



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Hearing God's Call, Growing in Love and Care

God is still speaking....and we are listening! Our strategic planning process took a giant step forward on Saturday, September 6th, when eleven church members gathered to spend a day in reflection, prayer, conversation, and brainstorming about our church's future. The lovely phrase at the top of this page is the "Mission Statement" that took shape over the course of the day, emerging out of a process of discussion and consensus seeking. Cathy Koukal served as our able facilitator, moving our demographically representative group to come up with a Mission Statement that captures the essence of the kind of dynamic and vital church we always hope to be.

Our strategic planning process has only just begun, and will now proceed further as we seek to involve all church members and friends who wish to have input. Using our Mission Statement as a guide, we will move on to describing a vision of how it will look as we live out our dreams for the worship, mission, educational, outreach, and fellowship life of our congregation. Specific goals and objectives will be articulated as well. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire us as we engage with one another in this process!

In the meantime, try this phrase on for size. Let it settle into your heart, and bring it into your prayer life:

Hearing God's Call, Growing in Love and Care

That's us!
Peace and blessings,
Mary

P.S. Beginning this month, we are asked to hold one of our sister UCC churches in the Carroll-Strafford Association in prayer each month. For October, please remember our friends at the First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro, UCC, whose pastors are Jim Christensen and Deb Moore. Thank you!

OUR WONDERFUL FOOD PANTRY: UPDATE

Thanks to all who so faithfully bring in donations for the Wakefield Food Pantry. As the cold weather approaches and budgets are more strained, please remember to bring in a donation any time you are able and leave it in the back of the sanctuary. The Food Pantry has asked if we would focus on particular kinds of donations on different weeks. Here is a suggested guideline (though any of these items are welcome at any time):

1st Sunday: Food donations

2nd Sunday: Paper products (toilet paper, tissues and paper towels)

3rd Sunday: Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products)

4th Sunday: Household cleaning products (small size laundry detergent, household cleansers, sponges)

5th Sunday: Food donations

Remember, food donations are needed each week, but if you can add in one or more of the other suggested items on a given week, that would be great!!!

Rev. Mary James

“JUST DESSERTS” CONCERT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 3:00 P.M.

Save this date and prepare for a pleasant hour of a variety of musical genres and instruments. The Music Committee and the Voice and Bell Choirs have prepared a program to entertain and inspire. Along with our Voice and Bell Choirs you will be treated to harpsichord, flute, violin and piano. And after the concert you will enjoy a spread of desserts topped off with coffee and tea.

This benefit concert will provide needed funding for Music Committee expenses in this year of voluntary budget restraint. There will be a suggested donation.

*Susie Goodwin, Chair
Music Committee*



Steeple Views is published monthly by the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH and is available by email. To be added to our emailing list, please contact the editors, Carol Jeffery and Lynn Shaffer at steepleviews@gmail.com.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT—FALL IS HERE!

With that in mind, wouldn't it be nice to join your church family for a wonderful Beef Stew Dinner - with a veggie alternative? - The dinner will be hosted by the Prudential Committee. Make certain to save room for dessert, because there will also be a variety of delectable home-baked apple goodies.

We'll be gathering on Saturday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is only \$8 per person. Money raised will be contributed to the Church's General Fund. Come and enjoy some warmth and fellowship, along with some mighty good stew!

Lynn Shaffer, Prudential Committee



WE NEED YOU!

Are you a creative person who wants to be actively engaged in the life of our church? Do you enjoy participating in worthwhile projects that preserve our church and improve our earthly environment?

Then you are just the person we need on our Stewardship Committee. John and Carol Reilly are waiting for you to call them at 539-1812 or send an e-mail to John at reillyjfr@aol.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Great News - Wakefield will now have its own Meal on Wheels program. Meals will be prepared by the cooks at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center in Union. Currently Wakefield has 12 meal-on-wheels clients. They are setting up two routes that should be able to be handled in an hour. Driver volunteers are needed as are donors to help with the funding needs. Numbers to call for info: Greater Wakefield Resource Center - 473-8324; Ann/Bob Glidden 522-6817, Paul Winckler - 522-3157.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

The Parsonage has been sold and is now occupied by David and Jan Fairchild. They are settling in and welcome us to stop by and say "hello".

