



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

EVAPORATED MILK, PAPER TOWELS, COFFEE, AND CHEERIOS?

I am fortunate to serve with a lovely group of individuals from the area on the Board of Directors of the Wakefield Food Pantry. It's a great group, and Ginny and Dave Schweitzer and John Shaffer from our church also serve on this Board. If you stop by the Food Pantry while it's in operation, you'll also see that quite a number of members of our fellowship volunteer there in a variety of capacities. It's a very busy place— fast-paced, active, and friendly. Lots of food and lots of people go in and out. And as generously as the Food Pantry is supported by many in the community, it seems there is always a need for more of certain items.

With the warm weather upon us, it's easy to forget the needs of the Food Pantry. We all tend to remember food donations more readily around the holidays, but, during the warmer months, donations can dip. Additionally, at the last Food Pantry Board meeting on May 13, it was noted that donations of cash are down, and that the amount of food coming in from the churches seems to have diminished to a degree. So, let this little note be a reminder to all of us to remember the Food Pantry.... all year 'round!!

It's interesting to see which items are frequently requested. I have noticed that certain items bring a great smile of appreciation; some of these things are items that many of us take completely for granted. If you are wondering what you can do to make somebody light up with appreciation and delight, you need only go to the store and pick up some boxes of Cheerios, some cans of evaporated milk, some personal care items, and some nice ground coffee, and place them in the Food Pantry donation basket in the back of the sanctuary. Voila! Do this, and you will know you have made someone's day the following Wednesday.

Thank you!

Blessings and peace,
Mary

... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...
Matthew 25: 35

STEEPLEVIEWS ONLINE FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

It is already a year since Steeple Views went online and became available by email and on the Church's website. This was a big step towards becoming better stewards of the earth as well as lowering our expenses. We are better stewards because we use less paper, ink, fuel, and generate less trash. We've helped the church's budget because we now mail less than half as many newsletters, saving the Church approximately \$600 per year for postage, plus paper costs.

Additionally, the news gets out faster, improving communications, since the email version can be read even as the paper versions are still being printed.

If you have internet access and are not yet receiving the Steeple Views by email, just send an email to the editors at steepleviews@gmail.com and let us know. You can always view the latest issue and previous issues on our website at www.fccwakefieldnh.org.

Thanks for doing your part!

The Editors, Carol and Lynn

TREASURE SHOP

The Parish Helpers will be accepting donations at the Treasure Shop on Wednesday, June 3 and on Tuesday, June 9, between the hours of 9 and noon. Please bring your re-sellable donations at that time. The Treasure Shop does not accept clothing or Christmas items and items should be clean and usable. Thank you for your donations that help make the Treasure Shop so successful every summer!

The Treasure Shop will open for business on Saturday, June 27, from 9 to 12 p.m. and will be open every Wednesday and Saturday throughout July and August. Stop by and see what treasures await you!

ARE YOU CURRENT?

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we find ourselves in a very serious financial crunch. If you are not up-to-date on your pledge for 2008-2009, the church would appreciate whatever you could contribute to closing the gap on your pledge commitment. Thank you.



ATTENDANCE

		MARCH	
		March 1	61
		March 8	60
		March 15	92
		March 22	72
		March 29	67
APRIL			
April 5	83		
April 12	129		
April 19	67		
April 26	72		

MARSHA STEVENS CONCERT—JUNE 6

In celebration of our Church's 5th Anniversary of being Open and Affirming, Marsha Stevens will perform a concert on June 6, at 7 p.m. at the Church. Tickets will be sold for \$10. You won't want to miss what promises to be an entertaining evening.

ONA FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, June 7, we will have a special worship service to continue the celebration that will begin with the Marsha Stevens concert on Saturday evening. Remember that **worship will begin at 9:30!** Musician Marsha Stevens will grace us with her presence in morning worship, and will sing a number of songs, including "For Those Tears I Died", a hymn that she composed that is in our blue hymnal. Special guest preacher Rev. Jan Fairchild will reflect upon the importance of being Open and Affirming in the light of the Gospel. Jan is a national leader with regard to these issues in her home denomination, The Church of the Brethren. Following worship, there will be a scrumptious luncheon hosted by the ONA Committee. We will then be treated to a great panel discussion, moderated by Jan. Our panelists will include voices from a variety of perspectives, and they are:

The Rev. Sue Poulin, Vicar, The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist;
Wil Day Wesley, Director, Seacoast Outright;
Marsha Stevens, Guest Performer;
Lee Marcroft, PFLAG Representative;
Seth Austen, Musician and Music Instructor

Please join us for this very special and informative Sunday!

