



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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VOLUME 36: No. 1

JANUARY 2012

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

THE PASTOR'S PAGE . . .

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!

A most important *new thing* in our lives as church together is that we have moved into our new structure! If you have any questions about how it works, please be sure to ask a member of the **Calling and Discernment Team**. This structure sees each person as a minister able to carry out a ministry expressive of his or her spiritual gifts. Donna and George Ackerman, Janice Brejwo, Jan Fairchild, Margie Galabrun, Bill Goodwin, Mary James and Arlene Leyare are all members of this team, and are eager to help with questions about our new structure.

Your ministry ideas are most welcome and there is a place for all ministries that are consistent with our mission and vision in this new structure! Be aware that there are no more committees as we have known them, but rather **ministry teams headed by volunteer coordinators**. These teams vary in number and will meet in various configurations as needed to plan, carry out projects, share ideas, and engage in work together! All church members and friends are encouraged to offer to serve in one or more areas of ministry in the life of the church. If you haven't been asked, don't be shy. Step up and make your ideas known!

The following meetings are coming up:

- **TEAM SYNERGY WORKSHOP: January 14th, 9 – 12; snow date is January 15th after church (see article).**
- **Spiritual Life and Faith Formation Team will not meet on the 8th as previously scheduled and will set a new time at the end of the workshop mentioned above.**
- **Resource Stewardship and Management Team will meet on January 15th after church (unless bumped by snow date for workshop).**
- **Leadership Council will meet on January 22nd after church.**

These meetings are open to all.

Spiritual Life and Faith Formation Team

Ministry Coordinators are:

Diaconate: Cathy Koukal and Jo Szirbik

Christian Education: Margie Galabrun

Outreach: Donna Ackerman

Theatrical and Musical Arts:

Jan Stanley and Susie Goodwin

Library: Nancy Dee and Mary Beth Cook

Decorative and Visual Arts: Arlene Leyare

Wider Church: Connie Littlefield

Resource Stewardship and Management Team

Ministry Coordinators are:

Buildings and Grounds: Ann Bilodeau

Finance and Investment: Bill Goodwin

Personnel: Jan Fairchild

Stewardship: Carol Lundgren

Communications: Carol Jeffery

Historian and Archivist: Patricia Golden

I hope this information is helpful to all as we prayerfully share in this new adventure!

Blessings and peace,
Mary

See, I am making all things new.
Revelation 21:5

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to the organizers and all the contributors, vendors, and shoppers who made the Village Christmas Fair a big success! We raised over \$1700 for the general fund and enjoyed some Christmas spirit and fellowship too!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1 – November 30, 2011

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Income: | \$ 55,710.12 |
| Expenditures: | <u>\$ 56,844.30</u> |
| Net Income (Loss) | <u>\$ (1,134.18)</u> |

Restricted Funds balance at 11/30/2011: \$8,148.78.

By the time you read this article I will be closing out another month and the numbers above will be old news. The most important thing to know is that all our expenses are being paid on time. Nearly 76% of the total income received so far this year has come from the generosity of member's pledges. Over \$6800 included in the restricted fund balance at November 30th is from our Edward Jones Capital Account and is being used to pay for the ongoing improvements to the church such as the driveway, church repair and painting, and the sprinkler system. These are expenses which are not included in the operating budget. Advent is always a busy time of year and the Christmas Fair added to the bustle. Thanks to all who came up with the vision, organized, worked, baked, cooked, set-up, cleaned-up and shopped (and the vendors, of course) to make the fair a fun-filled success. The fair added over \$1700 to the general fund in December.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy new year!

*Janice Brejwo, Co-Treasurer
jbrejwo@roadrunner.com*

EMAIL CLARIFICATIONS

Our pastor's e-mail address is fccwpastor@gmail.com. Please remove from your address books any other address you might have for Mary, and be aware that e-mail sent to any other address will not be accessed. Thank you!

The Steeple Views Editor's email address is steepleviews@gmail.com. Please use this address to submit articles or for questions regarding the newsletter. Thanks!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Please come to a gathering of folk interested in discussing the current and future opportunities for Christian Education for all ages within our church family. The coffee will be on. Let's talk. **Sunday, January 8th, 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

*Margie Galabrun
Christian Ed Ministry Coordinator*

PREPARED TO SERVE-- A GREAT EVENT!

