

D⁺eering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner



After the rains the leaves fall away. I hear mumbling on the sidelines, "It's coming. Winter is coming." It is anticipated and not necessarily with excitement. Yet, this is New England abounding with its seasons. They are fluid, not with abrupt beginnings and endings, but

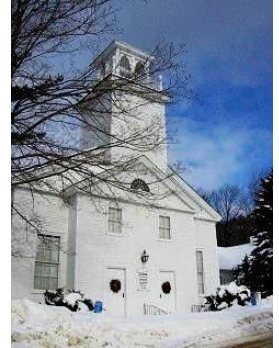
through magnificent processes of metamorphosis. There is transformation, mostly imperceptible, from cool to cold to freezing, warm to hot, wet to dry, with all kinds of variations in between. The seasons of our lives are not much different. They abound with change after change, some welcomed, others not, some expected, some not. "If you don't like the weather in New England now," said Twain, "just wait a few minutes," is as much a saying for our lives as it is for the weather. The only difference is we can fight our lives more than we can the weather.

The Fall-Winter-Advent Christmas Season comes just at the right time to fend off the denying, rationalizing, suppressing, ignorance, complacency and indifference to change and decay. The earth seems to strip down, retreat inward upon itself. The juices that once flowed freely into life giving sap are drawn in and down to prepare for a later re-birth. Earth hibernates as do many animals. Then there is a kind of dying that takes place. It's as though the earth takes a big in-breath to hold together all that has returned and does not exhale until the inklings of Spring in its roots and soil, when there slowly arises new juices allowing the earth to exhale and begin its next cycles into Spring and Summer. We begin to look for the crocus, the tulip and other

November, December 2017

signs of the new life itching to be born.

These processes are not dissimilar to our own inward processes if we intentionally and consciously enter into our souls through prayer, play, study, meditation, and conversation. We prepare ourselves for the infusion of new life in Advent. Everything is anticipation from Advent to Easter. We learn of the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. We then learn of some of his teachings and life until we enter Lent as if to be reminded that we are still in the tomb of earth, the tomb of our souls, the tomb of life, without full awareness. Yet Spring and Resurrection coincide. But that's for later.



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Let's travel this road of life in community looking inwardly, working outwardly. Let's figure out together this life, death, life, process that is so important for us to understand as we move forward. Let's gather for our weekly worship. Let's talk afterward, learn and ponder, show up for our special services as we are able. Let's give thanks at Thanksgiving. Let's step up to shedding the skin of old ways, make amends for our mistakes, honor the ancestors and Indigenous Peoples as well as our

Pastor's Corner

Rev Beardslee

sisters and brothers in this awesome community. Let's open our doors to the refugee, continue to reach a hand to the hungry and homeless. Let's sing and laugh and cry as we do, extending those hugs and handshakes to each other and the Strangers

among us. Let's get to know one another.

The future of this faith, not to mention this church, is on us, it's up to us, but only relying on the Spirit of the Living God!

Happenings

Rev Beardslee

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Please join the churches of Hillsborough-Deering for our annual Thanksgiving Service. This year it will be held at the United Methodist Church on Main St. in Hillsborough on Nov 19 at 7:00 pm. Our combined choirs will be there. A time of fellowship follows.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is traditionally known as Native American Heritage Month. All over the country, in Indigenous and non-indigenous communities, the legacy and contribution of Native Peoples is celebrated. It is also a time to acknowledge the legacy of genocide inflicted on the 500 nations who lived on this land when it was invaded by immigrants.

On Indigenous Peoples Day, formerly known as Columbus Day, I invited the congregation to step forward in the future to express our solidarity with Indigenous People and their nations by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and planting a Burning Bush over its ashes.

November 26th we will enact this significant and meaningful recognition.

