



# STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION*

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## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

**Open House, Open Church, Open Hearts.** So, we want to continue to grow our church. As a recent article from the Alban Institute encourages churches to ask themselves: What is it that the church will do differently to entice **more** people— people who have not yet felt compelled to join us on Sunday mornings—to get up on Sunday morning and come to church? Indeed.

We know this is a warm, exuberant church that seeks to engage in loving worship, meaningful and nurturing programs to help us know God and one another more deeply, and the offering of caring service to our community and the world beyond. All of us who have tasted the good things that God offers through the life of this congregation know what it is that we love about it (despite those areas in which we know we need to stretch and challenge ourselves). HOWEVER, the folks that haven't yet stepped through our doors don't know about all this good stuff!!!

**So, let's tell them.** Please invite friends and neighbors to our special Open House Sunday! On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a Church Open House, and we'll kick off our Church School Program with age appropriate classrooms and the use of a wonderful new curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*. Our worship theme will be "Fling Open the Doors!" Church School registration will be at 9:30, with worship beginning at 10. There will be a sumptuous, special coffee hour which will include an ice cream social. Our church is a wonderful resource to be widely shared, so don't be shy about inviting folks!

We UCC folk can sometimes be a bit reticent about evangelism, but we needn't be. Though we should never pressure anyone when it comes to faith and belief, we are in no danger of pressuring folks! True evangelism is accomplished in the extending of a warm invitation, and in the exuberant sharing of the life of the church. It is in the joyful telling of God's story, and the living out of that story in our own lives.

Let's all accept the challenge of inviting at least one person new to our church to join us on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dare to tell the story!

Blessings and peace, Mary

*The disciples came to him and said, "...send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away. You give them something to eat."*

Matthew 14: 15-16

## TIPS TO HELP YOU SAVE GAS

from Your Stewardship Committee

Curtailing aggressive driving will curb mileage by as much as 33 %.

- Keeping your car properly tuned up will improve gas mileage by about 4%.
- Replacing a faulty oxygen sensor will improve mileage up to 40%.
- Keeping tires properly inflated will improve your gas mileage by more than 3%.
- Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil will improve your gas mileage by another 1-2 %.
- Replacing a clogged or dirty air filter can improve your gas mileage by as much as 10%.
- Curtailing aggressive driving will curb mileage by as much as 33 %.
- Driving over 60 mph is like paying an extra 10 cents per gallon.
- Idling for extended time periods wastes gas.
- Using your vehicle's overdrive gear when appropriate to reduce engine speed, save gas, and decrease engine wear.
- Using cruise control will help cut fuel consumption by maintaining a steady speed during highway driving.
- Taking unneeded items out of your car will save gas. An extra 100 pounds cuts a typical car's fuel economy 1-2 %.

(This information comes from the Alliance to Save Energy.)

*Linda Petkunas, Stewardship*

## SPINNEY MEETING HOUSE OPEN HOUSE

At 2 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2008 the Wakefield Heritage Commission is holding an Open House at the Spinney Meeting House to celebrate the installation of the new ceiling. Our own Susie Goodwin will provide Celtic, folk and spiritual music. Refreshments will be served. The building was originally built in 1836 and served the Baptists in the South Wakefield area. Please join us and view this historic meeting house right here in Wakefield.

*Pam Judge, Wakefield Heritage Commission*

## GOT NEWS?

We've got such great things going on at our church and have to remember to get the word out there so people will know just how wonderful we are! So if your committee or team has something going on that should be publicized, just write something up and get it to Lynn (email preferred) and she'll make sure it gets to the papers and other news outlets.

## ANNOUNCING FOUR WORKSHOPS!

**From Violence to Wholeness** is sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Rochester, UCC, and offered through Pace e Bene on Saturday Mornings, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, and Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to attend. There is a one-time all inclusive fee of \$25 for all four workshops. The presenters are L.R. Berger and Frank Irvine, who are regarded as inspiring and excellent presenters on this most important topic. If you are interested, please call the First Congregational Church of Rochester, UCC, at 332-1121 for registration information.