On the 25th of February, several hundred UCC folk from around the state will gather to worship and learn together at Pembroke Academy. This is a wonderful day of workshops on many topics, inspiring worship, many displays, and a very nice fellowship and lunch time. It is a bit of a drive from Wakefield, but it is well worth the trip, and if we can know ahead of time who is interested in going, we can form carpools.

We are hoping that members of our very own Calling and Discernment Team will be offering a workshop on the adventure of creating a new structure, so very likely we will have some folks traveling there. As soon as the information for Prepared to Serve is available, we will be sharing it with you all. It will also be easy to access at the NH Conference website at www.nhcucc.org. Mark your calendars and let's plan a trek!

CIRCLE 226 – JOYOUS GIFTS

It's time again to acknowledge and thank Members for their unflagging interest in keeping Circle 226 an active, effective support of the budget. The following folks have recently participated generously – Note: grocery store gift cards are used at the discretion of Rev. Mary to help local families in need. Sandra Burr--\$25 Gift Card to Market; Basket, Book of Forever Stamps and \$15 and \$25 Gift Cards to Hannaford; Deb Fogg--Package of pens for our Church School, Volunteer for Sunday School; Kaylee Fogg--Markers and Glue Sticks for Sunday School; Anonymous--New Bissell Vacuum Cleaner; Anonymous--Book of Forever Stamps; Carol Lundgren--Juice Mix, toilet paper, paper towels; Madison (Sunday School)--25 Hugs; Rebecca (Sunday School)--25 Hugs; Susie Goodwin--Glue Sticks for Sunday School--Mary Beth Cook--Paper for Newsletter for the Community; fJohn and Brenda Croke--\$15 Gift Card to Staples, \$50 Gift Card to BJ's; --Anonymous--Power of Change Donation; Rev Mary--Supplies for Worship Dramatic Scripture Presentation; Anonymous--\$25 Gift Card for Barnes & Noble for Library.

**FOR ALL COORDINATORS AND CHURCH OFFICERS
—A TEAM SYNERGY WORKSHOP**

Coordinators and officers, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 14th, from 9 to 12 (snow date Sunday the 15th after church) for an exciting **Team Synergy Workshop**. Funded by our Innovative Program Funds, we will be led in a discussion about how to best work together in our new interdisciplinary team structure, facilitated by experienced consultant Peggy Kieschnick of Dover.

Have you been wondering how this new structure will work? How we will communicate with one another? What interdisciplinary ministry opportunities we will discover? How the work will get done if there are no committees? This will be the place for us to discover the answers to these questions. Hope to see you all there! While the meeting is very important for Coordinators and Officers, all are welcome to attend!

**INVESTMENT REPORT
DECEMBER 15, 2011**

| June 30, 2011 | Fund | Dec. 15, 2011 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| \$ 27,005.76 | Capital Campaign Fund | \$ 8,407.62 |
| 15,001.15 | V. C. Wentworth Fund | 15,001.56 |
| 39,871.65 | Paul Fund B | 41,228.96 |
| 2,346.95 | Paul Fund C | 1,827.79 |
| <u>186,775.24</u> | Parsonage Fund | <u>192,958.43</u> |
| \$270,775.24 | | \$259,424.36 |

Notes

Disbursements from the **Capital Campaign Fund** of \$18,598.14 were for a new copier, repairs and improvements to the sprinkler system, stopping water intrusion from the parking lot, and replacing rotting wood on the church exterior.

The **Virginia C. Wentworth Fund** has been invested in a 6 month CD paying .74%, an improvement over the .01% it was earning in a money market fund.

Paul Fund B increased in value by \$1,357.31 over the 6 month period, 6/30/11 to 12/15/11.

Paul Fund C had disbursements of \$519.16 for Innovative Programs.

The **Parsonage Fund** increased in value by \$6,408.70 over the 6 month period, 6/30/11 to 12/15/11.

*Bill Goodwin, Coordinator
Finance, Investments and Memorial Gifts*

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Your church seeks a Christian Educator to oversee the church school program. This is an 8 hour per week position. Experience with children and education is desired.

