



# STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION*

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## *THE PASTOR'S PAGE . . .*

### **WE ARE STARDUST, WE ARE GOLDEN**

One of the great surprises of my time serving as a hospital chaplain was to note the importance for Protestant Christians of receiving the traditional Ash Wednesday blessing, even when they were hospitalized. I knew it would be very important to the Catholic patients, but I was surprised to find that on Ash Wednesday each year, my Catholic counterpart and I were equally busy administering ashes and offering the accompanying prayers to many folks in their hospital rooms.

The traditional words of the blessing offered on Ash Wednesday don't really seem like much of a blessing: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Frankly, in the hospital setting, this just seemed like the wrong thing to be saying, especially for folks who were gravely ill. Most of the people there were hoping for and expecting healing, and it seemed something of an existential *faux pas* to come into their rooms and say such a thing. However, offered in the context of conversation and prayer emphasizing the preciousness of each person in the eyes of God, the words about dust had an astonishing power in that setting. The heightened awareness of mortality, not unusual when one is in the hospital, seemed to cause for many a new appreciation for what was truly important in life, and a determination to live their remaining time with greater intention and zest.

Can we see our mortality as a gift? Ash Wednesday in particular, and Lent as a whole, opens this possibility for us. In terms of the cycle of the liturgical year, it is a perfect time to reassess our deepest purposes and intentions, and to enter into a time of discernment about what it is that God has in mind for each of us at this time in our lives.

Songwriter Joni Mitchell wrote these lyrics: "We are stardust/we are golden/ and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden." Our bodies may be destined for dust, and we know from the insights of science the truth of the mystery that they are indeed made of stardust. And we know from the insights of scripture that we are indeed precious---read "golden"---in the sight of God. God calls us to see one another as precious, as well. May Lent be for each of us a time of "getting back to the garden" of God's grace and nurture, that we might live mindfully in God's light.

For precious persons whose bodies are destined for dust, how wonderful that we have the capacity to ask: Who am I? What spiritual gifts has God given me, and how am I called to use them at this time in my life? How am I spending my precious days? What is most important in my life? How can I best show love of God and neighbor? These are Ash Wednesday and Lent questions. May our luminous, loving God whisper to our hearts some transcendent answers; may conversations exploring such questions flourish among us!

Blessings and peace,

Mary

*What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

Psalm 8: 4

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Income: \$ 73,377.68  
Expenditures: \$ 69,391.61  
Net Income (Loss) \$ 3,986.07

### Restricted Funds balance as of Dec. 31, 2012: \$3,899.98

Valentine's Day is fast approaching. As I write, we just celebrated the arrival of a new year. There is so much to accomplish this year that I wish it would slow down a little.

The restricted funds balance looks fairly large as of the end of December, because it includes money which will be dispensed in January. The Christmas Eve Service Collection raised \$995.20 for the Christmas Fund. Alternative gifting provided \$525.00 for Heifer's good work around the world. The Food Pantry will receive \$468.89 from the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, our Church School veggie sales and an extra gift from the Parish Helpers. The generosity of our congregation and friends is amazing.

Please remember to take a look at the monthly treasurer's report posted in the narthex. I welcome the chance to answer any questions or concerns you may have. We want everyone to understand and be involved in the workings of our church.

Janice Brejwo, Treasurer  
[jbrejwo@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbrejwo@roadrunner.com)

## PARISH HELPERS

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Parish Helpers. The next meeting is on Thursday, February 14 at 1 p.m. Dave Schweitzer will be our speaker and will give a presentation of two of Wakefield's historical topics. Prior to the invention of the refrigerator, Wakefield supplied ice for city of Boston with over 80 carloads of ice a day during that time. He will also discuss Wakefield's only newspaper, the Pioneer Press. Historical pictures will be displayed during the reading of Marion Hanson's historical journal. Please join us for this informative talk!

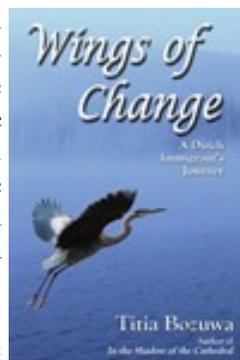
For further information about what you read in this newsletter, please email the editor at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) or call the church office. We'll be happy to help!



[www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)

## BOOK REVIEW OF "WINGS OF CHANGE" BY AUTHOR TITIA BOZUWA OF WAKEFIELD

The book chronicles the struggles and tough decisions of Titia and Gijs Bozuwa in their decision to emigrate from the Netherlands (Holland) to the United States. They ultimately settled in Wakefield across the street from the Church where Gijs (he told me to call him "Chris") established a medical practice to serve Greater Wakefield.



There were several factors that made the book especially interesting for me.

I first met Dr. Bozuwa in the early 60's when I took a friend to his office to have a fishing lure removed from his scalp. It was memorable since he asked to keep the lure so he could affix it to a framed burlap wall hanging where ALL the lures he had removed were displayed.

Later I met both of them socially and subsequently read Titia's other books . . . "In the Shadow of the Cathedral" and the "Emperor's Guest", both regarding World War II. Both of these were extremely interesting to me because of my vintage (1942) and my interest in WW II history.