*Rev. Mary*

## THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

After two years of functioning with only two members, the committee now has three active members. We continue to encourage church members wishing to provide flowers in honor of someone or in memory of loved ones to sign up ahead of time on the list provided in the narthex.

As many people have lovely gardens, those who would like to provide some of their flowers for use on Sundays are encouraged to contact one of our members. In spite of the heavy rains, many of us will have beautiful home-grown flowers through October and may wish to share their beauty with others.

*Janet Carr, Chairperson - Phone 522-8864*  
*Robin Kent*  
*Arlene Leyare*

## PARISH HELPERS

Thank you to all who baked, donated items, and visited the Village Fair. The profit of \$1,995 will be used toward our church pledge and the other charitable organizations that the Parish Helpers support.

Our first fall meeting will be on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 1 pm. The speaker will be Vivian Dion, a motivational speaker and a published writer. She will speak on "Traveling the Road of Possibilities", an upbeat positive presentation which gives examples of people becoming their true selves.

Parish Helpers welcome all women to join us. Come for light refreshments and a chance to hear Vivian's inspiring message.

*Betty Crowe*

## ALL-COMMITTEE MEETING NIGHT

All church committees will gather once again on Wednesday, September 3rd. Based on the majority opinion from the feedback we've gotten, we will begin the meeting at 6. The benefits of enhanced coordination and communication were immediately apparent at our first all-committee meeting night last month. Most participants did seem to feel, however, that we needed a bit more time—and most seemed to prefer that it be added on the early end. We do apologize to any for whom the earlier start time is a difficulty. Let's see how it works.

Thanks to all who are taking part and making this exciting new practice in the life of our community of faith a fruitful endeavor! See you all on Wednesday, September 3, from 6 to 8, beginning in the sanctuary.

*Rev. Mary*

## CORRECTION

In the Listing of Officers and Committee Members published in the August issue of Steeple Views, Barry Lockard is listed as director of the Classics and Spirit Choirs. In fact, he directs the Classics Choir; and Cindy Eggleston directs the Spirit Choir.

## HOORAY FOR THE ARTS! 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. Join in the fun!!!! Call the church office to register, at 522-3189, or e-mail Mary at [fccwpastor@verizon.net](mailto:fccwpastor@verizon.net).

## THE VILLAGE FAIR— A BIG SUCCESS!

The Parish Helpers are happy to report that the Village Fair held on August 16 was another resounding success. Many thanks to all who helped make it possible, including the cookie bakers, lunch makers, setter uppers and all who handled the tables.

The raffle winners were Donna Beaulieu - Quilt, Cynthia Nelson - Loon Ironing Board, Rachel Yazinka - Barbie Doll House Furniture, and Carol Celata - Red Sox Teddy Bear.

### AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 3—85  
August 10—113  
August 17—87  
August 24—89

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

We are delighted to offer two Bible Study groups. It is very enjoyable and heart-and-mind expanding to read and discuss scripture together. There is a day-time group that meets on Tuesdays at noon for an hour in one of the downstairs classrooms off of the Fellowship Hall. George Blomster and Mary James lead this together. Bring a bag lunch and join in the laughter, discussion, and inquiry. This group is beginning an overview of the New Testament. It will begin on September 16th.

Another opportunity will be found on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of every month in the Parish Helpers Room. This Bible Study will be led by Mary, with the welcome and wonderful input of others, and will meet from 6:30 to 8. Please bring a munchie to share. At this gathering, we enjoy dinner time together as we read and ponder the scriptures. 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!

*Rev. Mary*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Last month I asked for your help in the annual Polycystic Kidney Foundation's "Walk for a Cure". I thank those of you who have already responded so generously! This is just a reminder to the rest of you that this disease has no cure, only treatment, until the research funded by our donations is successful. \$100 will fund one day of such research. My goal is a week - \$500 - and with your help, we might get close to a month's worth of research! We've already got over 2 days this year.*

*Thank you so much for your consideration, your support, your love, and your care over the past six years since my transplant. Please go to the [pkdcure.org](http://pkdcure.org) website to donate online, or you can give me your donation directly. The Walk is September 21.*

*God bless you!*

*Harriett*

## BICYCLES ANYONE?

Elsewhere in Steeple Views is news from two of our dear friends in Zimbabwe, Rev. F.T. Mutsumbei and Joseph Sibiya. Both refer to problems with transportation. When buses actually are available they are too expensive for most people to use. A person can get one way and find they don't have the money for the return trip because the fare has increased dramatically.