The Doctrine of Discovery originated with "Pope Alexander VI on May 4, 1493, (and) played a central role in the Spanish conquest of the New World... The Bull stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered," claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers and declared that "the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations

be overthrown and brought to the faith itself." This "Doctrine of Discovery" became the basis of all European claims in the Americas as well as the foundation for the United States' western expansion. In the US Supreme Court in the 1823 case *Johnson v. McIntosh*, Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion in the unanimous decision held "that the principle of discovery gave European nations an absolute right to New World lands." In essence, American Indians had only a right of occupancy, which could be abolished." <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/imperial-rivalries/resources/doctrine-discovery-1493>. An article on Wikipedia is well worth reading too for the historical perspective on the doctrine. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discovery_doctrine

STEWARDSHIP IS UPON US

It's time to give of our treasure. You've received two letters so far and will hear from a number of Stewardship witnesses speaking about why this church is so important in their lives. Please meditate on that as you consider your financial gift this year. Let's strengthen our ministries and outreach together.

Our campaign will wrap up in church on November 19th when you will be invited to bring forth your pledge and place it in the offering. I'm told there will be cake for all to celebrate our life and growth together. If you cannot be in church on the 19th please let us know. We can give you one in church before the 19th or you can request we mail a pledge card to you at deeringchurch@conknet.com

Happenings

Rev. Beardslee

BUDGETS ARE DUE TO THE TRUSTEES BY NOVEMBER 1

Please get your budget requests in so they can begin work on the 2018 budget plan without last minute pressure. Be realistic and yet imaginative as to your programming possibilities.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY DECEMBER 28th

Please make every effort to write up your annual report in a timely fashion and get it in to the office for production. This will guarantee distribution by January 14th, two weeks before Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY JANUARY 28th. We encourage full congregational presence and must have a quorum for it to happen.

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

Advent will be upon us in a brief moment. I propose an Advent Series called “Birthing New Possibilities.” It will be a time to bring the meaning of Advent into our spiritual and organizational lives. We will reflect upon what is developing and in process within the womb of our community called Deering Community Church. Each week we will labor to question and discern what is the known nature of our community and what might God be intimating in Spirit or asking us to consider. What is waiting to be born in God’s time and God’s way?

During this time, we also participate in an all church planning day for the new year.

The dates for meeting are as follows:

Advent 1, December 3 rd ,	“Keep Awake: Discerning the Spirit”
Advent 2, December 10 th ,	“Preparing the Way: The Work of the Spirit”
December 11 th	All Church Planning Day 9:00-1:30 (including brown bag lunch),
Advent 3, December 17 th ,	An Advent Musical experience,
December 19 th ,	A Blue Christmas Service, 6:00 pm, a time to pause and remember our loved ones and the grief we might carry in this season of celebration
Advent 4, December 24 th	“Nothing Will Be Impossible with God.”
	an after church final reflection on what we’ve discovered.

The season will culminate in a festive Christmas Eve celebration at 5 pm.

MacKensie Nase’s Adventure

Here is a photo taken in Sweden by MacKensie Nase who is on a student trip. [Please check out her two letters that appear on page 8 of this newsletter.](#) MacKensie's Adventure is in the YIP program-- visit yip.se to learn more. Her trip started on September 18 in Sweden at a campus where she was introduced to the curriculum with other students. MacKensie turned 19 on October 20, shortly after writing these letters home.



New Structure

Rev Beardslee

NEW STRUCTURE By the time you read this we will have had a general meeting to review and **look more deeply at our proposed New Structure pictured at the end of this newsletter on page 14.**

Suffice it to say that we hope this will allow us maximum participation of all of you with fewer long term time constraints like in the old committee structure.

- ☐ We will now have MINISTRY AREAS.
- ☐ Each area has a coordinator.
- ☐ Coordinators COORDINATE and do NOT do all the work.
- ☐ VOLUNTEERS or program initiators will make real the various ministries with shorter time commitments.
- ☐ Hopefully our cherished ministries will continue and new ones will be born with YOUR interest and participation. If you have any questions please ask.

Rather than attempt to pass a new structure and change by-laws at this time we will propose going into the new year with a trial run for the structure. We'll accumulate experience and be able to judge whether this will work or not. It's a model that relies on everyone's participation as they are willing and able. We'll go with it to the end of the year 2018 unless it very obvious it won't work.