Please take a moment to ponder these details: only 8 hours a week, flexible, supervised by Rev. Mary and supported by the Christian Education Coordinator. Could it be you? Or someone you know? Resumes are welcome until January 20th via email to: fccw226@gmail.com

On behalf of the children of our congregation – present and future – thank you for your thoughts and consideration.

EXPLORING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

There will be a gathering of all who are interested in becoming members of the church on Sunday, January 29th, right after worship. It will last about 90 minutes, and we hope you can be there if you have been considering joining the church! Plan to bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Please let Mary know if you would like to attend!

LIBRARY NEWS

We would like to send a big THANK YOU! to our anonymous gift card donor. Your support has provided the library with great books on gratitude and thanks.

Before you snuggle down for your long winter's rest, stop in the library for a great five-star read.


The Littlest Uninvited One by Charles Tazewell (recently donated). A wonderfully illustrated/written book for anyone who has ever lost a pet. The story of a young cherub and a young pup brought to him in Heaven. Be sure to have your hanky ready!

Choosing Gratitude by Nancy Leigh Demoss. How to choose a lifestyle of heartfelt and humble gratitude. This book will challenge you to live a life of purpose.

The Faith Club by [Ranya Idliby](#), Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. The Faith club is a story 3 women of different religions coming together in an open dialogue. The women contend with what they believe, and what they had been taught. They came to appreciate and accept each other as individuals who share a common humanity and a quest for peace, though from different faith perspectives.

Library Coordinators

JANUARY 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 New Year's Day Worship 10 a.m. and Holy Communion | 2 | 3 | 4 Diaconate 5:30 | 5 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 | 6 Epiphany  | 7 |
| 8 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Angels and Mortals Revealed! | 9 Choir 6 p.m. | 10 | 11 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m. | 12 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv. | 13 | 14 Team Synergy Meeting 9—12 |
| 15 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Resource Steward- ship and Manage- ment Meeting Church School Meeting | 16 Choir 6 p.m. | 17 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30 | 18 | 19 Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadershiip Council Mtg. | 23 Choir 6 p.m. | 24 Bible Study 12 noon | 25 | 26 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Exploring Church Membership Gathering | 30 Choir 6 p.m. | 31 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30 | | | | |

FEBRUARY 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 Diaconate 5:30 | 2 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Celebration of Our Zimbabwe Partnership Worship and Holy Communion Church School—10 a.m. | 6 Choir 6 p.m. | 7 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30 p.m. | 8 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m. | 9 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv. | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 13 Choir 6 p.m. | 14 Bible Study 12 noon | 15 | 16 Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv. | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. | 20 Choir 6 p.m. | 21 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30 | 22 Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m. | 23 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level | 24 | 25 “Prepared To Serve” All Day Pembroke, NH |
| 26 First Sunday of Lent Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 27 Choir 6 p.m. | 28 Bible Study 12 noon | 29 | |  | |

Z TEAM NEWS



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Nelson Maheu on December 2nd. Nelson was a pillar of the Rufumiso Church and a dear friend to the Z Team. We first met Nelson in 2005 on our first trip to Zimbabwe when we were quite excited to begin building the addition to the Rufumiso Church. Nelson was appointed the project building supervisor. We were later to learn that Nelson painstakingly worked on this project, came up with visionary plans, and implemented the oversight of each phase of the project. His vision included adding store rooms and work space to more effectively utilize the space. Although Nelson was officially “retired” when we arrived, he was busier in retirement than he had ever been. (Sound familiar?) He was overseeing his personal poultry projects, was a one man prudential committee for the Rufumiso Church, looked out for his vast extended family and church members, served on conference committees, and took on oversight of a cooperative garden project started in November 2009. This project, began with seed money from a Swedish organizations, involves 46 families representing widows, orphans, and those with HIV/AIDS. Nelson or his wife would visit the garden every day and they would go from person to person asking about their health, discussing the day’s garden concerns, the weather, family news, etc. It was about food but it was also about community, caring and respect.

Nelson was often trying to figure out how to get the church members more involved and how to get them to give freely, either of their time or their tithe to help the church grow. While some Rufumiso members felt only men should be pastors, Nelson liked having a woman pastor feeling that a woman could more readily go into church member’s homes and that women open up to a female pastor more easily. He would shake his head

saying he liked having a “real pastor” trained in theology and church polity instead of the young “boy pastors” who are sent from the seminary. He wanted to have the church build a pastor’s house with 4 bedrooms so there would be room for visiting ministers and the Z Team! Currently the pastor and her children occupy the store rooms.