In Rufumiso, church members live quite a distance from one another. It isn't unusual for someone to walk an hour or more to attend church. Joseph noted that the pastor and church secretary, who is also a deacon, could use a bicycle to travel to church members but "doesn't want to add a log" to our shoulders!

So, the Z Team wonders, are there good used bicycles getting dusty in someone's garage or basement? We have permission from our friends packing the shipping container to add four. Can you help? If so, please contact a member of the Z Team.

## OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

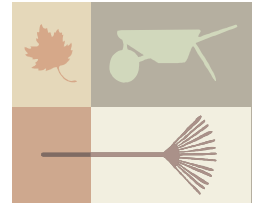
Come one, come all! Invite a friend, family member, neighbor. Anybody at all—to join us on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, for our Church Open House. The worship theme will be “Fling Open the Doors!”

We will also be kicking off our Church School with registration at 9:30 a.m., and worship at 10 a.m. There will be a special coffee hour which will include an ice cream social following the service.

## CROP WALK—SEPTEMBER 14

Let's walk together to take on hunger! Join your church family and groups from other area churches in this year's Crop Walk. Please walk or sponsor a walker. Information and registration packets are available through Outreach Members – Robin Kent, Donna Ackerman, Jan Brejwo, Debbie Caplette, Margie Galabrun and Jane Ostrye.

# September 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Aug 31</b> 4:00PM Lobster Fest at Denley's Barn	<b>1</b> Labor Day— church offices closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30PM Committee Meetings	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9AM-4PM— Strategic Planning Leadership Retreat
<b>7</b> 10:00AM Worship and Sacrament	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00PM— Pairs and Spares 6:30PM—Bible Study	<b>11</b> 1:00PM— Parish Helpers Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00PM Church Supper
<b>14</b> 9:30-Church School Registration 10AM—Worship 11AM Coffee Hour— Ice Cream Social Crop Walk	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Steeple Views Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30-SS 10AM Worship Guest Minister – Rev. Larry Brickner –Wood	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30PM Book Discussion Group	<b>24</b> 6:30PM—Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Steeple Views Collation	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30-SS 10AM Worship 11AM Coffee	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	On September 21st, we will be delighted to host the Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood as our guest preacher while Rev. Mary is away on study leave. Larry is the Chaplain and Executive Director of the United Campus Ministry at the University of New Hampshire. He is an engaging preacher with a very warm heart and an inspiringly prophetic voice. Please give Larry a great big Wakefield welcome!			

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6PM-8PM— <i>All Committee Meeting Night</i>	<b>2</b> 7-8:15PM <i>Old Time String Band Workshop Begins</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30—SS <i>10AM—Worship and Sacrament (World Communion Sunday)</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6PM—Pairs and Spares 6:30PM— <i>Bible Study</i>	<b>9</b> 1PM—Parish Helpers 7-8:15PM <i>Old Time String Band Workshop</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 SS <i>10AM Worship</i> 11AM Coffee— <i>hosted by CE</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Columbus Day</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30PM - <i>Movie Night</i>	<b>16</b> 7-8:15PM <i>Old Time String Band Workshop</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 -SS <i>10AM—Worship</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30PM— <i>Bible Study</i>	<b>23</b> 7-8:15PM <i>Old Time String Band Workshop</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30-SS <i>10AM Worship</i> 11AM Coffee— <i>hosted by CE</i> 3PM <i>Just Deserts Concert</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7-8:15PM <i>Old Time String Band Workshop</i>	<b>31</b>	

## SPONSORING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

We have an amazing opportunity to help vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. Friends of Orphan Trust (FOOT) has been established to provide comprehensive assistance for "child headed families" and for homeless and displaced children from birth to age 18. It is hard for us to comprehend how a 10, 12, 14, or 16 year old can be the head of a household, taking care of younger siblings after the death of their parent or caregiver. FOOT is stepping in to provide community based care and place these children and their siblings with families and caregivers. Just placing them in a home -- providing a "family fabric in a Christian home" -- isn't enough. FOOT seeks to provide school fees, clothing, blankets, food, medical care, counseling, access to sports, music, and drama clubs, and training in life skills programs such as carpentry, tailoring, building trades, metal work, computer and secretarial work.