One aspect of "Wings of Change" that I enjoyed, was the mention of places, businesses and people that I knew of or remembered from the Greater Wakefield area many of which have changed or are no longer around.

Titia's writing is very expressive and is full of personal thoughts and perspectives as her and Chris' life story unfolded. I highly recommend this book.

*Bob Lundgren, North Wakefield.*

## THE NORTH BUS

The North Bus continues to make runs to Rochester from Wakefield and Milton every Wednesday & Friday and we'd love to have you board.

Simply call 1-855-736-4287 (toll-free) to register and schedule your ride. The minibus and one of its friendly volunteer drivers will pick you up at your home and bring you (and your friends!) shopping in Rochester. The North Bus has a lift and is accessible for everyone. It's a new year and time to try new things. Give COAST a call today to schedule your first trip! For complete details, visit [www.coastbus.org/northbus.html](http://www.coastbus.org/northbus.html)

*Thanks, Jeff Donald*

## COMMUNITY STRING BAND: A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Every Thursday evening in the Parish Helpers Room, the delightful sound of traditional music can be heard as church and community members gather to learn and play tunes. Zythyra Austen is a warm and caring teacher who has the special knack of getting everyone playing, whether one is a beginner or more advanced player.

We are so fortunate to have Zythyra as the teacher in this setting. The modest fee of \$15 allows participants to take part in one or both classes; a beginner's group meets at 6, and a mixed levels group meets at 7. It truly is great fun and all are welcome to take part whenever they can. Do you have an instrument you enjoy playing? Would you enjoy the comraderie and fun of playing with others? Whether you are just starting out as a player, or have been playing for some time, you will be most welcome! And, if piano is your instrument, you are in luck! We have a fine piano awaiting you in the Parish Helpers Room.

This has been a great form of outreach for our church. We know of nowhere else that you can have such a high quality instructional experience in music for such a modest fee. If you have any questions, please ask Mary and she can fill you in. Come join in the fun!

## NEWS OF THE WIDER CHURCH

On Feb. 17th, Rev. Gina Finocchiaro will be installed as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro. Service is at 3:00 p.m. and all are cordially invited to attend and celebrate with our neighboring UCC church.

*Connie Littlefield*

## NEWS FROM ON-LINE FUNDRAISING



Here's the latest offering from our on-line fundraising project. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who might be interested, we have a Jotul GF 400 DV Sebago Propane Burning Stove for sale. It comes with the piping shown, the vent, and the hearth.

Our asking price is \$1200. This is a really good deal. Please help us find the right buyer. For information, please contact Margie Galabrun at 522-6647.

## PREPARED TO SERVE 2013

It's time to register for **Prepared to Serve, 2013**, a day of great workshops for everyone in the church. Prepared to Serve is offered by our New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, and is held at the Pembroke Academy on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8 AM – 4 PM.



*The Spirit of God is Upon Me—Luke 4:16-21*

We already know of several from the church who are attending, and there will be car pooling. So please join us. If the cost of registration is an issue, please let Rev. Mary know that. There may be assistance and we would love for you not to miss this event.

Workshop selection and registration form can be found at <http://www.nhcucc.org/NHCUCC/>. Follow the link to **PTS Website**. Or refer any questions to Margie Galabrun, [mgalabrun@roadrunner.com](mailto:mgalabrun@roadrunner.com), 522-6647.

*Margie Galabrun*

## NEW NAME FOR OUR ANNUAL GIVING EFFORT: WHOLE-HEARTED GIVING!

At the end of February, if you are a member of FCCW, you will be handed a thick envelope with all the information we hope you will need to make a decision about your annual giving promise. It will contain a loving letter, a descriptive budget with numbers and a narrative budget together with a promise card for your “whole hearted giving” decision for the year to come – and a self-addressed return envelope. If you are not in church, your envelope will be mailed. It's important work we do here at FCCW and it cannot be done well without our whole hearts, minds, physical strength, spiritual power, prayer and dedication ... and, yes, dollars.

**Many non-member friends** also participate in our annual giving promise, realizing that the Church is here for all to become more faith-filled through worship, music, church school and adult education and important volunteering for good in the community and beyond. So, do not be surprised to receive an invitation to participate!

*Carol Lundgren*

**GET THE NEWS SOONER**—sign up to get the Steeple Views by email! Email Carol Jeffery at [Steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:Steepleviews@gmail.com) to be added to the email list. You can also read the email on the church's website at [www.fccwakefieldnh.org](http://www.fccwakefieldnh.org).

## Z TEAM NEWS

As I begin considering all of the coordination needed for the next shipping container, I sigh and think negotiating with the shipping company, responding to all requests for information, the dozens upon dozens of emails that need to go out to all the church groups with explanations of procedures that will be repeated over and over because people can't remember where they "put that email." I think about sorting through mounds of clothing, the endless packing, the boxes piled high needing a place to be stored, and more. And yes... I feel tired before we've even started. And then I see this letter from Andy and Lindley, NH UCC missionaries to Zimbabwe making a monumental difference at Chinaa High School where they teach and in the Chikore/Pfidza area where they live and worship and I'm reminded of what it all means.