Moderator's Report

Bryan Terry

I have fallen in love with the daily meditations from the "Center for Action and Contemplation", founded by Father Richard Rohr, as introduced to me by Pastor Bill Beardslee... a little background: Drawing from his own Franciscan heritage and other wisdom traditions, Richard Rohr reframes neglected or misunderstood teachings to reveal the foundations of contemplative Christianity and the universe itself: **God as loving relationship**. I'd like to share a recent CAC meditation. According to the anonymous author of *The Cloud: Loving is the deepest kind of knowing that transcends the usual "operating system" which sees from differentiation and separation (you from me, or them from us). Only surrendering humbly to this path of love will result in the discovery that God is not the **object** of our longing and love, but is the **loving** itself... God is the force that is binding, moving, sustaining, and transforming us with every breath and every evolutionary shift on our planet.* Our world today, could use a little more "loving". It's time we threw out the old 'operating system'... no more 'us and

them'. We have certainly felt evolutionary shifts in numerous ways. We've been exposed to Nature's tempest of hurricanes, droughts, fires, and earthquakes. We've witnessed increasing war-torn nations that are crushing and wreaking havoc on God's people and all of God's Creation with no where for refugees to go and more immigrants being rejected in our own land. Indeed, our Country is struggling to find her own identity. A great political, ethical, and ideological division has reared its ugly head throughout our land. We really do need to transcend the usual way we think, feel and act. We and the world need more 'loving'. There is no real separation between all of God's Creation and ourselves. Even within the walls of the Deering Community Church, we, as individuals, are as one. There is a great need for intentional love and support in this world, in our communities, our State and Country, the Middle East, Zimbabwe, even the environment. Where can we be most helpful? What is it that our church has a passion to do? The folks at the Deering Community Church have a big heart. As

Moderator's Report cont.

Bryan Terry

a group we exude warmth, kindness, and generosity. We are 'Open and Affirming', for *everyone*. We have a sister church in Zimbabwe, and between the Women's Guild and choir members, we have adopted 2 children. We help 'Feed the Teens' and provide food to local pantries.

Besides needing to choose where and how to extend our hand of love and support, we are in the midst of 'restructuring', and 'reconciling' who we are as a church, and where and how we choose to grow. We have several new members, and their spiritual and physical needs and thoughts ought to be respected and nurtured. Our congregation is still smaller than it has been in years, so we need to 're-configure' how to best operate and/or function at this point. How can we do the work, or ministries, that are most meaningful to each of us, *and* that we have the manpower and energy to carry out? Faithful and hard-working groups of people in this church, have continued with church up-keep and ministries that we have held dear over the years. I want to thank all of you who have provided the love and labor that have kept us going. As we work closely together, these next few months, to figure out where our paths lead us, please hold our church in your prayers. The ministry areas that we will endeavor to make functional and fruitful, will need everyone's imagination, trust, cooperation, love, *and participation*.

Reverend Bill Beardslee will be shedding more light on the "Restructuring" process and ramifications. The old Articles and By-Laws were not working for us. You will note a "New Model" chart in this Newsletter. We hope to broaden the means of communication. We should all ask questions and share our thoughts as we begin to embrace

the new structural model. Most importantly, please actively participate and become engaged in the needs and doings of the church, in the ways that are most meaningful to you! Together, we need to let the Holy Spirit work through us as we smooth out the loose ends! We have always risen to a challenge in this church. I'm sure we will do so again with intention, action, focus and faith. Other groups/committees, or 'Ministry Areas', as we will begin to call them, will provide more information on their various activities elsewhere in this Newsletter, where you will see that this church continues to be incredibly active! Please note their dedication and good works.

The Stewardship campaign, which should really be year-round, began in earnest in October. The on-going maintenance of this old building is costly! We need to finish painting the outside... only 3 more sides, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Peter, Tim, Peg, Byron, Jean and others under the whip of your Moderator! We were blessed with the work of Bob Compton and friend, as well as the needed staging Bob lent the church. We hope to finish the work in the Spring. But in reality, the financial support from members and friends is absolutely critical for the life of this church. Buckets of paint and the cost of heating are nothing compared to the outreach, with physical and spiritual support, that has been the core of the Deering Community Church. Thank you for giving generously, joyfully, and often! Let your hearts be full. As we move toward the season of Advent and the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may we all find a continued re-birth of faith, joy and love in our hearts. May we always let our 'light shine'.