How can we help? We can choose to sponsor one child. We could sponsor Takunda Dhliwayo, age 15 or her brother, Tanyaradzwa, who is 8 years old. Takunda sells sweets during school breaks to "finance the family." We could sponsor Sandra or Liberty Shanguaro who are 10 and 8 years old and who have lost both of their parents. We could sponsor Tarisai and Naume Makuyana, also 10 and 8 who have no means of support. There are more than 200 other children that have been identified. Joseph Sibiya, our friend and founder of FOOT, will provide us with pictures and a personal history of any child we sponsor. We will work directly with Joseph, where every dollar sent is used to assist vulnerable children.

What would it cost? \$25 a month would provide food, clothing, school fees and medical care for a child. (For me, that's one visit to the Poor People's Pub.) But perhaps a \$25 monthly sponsorship doesn't feel quite right. We could make a monthly commitment of any amount, even \$10. We could also make a one time donation, or make a donation in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary, wedding, graduation or other special celebration. The Z Team has creative gift cards that are available to let the honored person know of your gift. Any amount will help alleviate the suffering of a child.

In the United States, even the poorest children among us have access to education, to a place where

food and clothing is distributed, and to well child clinics. It will be a wonderful day when that can be said for all children around the world.

For more information or to sponsor or make a donation, please see any member of the Z Team: Donna Ackerman, Ann Bilodeau, Cathy Koukal, Chris Gatchell, Jane Ostrye, Jo Szirbik, or me. Pass the word along to your friends. We all can't do everything but each one of us can do something.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,  
*Connie Littlefield*

## MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS



The handbells recently underwent deep polishing and much needed repairs. By having the bell company representative perform the repairs at the church, rather than shipping the bells to the factory, as well as committee and bell choir members providing the "elbow grease", we were able to save \$600. Thanks to Jan Stanley, Connie Littlefield, Barry Lockard and Susie Goodwin. Those bells are sparkling!

Our Choir Director, Cindy Eggleston, is 11 hours into an exhaustive inventory of the church's choral music library. She estimates another 21 hours will be needed to complete her survey. Her intent is to identify past favorites to repeat and, more importantly, to identify missing pieces that need to be replaced. We ask that any members of the congregation who have choral music at home to please return it to the choir loft. The committee would rather welcome home the "lost lambs" than go to the expense of replacing them.

We are working with Pastor Mary on a variety of international choral and instrumental offerings for World Communion Sunday in early October.

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of music. At 3 p.m. on Sunday October 26, the voice and bell choirs will be joined by instrumentalists from our church family to present music, some old and some new. Our featured instrumentalists will be playing harpsichord, guitar, flute, and violin. Following the concert you will be treated to a variety of desserts and coffee. A donation will be requested.

*Susie Goodwin, Chair*

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Christine Gatchell	18 Sara Denver
2 Ryan Hughes	18 Margie Galabrun
4 Jacob Nason	18 Carol Kachoris
7 Ariane Toussaint	19 Eric Perkins
8 Lora Melanson	20 Axel Erikson
10 Meaghan Connell	20 Abby Kate Sullivan
11 Ken Jeffery	22 Ginny Silcocks
11 Carol Reilly	24 Jill Richards
12 Cindy Denver	26 Joe Brejwo
12 Priscilla Frothingham	26 Rebecca Mooers
12 Donna Vanderhoof	27 Josepha Baudin
12 Stephen Young	27 Curtis Carr
13 Paul Twombly	28 Michael Elliott
14 David Schweitzer	28 Edie Garland
15 Ethan Ball	30 Jan Brejwo
16 Russell Baldwin	30 Suzy Carter
16 MacKenzie Robinson	30 Ted Pearson
	30 Valerie Ward