ZIMBABWE NEWS
From Connie Littlefield

We are cautiously optimistic about the recent power sharing deal between President Mugabe and newly created position of Prime Minister for opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai. The situation in Zimbabwe is dire as Mugabe has been in power for 28 years, inflation is at 11 million percent, and the 8 million people who have remained in Zimbabwe (4 million have fled) are facing starvation.

Our dear friend, Rev. Mutsumbei, Eastern Conference Superintendent writes:

"I am sure you heard that on Monday 15 Sept. a power sharing deal was signed between MDC and ZANU PF and it is our prayer to see change. The SADC heads were also present and we hope it was from their hearts when they signed the deal. I was following Obama's convention and I said the Zimbabwean politicians were supposed to witness such an occasion to learn what politics is all about. It is not about killing one another or destroying your opposition's property but making people buy your thought. African politics is still miles away and it needs God's grace to reach the mark."

"I was at Rufumiso this last Friday with Joseph when we were paying school and other needs for the orphans. We met them at a Nyaradzo (memorial service). They were happy to see us and also to receive your greetings and the aid for the orphans. I will go to Rufumiso again on second Sunday of October when I will be conducting two weddings at the church. They are the church deacon and the secretary and they will be married on the same day on a Sunday. How are you and the rest of the church and family? I was watching some bad floods in your country. Are you safe? Tender greetings to all."

This is likely to be his last email for quite some time. Rev. Mutsumbei learned that the money he paid for internet service for the coming year was reallocated by the Zim online service to cover the four months when he couldn't get connected. The new bill would be \$250 US, an unreachable fortune to him with the current economy.

Please continue to pray for the people of Zimbabwe and for all of our dearly loved friends in Rufumiso.

F.O.O.T.—Thanks to all who made the laptop computer for Joseph Sibiyi's Friends of Orphan Trust (FOOT) a reality. He writes of his deep and profound gratitude and was at a loss of words to express how he felt. (That's a first for Joseph!) The Z Team continues to work at providing funding for this extraordinary program. We are looking into grant possibilities here in the U.S. and encouraging sponsorship of one of the more than 250 orphans in the Chipinge/Mt. Selinda/Rufumiso area. A onetime donation in any amount or an ongoing donation of \$25 per month will go toward providing food, clothing, medical care and school fees for a child in a special community based foster care program. Please consider this an opportunity to make a profound difference in someone's life, then talk to a Z Team member to make it happen.

Bicycle Update—Through the generosity of Carolyn Chase, Gisela Haag, Linda Currin and Donna Ackerman, we will be shipping five bikes to Zimbabwe. Two bikes will go to Rufumiso to provide transportation for pastoral care, two will go to workers for the FOOT program and one will go to the office of the Eastern conference superintendent. Thanks to Jane Ostrye for adding some tools to put them together!

READERS AND GREETERS

Here's a opportunity for you to experience the joy of participation in Worship! Get to say hello to your church family as they arrive on a Sunday morning. Sign up to be a Greeter! All you need is a smile and a friendly handshake. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Just fill in your name and we'll look forward to seeing your smiling face.

We also have another opportunity for those who enjoy reading scripture. You can sign up to be a Reader (or Lector). This also does not require much. You will receive the scripture readings ahead of time so you can look the passages over first. You don't have to be a public speaker; we will enjoy hearing from everyone.

It is very satisfying to be part of the Sunday Worship Experience. Give it a try. I think you'll like it!

Carol Jeffery for the Diaconate

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

First of all, thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped this summer with our church school program. We averaged 2-3 children each Sunday. We would not have been able to do it without your help. Thank you to Ginny Schweitzer, Pat Golden, George Ackerman, Linda Currin, Jane Ostrye, Louise Wheeler and Martha Jo McCarthy.



And what an exciting year we have ahead in Christian Education! The **Church School program** is off to a great start. Thank you to everyone who helped get the classrooms ready. Thank you to Margie Galabrun for donating

the couch. The older kids love having a place of their own. We are still looking for a few bean bag chairs or other comfy chairs for that room. If you have any that you would like to donate please speak with Penny Ellis. We registered 16 children so far and are hoping to have more join us. All the children enjoyed our ice cream social and are looking forward to a fun day of apple picking.