Concord PFlag Support Group

Christine Marcroft

Lee and Christine Marcroft continue to co-facilitate the Concord support group at the Methodist Church in Concord. The group meets every third Sunday for two hours. Originally, PFLAG was meant for Parents and Friends of lesbian and gay folks, but in the past few years, we have seen an increase of transgender folks attending, including quite a few young children and their parents. This is very exciting, and we are so glad to watch how the children and parents interact and share their experiences. This group is strictly a support group and not a therapy group. It is a safe place for everyone and conversations are confidential. It is good to see that things have changed for the better these past few years, but we still have a lot of work to do in education and compassion. We would welcome people from our church to attend a support group session. We are, after all, an Open and Affirming Church and do need to know more about our sisters and brothers of the LGBT community.

Great Joys & Celebratory Events

Bryan Terry & Christine Marcroft



Great joys in our church! "Bowie", Julian's new brother and Amanda's new son, was the center of attraction one October Sunday morning. We also celebrated the October 13th

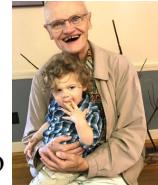


marriage of Deanna and Michelle on Long Island! We look forward to the Baptism of sweet little Riley in time by Stand Long and Sally

November. We had story

Carll-Long for the children and Noah loves to play the piano

the hall. Our own Jami Boyle, who started her journey toward ordination from her beginnings at our church, was ordained on October 15th in Nashua. Bill, Steve, Jane and Bryan were able to be there to celebrate with her.



Conference Minister Gary Schulte's farewell at Brookside on August 27th was a moving experience



attended by a few of us. He has been such a calming presence and will be missed.



On a more somber, yet celebratory note, many



of us witnessed a moving, tender and beautiful Memorial to one of our beloved members who died on April 4th in NYC at age 82. On October 22, church and community members came together to honor and celebrate the life of Jean Elliott Johnson. The Women's Guild hosted refreshments, Jane Waters played the piano with grace, and both the men's and general choir lent their heartfelt voices. Don spoke of his life with his best friend Jean. Her

children and grandchildren sang "Here I Am Lord". The church was filled with family members, friends, and so many who have been connected to the church over the years in one way or another. Jean did so much for so many and will forever be in our hearts.



Don Johnson & Barbara Currie



Family, friends and grandchildren

Musical Notes

Jane Waters

Since our summer activities our musical program began by hosting Smith Church for a potluck supper/hymn sing on October 13. Linda Bissonette, Smith's new choir director, did an excellent job of accompanying while yours truly presided over the enthusiastic 21 singers. Plans for more such evenings will follow.

On October 22 at 1:00 PM, music filled the church for the memorial service for Jean Johnson. Jean loved music and would have been moved by her grandchildren's touching performance of Schutte's "Here I Am Lord" and Mark Johnson playing his banjo to accompany them for "This Little Light of Mine". A friend, who is a concert pianist, played a lovely Chopin piece. Our choir sang Mozart's "Ave

Verum" and the men's choir (with Pastor Bill) sang "Precious Lord" as a special request by the Johnson family.

Coming up will be the ecumenical service on November 19 at 7:00 PM at the United Methodist Church for which our choir will combine with others to sing an anthem. The opportunity to sing together in our wider community is a true blessing.

On December 17 at 3:00 PM the choir with some added voices we all know will present a special musical performance of Christmas music. It will be similar to Vespers with a reception following. Finally, there will be music for December 24, Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM.

W S & O

Jeanne Bartlett

Members of this group are: Jeanne Bartlett, Peg Hauschildt, Don Johnson, Lee and Christine Marcroft and Hazel Vogelien. We meet, usually, on the second Wednesday of the month. Our agenda speaks to: Community Outreach, United Church of Christ special Mission awareness; Women's Prison outreach; Hillsborough Youth Services, Genesis Teen Center of Hillsborough; O&A concerns and news; and partnership with UCC in Rimbi.

Thanks to all for your generous contributions to the Neighbors In Need mission held on October 2. A total of \$316.75 was collected. The focus, this year, was: **In a Just World, Clean Water is Life. Protect the Sacred!** (Two-thirds of your donations support advocacy, programming and grants.)