And each time he wrote, he would lift up the Wakefield Church and then give us updates on the state of the church renovation. In his last letter he wrote the following: “In the name of our Lord Jesus the Savior I say may God bless all the Wakefield Church members. I was shocked to receive such a wonderful letter for the help of our church. (He is referring to school fees.) We have finished the interior with wonderful floors right up to the veranda. You will never experience dust in our church again. It is a lovely church inside. We have many aged people who have no source of income but we are trying hard to work on the church. There is still some external plaster needed but we will just put it to God. When you come in 2012 you will be coming to open the so wonderful church of Rufumiso through the help of the Wakefield Church. I know you are praying for us as we are praying for you. Thanks once again for the wonderful container. Greet all of the Wakefield Church members for me and say hi to Rev. Mary James.”

There is no doubt that when Nelson reached his heavenly home, he was greeted with the phrase, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Connie Littlefield

“WONDERS OF WOOL” PROGRAM AT PARISH HELPERS

The Parish Helpers will meet on Thursday, January 12, at 1 p.m. The program will be “Wonders of Wool” presented by Maureen Fleming of Lonach Farm. Maureen will bring us through the process of making yarn from raising sheep to spinning and dyeing the wool. Maureen is owner of Lonach Farm in Milton, a small farm where she raises Shetland sheep. She is also an accomplished spinner and knitter!

Carol Jeffery

POWER OF CHANGE – POWER IN CHANGE

What generous Sunday School children and congregation folk! The Power of Change continues to be strong – making it possible to send \$25/month to Zimbabwe to educate Liberty as well as money left over to the apply to the budget goal. It’s amazing what can happen with COINS alone! A new picture of Liberty, in his school duds, is beside the Power of Change container. Handsome and brave – he is the face of the future.

Celebrations

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Donald Silcocks | 9 Rachel Wilson | 18 Eric Boggs | 25 Aileen Koukal |
| 4 Austin Gehring | 11 Ashley Hall | 19 Bob Crowe | 25 Martha Jo Mc Carthy |
| 4 Caitlin Koukal | 15 Lindsay Baldwin | 19 George Szirbik | 28 Samantha Michalsky |
| 6 Penny Ellis | 15 Carole Doughty | 20 Gail Leyare | 28 Erin Seaboyer |
| 7 Donna Ackerman | 16 Robert Chadbourne | 20 Edward Morrison | 29 Timothy McCarthy |
| 8 Jim Pirie | 16 Bill Judge | 23 Abby Schnurbush | 30 John Hebb |
| 9 Jason Denver | 17 Warren Berg | 24 Emily Crew | 30 Joanne Dolbear |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12 Richard and Diana Peckham
16 Jeff and Valerie Ward

THANK YOU

The church was beautifully decorated for Advent. Thank you to Berit Johannessen, Donna Vanderhoof, Elizabeth Fogg, Jan Brejwo, Linda Petkunas, Rachel White, and Mary Beth Cook for their help with the "hanging of the greens". Thank you to Elizabeth Fogg for picking up much needed supplies and to Parker Vanderhoof and his son, Parker, for hanging the Advent banner. Much appreciation goes to Rachel White for overseeing the Christmas decorations, the "hanging of the greens" and for ordering the wreaths and poinsettia plants.

*Arlene Leyare, Coordinator
Decorative and Visual Arts Ministry*

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Connie B. | Maxine C. | Rick and Jennifer R. | George B. |
| Paul T. | Red C. | Joe M. | Sid S. |
| David H. | George H. | Catherine D. | Curt C. |
| Dot R. | Jo W. | Tom T. | Art W. |
| Andrew P. | Julia W. | Todd W. | Diane D. |
| Walter G. | Bob C. | Ginny S. | |



Our countrymen who are dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters.
Our global neighbors in places in which there is great strife.
Our servicemen and women, especially those deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.
Our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe
Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement Communities in our area

“Not every prayer can be answered. But every soul can find solace in prayer.”



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ANGELS AND MORTALS
REVEALED!
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
COFFEE HOUR

JANUARY LECTIONARY

January 1—First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January 15—Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51



January 8—The Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 22—Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28