Rev. Mary James

PARISH HELPERS NEWS

On May 14, the Parish Helpers held their annual luncheon and installation of officers. About 30 women met at the Granite Steak and Grille in Rochester for a tasty meal. The new officers are President—Janet Carr; 1st Vice-President—Carol Jeffery; 2nd Vice-President—Barbara Burkam; Secretary—Linda Petkunas; Treasurer—Donna Vanderhoof; Assistant Treasurer—Priscilla Frothingham; Directors—Peg Harvey, Florence Morrison, Marie Hebb, and Elizabeth Heinlein.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 11th of June. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. for coffee and dessert. Ann Hamilton of the NH Cooperative Extension Service will then present a program entitled “Good Nutrition to Keep Us Healthy and Active.” Good nutrition means our bodies are getting all the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals they need to work at their best level. It strengthens our bodies, regulates their processes, and helps prevent and treat disease. All women from our church and community are welcome to join us for this valuable program. *Linda Petkunas, Secretary*

PRIDE DAY SUCCESS

Thanks to Pam Frazier for coordinating the Cookie Walk at Pride Day and to all the bakers and those who helped at the booth—Pam and Frank Frazier, Connie Littlefield, Janet Twombly, Jan Fairchild, Jane Ostrye, Margie Galabrun, Gail Feddern and Carol Jeffery. We profited about \$400 for the Church’s general fund.

And once again, our Church’s VBS float won first prize in the parade. Thanks to the Christian Ed Committee for getting it together. It was a beautiful day and great fun!

ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 14

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC will take place following the regular Sunday worship service. Annual reports will be available for your review the Sunday prior to the meeting. The Diaconate will host a light brunch before the meeting is called to order.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Spring is in the air. What a beautiful time of year this is. We have GREAT NEWS. Our FCC Vacation Bible School float won FIRST PLACE in the Pride Day Parade—super publicity for our church. We had so much fun planning and preparing the float—lots of helping hands. Thanks to all.

There’s a lot coming up from Christian Ed -

- We are excited about Confirmation Sunday on **May 31**. The young adults and their mentors have had an awesome journey.
- **June 13** is Children’s Movie Day from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Children’s Sunday is **June 14**. It’s always so wonderful seeing our children perform during the service.
- And save the date—Vacation Bible School will be **August 3 to 7**.

We’ve had a most successful Sunday School year, and we will be having Sunday School during the summer months. Thanks to all the teachers for their love and dedication; and to Penny Ellis—you’ve been unbelievable—thank you for all you do.

Ginny Schweitzer, Chair

THE BENEFITS OF ORGANIC LAWN CARE

According to the Safe Lawns Organization organic products are the best choice for law care. They are safer for humans, pets, and the environment. They improve the quality of the soil which will have an increased ability to retain water and nutrients and they reduce pests by restoring balance to a lawn’s ecosystem. Lawns nurtured by organic products also require less watering, mowing, and fertilizing because they are healthier.

For more information on this topic, check out Paul Tukey’s book, [The Organic Lawn Care Manual](#) which is available from the Gafney Library (Call Number 635.9 TUK). Paul is a founder of the Safe Lawns organization. The society’s website www.safelawns.org provides extensive access to resources and information on this topic.

Linda Petkunas, Stewardship Committee



June 2009

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9AM-Treasure Shop donations 6PM -All Committee Meeting Night	4 10AM-Scrabble 7PM Community String Band	5	6 2PM-Ginny Wentworth Service 7PM-Marsha Stevens Concert
7 9:30AM- Worship and Sacrament 12PM-Lunch and Panel Discussion	8	9 9AM-Treasure Shop open for donations	10 6PM Pairs and Spares	11 1PM-Parish Helpers 7PM Community String Band	12	13 3PM -Family Movie Time
14 9:30AM-Worship Children's Sunday 10:30AM-Brunch 11AM- Annual Meeting	15	16 10AM-Scrabble	17	18	19	20
21 9:30AM- Worship Service	22	23	24  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	25 General Synod begins in Grand Rapids MI	26	27 9AM-12PM- Treasure Shop Opens for Summer!
28 9:30AM- Worship Service 10:30AM -Coffee, hosted by Officers and Staff	29  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	30 General Synod ends UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST				