We have a wonderful **new curriculum** this year called "Seasons of the Spirit." It is a lectionary-based curriculum. We are really excited to be able to bridge the gap and have the children learning about the same things that the adults are hearing about in worship. We are hoping this will help spark some great conversations between you and your children.

Just a reminder, there is nursery care available in our **Little Lambs** room starting at 9:45 every Sunday. We are still looking for a few warm and loving congregation members to help us out in the nursery. If you are able to give us an occasional Sunday to cuddle with our cute Little Lambs, please speak with Penny Ellis or Ginny Schweitzer.

Family Sundays will be on the first Sunday of every month. Children in 2nd grade and up will be staying for the worship service and communion with their families. All other children will be going down stairs after the children's message for church school.

We are working on starting up **Movie night** again so keep an eye out for upcoming announcements on the next fun night.

Adult bible study has started. We hope that you will be able to join in on one of these exciting groups. There is the afternoon bible study at noon for an hour in one of the classrooms off of Fellowship Hall—bring a bag lunch and join the fun. This group is beginning with an overview of the New Testament.

The **evening bible study** meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings every month in the Parish Helpers Room. This Bible Study will be led by Mary, and will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m.. Please bring munchies to share. In this group, we will consider the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for the following Sunday. Join us for delicious food, lively conversation, and a journey of the spirit! Come and check it out.

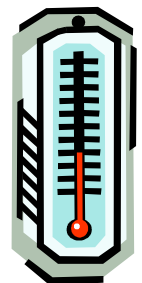
Penny Ellis
Church School Coordinator

TIPS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HOW TO SAVE ON HEATING COSTS

- Close off unused rooms that don't need to be heated.
- Add more insulation to your walls and attic.
- Insulate your basement water pipes.
- Pull curtains and shades in the evening to keep the heat in.
- Make sure your heat radiating surfaces are not blocked by furniture.
- When your fireplace is not in use, close the flu so that room heat won't escape.
- Wear extra clothing instead of turning up the heat.
- When leaving for a few hours, turn down the thermostat
- Caulk and weather-strip around doors, windows, and other air leaks.
- Duck tape any leaking heating ducts.

(Compiled by David Krueger-Andes of the Spirituality and Earth Stewardship Committee of NH UCC.)

Linda Petkunas, Stewardship



October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6PM—All Church Meeting Night	2 10AM—Scrabble 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	3	4 6PM Beef Stew Dinner—hosted by Prudential
		5 10AM Worship—World Communion Sunday 11AM— Confirmation Mtg.	6	7 12PM—Bible Study	8 6PM Pairs and Spares 6:30PM— Bible Study	9 1PM Parish Helpers 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop
12 10AM Worship 11AM Coffee— hosted by Christian Ed. Committee	13 Columbus Day— Church Offices closed	14 12PM—Bible Study	15 6:30PM—Movie Night	16 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	17	18
19 10:00AM Worship—”Joyful Noise” Sunday	20	21 10AM Scrabble Group 12PM—Bible Study	22 Steeple Views Deadline 6:30PM—Bible Study	23 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	24	25
26 10AM—Worship 11AM—Coffee, hosted by Christian Ed. Committee 3PM—”Just Desserts” Concert	27	28 12PM—Bible Study	29	30 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	31 Steeple Views Collation	

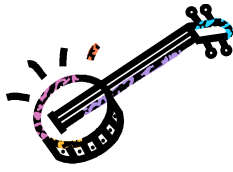


November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10AM Worship—World Communion Sunday Family Sunday	3	4 Election Day— No Bible Study 	5 6PM—All Committee Meeting Night	6 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	7	8 6Pm—Church Dinner, hosted by Diaconate
9 10AM Worship 11AM Coffee and Fellowship	10	11 12PM—Bible Study	12 6PM—Pairs and Spares 6:30PM—Bible Study	13 1PM—Parish Helpers 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	14	15
16 10:00AM Worship	17	18 10AM Scrabble Group 12PM—Bible Study	19 Steeple Views Deadline 6:30PM—Bible Study	20 7PM—Seth Austen Music Workshop	21	22
23 10AM— Worship 3PM - Thanksgiv- ing Ser- vice 30 10AM— Worship 11AM— Coffee and Fellowship	24	25 12PM—Bible Study	26	27 Thanksgiving Day—Church Offices closed	28 Church Offices closed	29 

WELCOME TO THE OLD TIME STRING BAND WORKSHOPS!