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Joe & Barbara Cawlina
- 8 Rick & Jennifer Russell
- 11 Craig & Mary Heartquist
- 15 Lewis & Lois Royal
- 20 Fred & Jennifer Elliott
- 21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham
- 23 Patrick & Tammy Brown

## 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.



Remember also—

Our servicemen and women, especially those deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan

Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement Communities in our area

The Darfur region in Africa and our friends in Rufimiso, Zimbabwe

## **NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE**

### **(EXCERPTS FROM RECENT EMAILS)**

From Joseph Sibiya, UCCZ special projects officer and founder of Friends of Orphans Trust: Last Saturday I went to Rufumiso. All the Church executive members were present except the head Secretary for the distribution ceremony. Before anything else they gave me time to outline the purpose of gathering. I gave them the full background as it was the first time to met with the full executive. I even told them of the fresh communication we held on Friday night and that brought a lot of joy and fresh memories of the Z-Team visit. They are sending you their very warm greetings and great appreciation of the long heart and hand to be able to reach the needy Rufumiso Children. They set the criteria to distribute and each got 5 trillion (\$25.00 US) which is enough for the grocery for the month. Some women wept as they received the money for the orphans they knew could hardly get assistance. On the previous list they added four additional names which were omitted. So the total number is now 28 children. It was exciting to witness some women arguing for the inclusion of the children they knew were deserving some help and convinced the executive. (In addition 43 children and 6 elderly in the FOOT program were assisted by the money we donated, totaling 77 people assisted. *Connie*)

The money revaluation worsened. It is not near solving the economic situation. This has made the inflation to escalate high to the sky. Last week before Friday the bus fare was 2 trillion from Harare to Chipinge. On Saturday it was 5 trillion. Today is 7 trillion. Before 1st. August Zimbabweans were so stressed about being allocated only 100 billion per day which could not get a person to town by hiking. There was no cash in the country. Now we have gone back to old coins and ten zeros removed for a revalued currency. Yet the Talks seems to be leading no where as he (President Mugabe) is sticking on.

I need to make one more request for Rufumiso pastor and secretary for two bicycles, second hand. They traveled long distances on foot to reach their people yet the place is hot. FOOT likewise needs two bicycles as well for the program workers. So the total is four bicycles. The priority is Rufumiso. I traveled with them and was sweating. There is no trouble in the clearance once they arrive with the container. (Referring to the medical supply container.) I am afraid to put a big log on your shoulders.

From Rev. Mutsumbei, Eastern Conference Superintendent: “We are keeping on in very difficult times economical and political. This has come during my first year on the seat of responsibility and this means I am still adjusting to the demands of the responsibility. You will find that different people with different problems come for answers at my office. These problems range from social, political victims, illness, food and basic needs, etc. I am sure there is no conference minister and president has ever gone through what I and Rev. Matuvhunye have gone through these three months. At times I put up twenty five people in our home for a week, needing food, water, clothing and blankets for these winter nights. This has made me to think again about how to make my office sufficient. I am writing two projects on food production and rehabilitation for the political victims. At the moment I am doing same counseling in different areas of my conference with after 29 March 2008 election violence victims and this is a demanding responsibility especially without transport.”



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD  
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
 SUNDAY, SEPT. 14  
 CHURCH OPEN HOUSE  
 AND  
 CHURCH SCHOOL  
 REGISTRATION  
 SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!

## SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

**Sunday, September 7**, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Exodus 12:1-14** ~ Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11  
 Psalm 119:33-40 ~ Romans 13:8-14 ~ Matthew 18:15-20  
*Remember, Restore, Renew*

**Sunday, September 14**, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Exodus 14:19-31** ~ Psalm 114 or Genesis 50:15-21 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 ~ Romans 14:1-12 ~ Matthew 18:21-35  
*Road to Freedom*

**Sunday, September 21**, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Exodus 16:2-15** ~ Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Jonah 3:10-4:11  
 Psalm 145:1-8 ~ Philippians 1:21-30 ~ Matthew 20:1-16  
*Tensions in the Wilderness*

**Sunday, September 28**, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Exodus 17:1-7** ~ Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
 Psalm 25:1-9 ~ Philippians 2:1-13 ~ Matthew 21:23-32  
*God's Sustaining Presence*