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6PM—All Com- mittee Meeting	2	3	4 9AM-12PM— Treasure Shop Open
		5 9:30AM— Worship and Sac- rament	6	7	8 6PM Pairs and Spares 630PM—Bible Study	9 12PM-Parish Helpers Picnic
12 9:30AM—Worship Service -Z Team Sendoff 10:30AM-Coffee, hosted by Outreach Comm.	13	14 Z Team leaves	15	16	17	18 9AM-12PM— Treasure Shop Open
19 9:30AM—Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25 9AM-12PM— Treasure Shop Open
26 9:30AM—Worship Service 10:30AM -Coffee, hosted by Outreach Comm.	27	28	29	30 Z Team returns	31	

ZIMBABWE NEWS

We were delighted to welcome Rev. F.T. Mutsumbei to Wakefield for a few days while the Zimbabwe delegates traveled to various churches in NH. As Eastern Conference Superintendent in Zimbabwe, Rev. Mutsumbei has oversight of 34 churches, 14 schools, 2 hospitals, 3 clinics and 2 agricultural farms over a large geographical area. Recently officials at a Zim prison in his district approached him about how to solve the deplorable conditions – overcrowding, lack of food, disease, violence, and more. Rev. Mutsumbei reported that up to 50% of the prison population shouldn't be there; they are political prisoners or people who support the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change and are often detained without charges under the repressive Mugabe regime. He toured the Strafford County Correction facility in an effort to better understand the possibility for prison systems and programs. He was impressed with the many ways in which Strafford County facility works with the entire population, particularly the less serious offenders through treatment programs, work programs, and monitoring and mentoring programs.

Rev. Mutsumbei appreciated the opportunity to get an eye exam and glasses, courtesy of Dr. Herb Clark in Rochester. As he walked away from the appointment he asked, "Is this a Christian organization? The people are so friendly, caring, and loving." Rev. Mutsumbei also tremendously enjoyed his visit to our church ("What a beautiful building! What a fine office Rev. Mary has!"), the Szirbik home, his very first boat ride which took place on Great East Lake, a trip to Hampton Beach to see the Atlantic (another first!), people surfboarding ("Are Americans crazy to almost kill themselves in this way?"), his visit to UNH, and a visit to George and Donna Ackerman's home where he learned about beekeeping. After seeing Adam Szirbik's amazing carpentry and masonry skills, Rev. Mutsumbei is **absolutely focused** on getting Adam to come to Zimbabwe to help rebuild some dilapidated buildings at Chikore. He feels strongly that Adam's work would be a way to teach others. (*Could a Habitat for Humanity work group --Zim style-- be in our future?*) Rev. Mutsumbei wanted to attend a legislative session at the state house. Chris Gatchell organized a tour through State Representative Dino Scala and Rev. Mutsumbei was given a behind the scenes look at the

house and senate as well as special visitor recognition as the session opened. This was a great honor for him.

Among other things, Rev. Mutsumbei was amazed by the number of cars on the road and thus the number of gas stations, our school bus system, the ease of duplicating pictures at a Kodak kiosk, the speed of our internet, the varieties of ice cream which are available at Lone Oak, the availability of a washer and dryer for most everyone, and the fact that only a small number of people live in such big houses. (*After a recent wedding, his family of five hosted approx. 50 people in their very small home with his son sleeping in the car!*) He also noticed the lack of any military vehicles patrolling the towns.

Seeing through his eyes, I was reminded again of what we what we take for granted and of how blessed we all are. Although Rev. Mutsumbei has high hopes for the Unity Government that was formed in February, he feels nothing will work effectively as long as Mugabe is in power. It is his hope that Zimbabwe will continue to make progress whereby everyone has enough food to eat, every person can attend school, that people will have employment, have a home, and that AIDS will be a thing of the past.

Connie Littlefield

Z TEAM SERVICE AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 30, 6:30 P.M.

Don't forget the Service Auction in the fellowship hall. There are many, many great items to bid on. Bring a friend and come support the Zimbabwe mission projects. Not available on May 30th? Substitute bidders will be available to bid on your favorite items in your absence. Please see a Z Team member for details!