We have received a grant from the Alden Young fund to bring a wonderful music education program to the community. The Old Time String Band Workshop will be offered on eight consecutive Thursday nights beginning on October 2 at the church in the Fellowship Hall, from 7 to 8:15. Renowned multi-instrumentalist Seth Austen will lead participants in learning many forms of traditional music, including New England contradance, other traditional New England forms, and Celtic music. All you need are basic playing skills on your instrument, whether it is the spoons, the fiddle, autoharp, kazoo, flute....you name it...bring it along and PLAY!!!! Pass the word around and let's enjoy this wonderful opportunity to make music in a supportive, fun, and no-pressure atmosphere. A \$5 free-will donation is appreciated for each workshop; these donations will be used to help with heating costs and to provide seed money for another music education series!



Save these dates: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 13, and 20. Call the church to register or e-mail Mary at fccwpastor@verizon.net.

MISSING!

Did you borrow a bible or a hymnal from the church pews and forget to return it? There are 13 missing bibles and also some hymnals. It would be nice to have them back in the pew. Please return them as soon as possible.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Sunday, October 19, will be a Special Sunday! Make a "joyful noise unto the Lord" and bring in your "Power of Change" coins to pour into the offering plate. What a wonderful sound that will be as we help close our budget gap!

Keep your cans and continue to save your coins. This is an on-going effort. You can put your coins into the offering plate or the jug at the rear of the church any Sunday.

Linda Petkunas, Stewardship Committee

PARISH HELPERS LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION

Bring a dish to share and an article for the silent auction to the October meeting on Thursday, October 9th at 12:00 noon. The money from the auction will be used for scholarships.

The NHUCC Women's Fellowship retreat will be held at Merrowvista in Tuftonboro on October 17 and 18. For more information call Elizabeth Heinlein (522-9501).

Betty Crowe

THANKS TO ALL FOR THE LOBSTER FEST!

It took a lot of people to put on the recent Lobster Fest at Denley's barn. Very special thanks goes to Bill and Sue Denley for providing the wonderful venue, cooking those lobsters like crazy, and making the delicious pasta salad. Jane Ostrye and Donna McDougal were amazing at getting all those tables and chairs to the barn. We increased our seating by 40 this year and fed 160 people! Our dear Parish Helpers kicked into gear -- as always -- and provided a yummy variety of coleslaw. And then the blueberry cakes kept coming—fourteen different people provided cakes! Jerry Soucy, as "Spin Doctor," took our musical requests that even inspired a Meryl Streep like moment from Mama Mia! As the result of Bill and Sue's generosity, the Lobster Fest made approx. \$2,200, all of which will go into our general fund."

Special thanks to Lynn for all of her coordinating behind the scenes. Deep thanks and appreciation to all who baked and to the many willing workers and volunteers: Chuck Russell, Ken and Penny Ellis, Geoff Denley, Cathy Koukal, Ann and Charlie Bilo-deau, Gisela and Dave Haag, Donna and George Ackerman, Brannon Cordon, Ayla Farley, Jane Ostrye, Mary James, Curt and Mary Cook, Kevin Connell, Chris Gatchell, Debbie Caplette, Lorraine and Glenn Eckert, Del Littlefield, Jo Szirbik, Carol Jeffery, Christine McPherson, Pam Frazier and Harriet Wilson. (Please forgive me if I missed anyone!) We could not have done it without you!