The offering received at the Christmas Eve service will be dedicated to: **The Christmas Fund** which provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received annually on the Sunday before Christmas.

Several Welcome Baskets have been assembled and are ready to be delivered to new residents in the community.

We much appreciate the snack donations along with funds to keep 24 bags filled with small meals, drinks and snacks, for monthly delivery to the Teen drop-in Center in Hillsborough. Thanks to Joyce Peace for making that delivery!

We welcome your messages of hope written on the paper snowflakes provided by high school students and others for delivery to the Women's Prison at Christmas time. Last year's count was 180 and we hope for your participation again this year. Join the coffee hour folders, cutters and message writers after church in December!

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner & June Holm

In looking back at the Summer Fair in August, the Fair made about \$3,277.27 after all expenses, sharing the profits half and half between the Deering Church and the Guild. There were discussions at subsequent Guild meetings about what to raffle off in 2018, since the 2017 raffle did not make as much money as usual. Perhaps offering quilts is not as popular as in the past. We are asking people to think about this for suggestions as to what we might do for a raffle.

The Guild thrift shop has been open every last Saturday of each month since it was started in mid-2017 and is doing very well with new donations from people in the church and around town monthly. The profits are split half and half with the Deering Church each month. For example, in August we earned \$108 with half going to the church. The Guild will sponsor a children's Christmas Shopping day again this year in the thrift shop where children can shop for gifts for their parents and have them gift wrapped while Mom or Dad have cookies and coffee upstairs. The tentative date for that is Saturday, November 25th while the

store is open.

A memorial service was held for Jean Johnson, a long time member of the church and the Guild on October 22nd at 1 pm. Jean died at age 82 on April 4th in NYC. She spent Spring, Summer and Fall at home in Deering. The Guild members provided the refreshments after the service.

Outings: The Women's Guild was invited to Smith Church on October 2 at 7 pm by their women's group for a meeting and a program about quilts, how to make and take care of them. On October 15th, the Deering Women's Guild had an outing to go to the play *My Fair Lady* with lunch at the Currier Museum.

September and October have been busy months with meetings the first Wednesday of each month. Committees for the Guild Budget for 2018 and the Nominating Committee for Guild officers for 2018 have been established. **The next Guild meeting will be held on November 1st at noon. Bring your own bag lunch and be prepared to enjoy the company!**

MacKensie Nase's Adventure Letters

Two letters home

September 18, 2017 and October 10, 2017: Hello from Järna Sweden, It is crazy to think that it has been almost a month since I set off for Sweden and embarked on my YIP adventure! During my first few days I got to know the campus (which is gorgeous), my new home (my room has a view of a field where I see sheep grazing each morning) and my fellow yuppies (who are all super nice). For the first week we got introduced to the curriculum and toured the extensive campus. The second week we jumped into the program and learned about gentrification and discussed urban place making. The third week we helped harvesting at a local farm, went to a ecologic bank and had two days of art of hosting. This coming week we are learning about politics from Gerald Häfner. I also decided after a lot of contemplation to go to the Philippines for my 6-week internship! In the Philippines we will be helping local initiatives in the city of Bayawan. I am having a wonderfully time and learning each day. Feel free to email me if you want to know more and I will try to write back as soon as possible. Hej, This past week (October) we have been on Autumn Break providing me with more time to write. I am still doing well and have gotten good barrng for my surroundings. Brazil is fast approaching, which is very exciting because it is starting to get cold here. For the courses; week four was about politics and governance. We talked about different forms of governance with a high focus on European systems. Week five's topic was Spiritual Ecology. During this week we learned about our connection with the earth, discussed global warming and indigenous people. During the Autumn break I went to a festival in Järna, helped someone move, and visited with some distinct relatives. For five days I stayed with my grandma's second cousin and his wife who live in Gothenburg. They took me around the city, to their summer home and we visited with their kids and grandkids.