A REMINDER

The Stewardship Committee is winding down the Pledge Campaign for 2009—2010. There is still a long way to go to reach our budgetary needs. If you haven't sent in your pledge card, please do so soon! If you haven't a card, you can simply drop a note to the attention of Barry Lockard, Assistant Treasurer, FCCW, PO Box 809, Sanbornville, NH 03872.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Ward	9 Richard Cornell	16 Cathy Koukal	25 Kaylee Fogg
4 Pascale Baudin	10 Elizabeth Schnurbush	16 Julie Leyare	26 Ayla Farley
4 Nicholas Legere	11 Steve Michalsky	17 Janet Carr	26 Florence Morrison
6 Sienna Canney	13 Joseph Cawlina	19 Lorrie Hughes	27 Morgan Haag
7 David Coutreau	13 Betty Crowe	19 Lois Royal	28 Bill Denley
7 Pam Frazier	14 Erin Perkins	20 Caitlin Damberg-	28 Louise Wheeler
7 Jo Higgins	15 Gina Golden	Mauser	29 Thomas Tamilio
7 Donna McDougal	15 Adam Koukal	21 Connie Littlefield	30 Seth Fogg
8 Chuck Dolbear, Jr	15 Devon Ward	22 Jean Ball	
9 Kevin Connell	16 Frank Frazier	22 Russell Garland	

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Edward & Florence Morrison	12 Jack & Marie Hebb	23 George & Marion Blomster
2 Bob & Mary James	14 John & Carol Reilly	26 Ken & Carol Jeffery
4 Paul & Janet Twombly	15 Phil & Connie Twombly	26 John & Sue Tamilio
5 Ryan & Martha Jo McCarthy	20 George & Donna Ackerman	26 Parker & Donna Vanderhoof
6 Bill & Lorrie Hughes	21 Maurice & Ann Hatch	27 Leonard & Carolyn Chase
8 Curtis & Janet Carr	21 Wayne & Lisa Robinson	27 Bruce & Judy Levis
9 Chris & Titia Bozuwa	22 Russell & Edie Garland	28 Jim & Lucille Pirie

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We ask your continued prayers and support for those members of our church and wider community who are ill, or who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for their families.

Connie Buckland	Dimi Dimitroff
Paul Twombly	Walter Granigan
Jennifer Russell	Dorcas Knight
David Huggard	Maxine Chadbourne
Millie Garrett	Red Cornell
David Bolduc	Peg Harvey
Dot Roberts	Agnes Carlson
Andrew Parisi	Florence Morrison
Marilyn Keating	Barbara Golden
Alice Sturgis	Jo Williamson
Billy McGlinchey	Donna Vanderhoof
Bill & Marian Maleham	



April 3, 2009

To my Church family,

Thank you all for your cards and notes of encouragement, and all your prayers in my behalf during my recent illness and hospital stay. Your Friendship and Love expressed by your actions, I am sure, helped in my recuperation and ability to go home on Wednesday, April 1st.

I hope it will not be too long before I can be back in church with all of you. At times like these, the Blessings of God and the value of friends, becomes the most healing comfort of all.

Agnes Carlson



Remember also . .

Our servicemen and women, especially those deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan
 The Darfur region in Africa and our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe
 Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement Communities in our area



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 809
 SANBORNVILLE, NH 03872



Z TEAM SERVICE AUCTION
 MAY 30—6:30 P.M.
 SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS

**SUMMER WORSHIP HOUR
 BEGINS JUNE 7! - 9:30 A.M.**

ANNUAL MEETING AND BRUNCH
 JUNE 14 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

JUNE LECTIONARY

Sunday, June 7, First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8 ~ Psalm 29
 Romans 8:12-17 ~ **John 3:1-17**

Mysterious Encounter

Sunday, June 14, Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 ~ Psalm 20 or Ezekiel 17:22-24
 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 ~ 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

Flourishing

Sunday, June 21, Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49
 Psalm 9:9-20 or Job 38:1-11 ~ Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 ~ **Mark 4:35-41**

In the Boat Together

Sunday, June 28, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 ~ Psalm 130 or
 Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 ~ Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 ~ **Mark 5:21-43**

Healing Powers