family, and to give thanks to the Lord and the Holy Spirit within us that keeps us awake to the vision of love that is eternal.

Note from the Editor: This likely will be Peter's last moderator's report since his two year time as Moderator has come to an end and he will be stepping down. We thank him for his insightful comments on our church direction, goals and his wider vision as he sees it. Thank you Peter.

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 **February** such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **January**, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, hand cream, 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 !** Pasca Ferwerda, Financial Secretary.



JANUARY

Carol Hubert, 2

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Jack Hubert, 12

Charlotte Price 31

FEBRUARY

Ray Petty III, 2

Glenn Price, 9

Sam Kelly, 13

Reminder

The Pastor wanted to remind us that all articles for the annual report booklet must be in to Debbie no later than January 3rd.

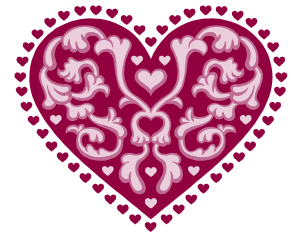
Happy Anniversary

JANUARY

Pasca & Tim Ferwerda, 26

FEBRUARY

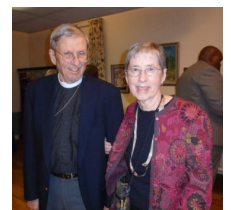
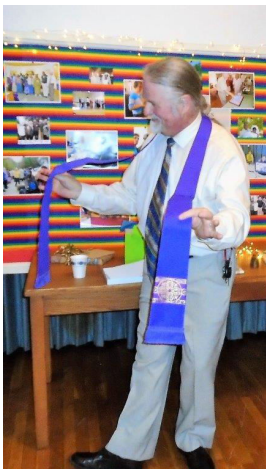
Kathleen & Raymond Daniels, 14



Photos of Rev. William Beardslee's Installation

Christine Marcroft

On Sunday, November 6th, we held Pastor Bill Beardslee's installation as our official new pastor at 3 pm. It was such a festive event, and Bill was really happy!! His family was there -- only Silas was missing from the kids. There were many of his good friends around him with congratulationsOur congregation gave him the lavender stole, and Carol and Jack gave him the bowl that he loves to make ring for the silencing moment.



Cantata Photos

Christine Marcroft

From Musical notes: The musical highlight was the presentation of the cantata "Morning Start" by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 11 at 3 PM. This was a joyful presentation of familiar carols interwoven with Larson's original music and interpretations again combining our choir with Smith Church. Barbara Daley gave superlative supportive accompaniment; Sissi Shattuck and Sam Kelly were soloists; last but not least Pastor Bill and Pastor Eric from Smith Church spoke as narrators. So much preparation went into all of this which was well received by a congregation of about 50. A nice reception followed including special treats. A very joyful occasion!



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship & Communion	2 Adult & Tot yoga classes 10:30 am & 4:30 pm each Monday	3	4  Guild @ Noon	5  Choir Practice Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 pm	6	7 Workday 8 to 10 am, 7 am Breakfast
8 10 am Worship 11:30 church discussion meeting	9	10 Council, 7 pm	11 WS & O 7 pm	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
3 pm Pflag, Concord			Trustees, 7 pm			
22 10 am Worship 11:30 am Annual church Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship, Conscientious Consuming by MacKensie Nase	30	31 Deacons, 7 pm				

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
			1  Guild @ Noon	2  Choir Practice Thursdays@ 7 to 8:30 pm	3	4 Workday 8 to 10 am, 7 am breakfast.
5 10 am Worship & Communion	6 Adult and Tot Yoga each Monday, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm	7	8 WS&O, 7 pm	9	10 Musical Soiree 7 pm, Deering Church	11 Church Retreat. 9 to 1 pm, includes lunch
12 10 am Worship	13	14  Valentine's Day Council, 7 pm	15 Trustees, 7 pm	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship 3 pm Pflag Concord	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship, Adult lessons 11:30.	27	28 7 pm Deacons				

Deering Community Church
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Rev William Beardslee

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

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



Thoughts from the Pastor's Pen

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
...To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers (and sisters),
To make music in the heart. -----Howard Thurman