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 and poultry for **December**, such as ham, turkey, tuna, chicken, etc., and paper products for **November**, such as paper towels, napkins, nasal tissue boxes, toilet tissue rolls, 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



NOVEMBER

Timothy Finn, 2

Peg Hauschildt, 8

Hope Thomas, 13

Barbara Glauner, 18

Kathryn Daniels, 26

Jane Waters, 27

DECEMBER

Christine Marcroft, 5

Marjorie Bryce, 8

Kate Kelly, 12



OBITUARY

Arthur E. Walmsley

The Rt. Rev. Arthur E. Walmsley died at home peacefully at age 89 on October 5, 2017. He was a long time resident of NH and is survived by his wife Roberta Walmsley of Deering. A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Church in Concord and a further service at Christ Church Cathedral in Connecticut. For more information log on to www.holtwoodburyfh.com

Happy Anniversary

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
No wedding anniversaries.

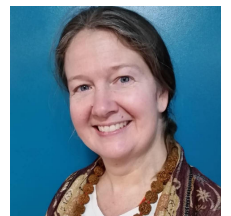
Information Request

To all church members & families, new and current:

If you have not seen your birthday or anniversary names and dates listed in the newsletters and would like to see them here, would you please send your e-mail address and your birth and wedding anniversary dates, month and day, to the church so I can add them to my lists. You can send them to me or to the church e-mail, attention Susan Day Daniels, our new administrative secretary. Thank you for your help. Barbara Glauner

Susan Day Daniels, Deering Church Administrator

Susan Day Daniel, our new church administrator, lives in Henniker. She comes to us as an electrical and computer engineer with 20 years experience with major companies, turned yoga teacher, gardener, herbalist and outdoor enthusiast. Susan is married with two children.



New Structural Meeting

Chris Nase

The New Structure Informational Meeting was held on 10/17/17.

Present: Bill Beardslee, Jane Waters, Bryan Terry, Sam Kelly, Peter Cram, Pasca Ferwerda, Steve Waters, Jeanne Bartlett, Hazel Vogelien, Chris Nase

Why are we restructuring? - Our by-laws required an unmanageable number of people to serve on boards and committees, there are not enough people for too many positions and this was not sustainable - too much work for too few people. The new model maximizes participation, but for less time. We need a structure to serve us, a structure that will work for us - the success of this structure will depend on our commitment. We could continue as is and we could manage for a time but we won't grow and will slowly die. We have attracted some new members and need to keep our intention of inviting people to our church to keep our church growing.

See Re-Organization Chart for more specific details on the new structure on the back page of this newsletter.

The Coordinating Council would still serve as the vehicle to communicate between the ministry areas, meet monthly, with an occasional council meeting taking place after church where everyone is invited; everyone is always invited.

The ministry area coordinators will reach out to those who expressed interest in that area - people serving in a ministry area will be encouraged to serve in one ministry at a time, working on something they are passionate about and for a limited time - if no one steps forward to serve, then we may not be able to continue with that task.

Question: Will current tasks that a certain committee now manages continue to be managed by that committee in the new structure or will they be moved? For example, would World Service continue to run the barbecue? Would WS organize the forums? Not necessarily... The Coordinating Council could discuss this and decide if the barbecue is still something we want to do and then work to get those interested to help. At Christmas time the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry would ask for people interested in decorating the church, but that coordinator would not then do the decorating. If no one is interested in helping, then there will be no decorations.

The process is democratic - all need to be involved. Multiple events need to be supported by the whole church such as the Summer Fair and Barbecue.

A ministry coordinator can call a meeting with those who expressed interest in that area and see what ideas people have. This could be done before the annual meeting. This is a good time to start discussing what we want to shift around and what we want to keep doing.

It is expected that ministry teams would meet monthly at least initially - coordinate with those who are interested - we may try to have ministry areas meet at the same time but don't know if this will be feasible.

Example: If someone is interested in starting a Coffee House, Bill would tell the member to contact different ministries for help with coordination, but that person is in charge of organizing it.

The Gifts and Skills Assessment indicated people who were willing to be ministry coordinators and those interested in serving in those ministry areas. Bill passed out the survey information to the ministry coordinators so they may contact those people and begin meeting.