Connie Littlefield

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Ann Hatch
3 Sue Denley
4 Michael Frothingham
6 Robin Kent
8 Holly Sauer
9 Parker Vanderhoof
11 Gisela Haag
13 Debbie Fogg
13 Eric Mercer
16 Lee O'Connell
17 Lewis Royal
19 Austin Dolbear
20 Bill Goodwin
21 Clara Clark
21 Ellen Lankhorst
24 Cameron Cook
25 Benjamin Boggs
26 Larry Koukal
26 Connie Twombly
28 Alfred Canney
29 James Connell
29 Diana Peckham
30 Paul Carlson
30 George Frothingham
30 John Nason

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 Garry & Jan Goslin
7 Tom & Jan Stanley
8 George & Priscilla Frothingham
8 Tom & Lynn Weeks
9 Dick & Glenna Nelson
10 Russell & Sharon Baldwin
13 Chuck & Joanne Dolbear
17 Alfred & Tammy Canney
20 John & Lynn Shaffer



For all the thoughts, prayers and cards expressing love and concern due to the unexpected loss of my husband, Win Vittum. My family and I are very grateful. He's with Our Father now.

Leona Vittum

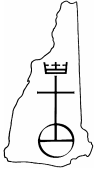
To all of the Church Family and the Parish Helpers especially for all the cards, prayers, and kindnesses during my illness this summer. I am feeling better and hope to be back soon. Love and thanks to all.

Dorcas Knight



Please also keep in your prayers -

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



NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275-3711

July 25, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the NH Conference United Church of Christ,

On June 13, 2008, the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, at its annual meeting, voted in favor of “A Resolution of Christian Witness in Support of the Elimination of Torture.”

The Peace With Justice Task Force is inspired that our Conference has raised its collective voice to proclaim that “any and all use of torture is totally unacceptable” and “contrary to the Word of God.” (To view this resolution in its entirety, go to www.nhcucc.org and click “Annual Meeting” and then click “Resolution to eliminate torture.”) With this resolution, our Conference becomes an endorsing member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which is a coalition of over 200 religious organizations that have joined together to stop the United States from engaging in torture.

Now is the time to mobilize and speak up. During the months leading up to the presidential elections, and even in the months after, we have the opportunity and obligation to persuade the next president to abolish U.S.-sponsored torture, without exceptions.

Thus, we are writing to encourage NH UCC members and churches to further educate themselves about U.S.-sponsored torture, requesting that serious consideration be given to this issue in upcoming months.

For educational resources, we encourage people to go to the website of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) at www.nrcat.com, where there is a great deal of information as well as educational tools and the opportunity to invite a speaker to your church.

We are also writing to encourage NH UCC members to sign the NRCAT’s “Torture is a Moral Issue” statement, and to encourage NH UCC churches to become endorsing or participating members of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Individuals and churches can read the statement and sign on at the NRCAT website. With these steps, we hope all NH UCC members and churches will join the movement to end torture in all its forms.

Torture is immoral, and is a sin against God and against our fellow human beings. Nothing less is at stake than the very soul of our nation. As people of faith, we ought to be at the forefront of the movement to end torture. This resolution is a good first step, but now we need you and your church to get involved and speak up.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Peace With Justice Task Force if its members can be of service to you or your church as you seek to join your voice and spirit with that of the wider NH Conference in proclaiming that torture is wrong.

In the Peace of Christ,

The Rev. Gordon L. Crouch
Chair of the Peace With Justice Task Force
NH Conference UCC

The Rev. Gary M. Schulte
Conference Minister
NH Conference UCC

Peace With Justice Task Force Contact Information:
The Rev. Gordon L. Crouch
First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, UCC
1548 Hopkinton Rd, Hopkinton, NH 03229



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



DON'T MISS THE
NEXT GREAT
CHURCH SUPPER ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
AT 6 P.M.
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!

OCTOBER LECTIONARY

Sunday, October 5 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 ~ Psalm 19 or Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15 ~ Philippians 3:4b-14 ~ Matthew 21:33-46

Wisdom for the Way

Sunday, October 12, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 ~ Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23 ~ **Philippians 4:1-9** ~ Matthew 22:1-14

Praiseworthy Living

Sunday, October 19, Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 ~ Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) ~ **1Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Matthew 22:15-22

Living messages

Sunday, October 26, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 ~ Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 ~ Psalm 1 ~ **1Thessalonians 2:1-8**

Matthew 22:34-46

The Compassionate Life