Foreigners Among Us

Barbara Currie

Foreigners Among Us, Immigration in NH

In our Judeo-Christian Bible there are more than 80 references to caring for the strangers or foreigners among us. In Leviticus in the same chapter as the Ten Commandments in verses 33-34: *When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as the native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God (The Message version of the Bible).*

The immigration/refugee problems in the world today are so very tremendous. Recently Chris Nase made us aware of Indonesians in our NH Conference UCC, members of the Marantha Church in Madbury, NH, as well as other Indonesian refugees in the Dover area who were told they would be deported. These are Christians that fled Indonesia in the late 1990's because of persecution by Muslim extremists. Previously, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) had an agreement with these unauthorized immigrants to report monthly and if no illegal activities had been committed they would be able to continue their life in NH. On August 1 the first 22 Indonesians reporting to ICE were told to come back on September 5 with airplane tickets for deportation or ICE detention. On that date I was at the Federal headquarters of ICE in Manchester to give support to these very frightened families. With other faith based communities, we had a public worship service and then did a Jericho walk seven times around the building. (For description of a Jericho Walk or March go to <https://www.allaboutprayer.org/jericho-march-faq.htm>.) After the walk I went over to the line of Indonesians, waiting to be called by ICE, to talk with them. One family with an 8 year old girl especially touched me. Her two brothers had gone to school that day, but she was holding tight to her father's hand. Imagine the angst of a family facing detention or deportation deciding to take their children who are Americans by birth back to a hostile land, leaving them behind or seeking Sanctuary. A judge has declared a temporary stay of deportation so the next chapter is yet to be written.

There are several members of our church who are very interested in getting involve to care for these "foreigners." Bill Beardslee and I presented an informational session after church last month. There are many different ways we can help support this Solidarity Network. We will be providing more information in the coming months. One of the big things is providing sanctuary to those refugees who are ordered to be deported and choose not to go. There are many different aspects of Sanctuary. Level 1 is providing a home in our church facility for the individual/family. Level 2 is Support, Accompaniment & Advocacy: helping with things like preparing food, pressuring our political representatives to advocate with our national administration, provide legal and psychological help, provide transportation for the children (the unauthorized person is not able to leave without risk of arrest), childcare, media presence and so forth. There is now one NH United Church of Christ that has designated itself to be a Sanctuary: Meriden Congregational Church. If any of you are interested in being involved, please contact me, Bill Beardslee, or Chris Nase.

On Sunday, October 29, the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network, with leadership from the Granite State Organizing Project and many different NH faith communities are launching a special event: Prayer, Music, Poetry, Singing, Marching in Manchester that will announce to our communities the creation of this program described above. More information will be in the next newsletter. Please pray for our brothers and sisters.





November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Guild @ Noon 	 2 Choir Practice 7 pm each Thursday	3	4 Clocks fall back tonight
5 10 am Worship & Communion, EST resumes	6	7 Council leadership group 10:30 am to 12 noon	8 WS&O 7 pm	9	10	11 7 am breakfast, 8 am Workday @ church
12 10 am Worship, & Baptism	13	14 Trustees 6 pm Council 7 pm	15 W S & O, 7 pm	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship, & Stewardship. U Methodist, 7 pm Ecumen. service	20	21	22	 23 Thanksgiving	24	25 Guild Thrift Shop 9am to 1pm, Children's Christmas shopping
26 10 am Worship	27	28	29	30		
		Deacons, 7 pm				



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 1 Choir Practice 7 pm each Thursday		2 Breakfast 7 am, Workday 8 to 11 am @ church
3 Worship 10 am with Communion 11:30 Advent Study	4	5 Council Leadership Group 10:30 am to 12 noon	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 10 am, teen food pack 11, 11:30 Advent Studies	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Trustees 6 pm Council 7 pm	WS&O, 7 pm			
17 Worship 10 am, Advent Study 11:30. 3 pm Music & reception	18	19	20	21	22	23
		6:30 Blue Christmas	Newsletter Deadline	Winter Solstice		
24 Worship 10 am. Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm	 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
		Deacons, 7 pm		Annual Reports Due		Guild Thrift Shop 9 am to 1 pm
31 Worship 10 am New Year's Eve						

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We're on The Web
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