"Oh, the great boxes arrived this week. What a wonderful collection of gifts. Some of the eyeglasses have already started their new lives. A teacher from a nearby primary school sat in our little room for about 1 ½ hours trying on glasses patiently looking for a perfect pair. His sight is very poor and so the need is great. He went off with a fine pair that fit well, looked great and worked very well for him.

Later in the day a young, nearly blind man came in the care of his 11 year old son. This poor fellow ended up with a pair of bifocals the reading section of which he could read 1 inch letters if he held the glasses at just the right angle. He was also happy because he could see his hand with them. We did agree to take him into a nearby city hospital's eye unit in December when we have vacation.

Then on Sunday I went to the home of a woman, housebound mother of a friend. She's a neat former teacher who asked eventually if she could have two pairs. I said that if she has two pairs then someone has zero. Reluctantly she said she'd settle for the 'regular' glasses because it is more important to see who is coming into the house than it was to read. Aw, shucks, the reading glasses that she wanted were a heavy old fashioned glass pair so I agreed that she should take both of them. What a happy lady. Then her deaf, adult daughter found a pair of reading glasses and as soon as I got the rest all packed up the husband said he needed glasses also. Oh, the woman, the former teacher is the same woman who was attacked by the spitting cobra while she was in the outhouse last year. She is, incidentally, fully recovered.

My neighbor, the matron of the girls' dormitory, a woman who loves to sew but cannot afford any fabric was thrilled with the fabric. She selected a couple of pieces, borrowed a sewing machine from the school and sewed a dress for the 6 year old orphan that she cares for. The next day she sewed

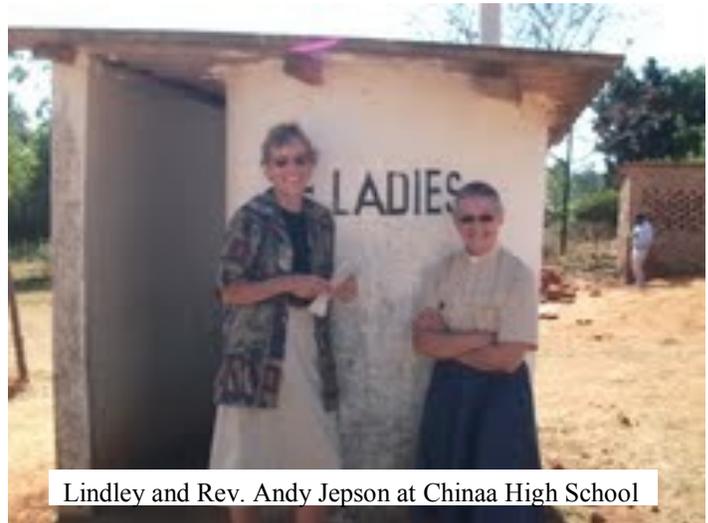
a dress for herself from the light pastel knit. I have pictures and will try to send.

The threads, the scissors, the school items, notepapers and cards will all find new homes quickly. Thank you for everything. We had a little unpacking frenzy and I didn't write things down. Oh, yes, I brought one tote bag kit to give to a boy at Chinaa High School (where we teach) who is taking fashion and fabrics class. Poor guy, he loves to sew but they make no effort to give him suitable projects so he sews skirts and blouses and gives them to his sister. He was tickled with the tote and within a hour had the pieces all cut out and basted together. But then reported that the hand-cranked sewing machine was all "making loops on the back." I said that I'd try to see that he could use one of the two electric machines at the school. I'd used it to make curtains for the headmaster's office so I know it works fine.

Thanks for doing the gathering, packing and delivering work for such neat gifts." Lindley and Andy too

So dear friends, once again we will be looking for all of those items that are extra to us but so very dear and necessary to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. We have a tentative plan to ship in September 2013. Help, and STORAGE SPACE, will be greeted with hugs of appreciation!!

Tinobonga, Connie



Lindley and Rev. Andy Jepson at Chinaa High School

### WINTER WARMING PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, FEB. 16TH

The Z Team will be providing another yummy pancake breakfast with all the fixings -- an assortment of delicious pancakes cooked to order, eggs, sausage, muffins, coffee cake, juice, and hot beverages. Cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Family plan -- two adults and two children -- \$20! Treat your sweetheart to a little post Valentine's Day indulgence!

## UPDATE – FORWARD IN FAITH – RENEWING A SPIRIT OF PLACE AND PURPOSE

Yes, dear folks, the Capital Campaign first phase is drawing to a close. ***Have you had an opportunity to meet with anyone from the team yet?*** If not, please do not be shy. Call the church office (522-3189) and we'll make an appointment for you right away!

We are already more than half way to our ambitious goal. Due to pledges already received, important building repairs have been done and more are set for Spring. While Bill and Susie Goodwin are away, Carol Lundgren is facilitating the process.

There are 4 questions which are offered during a personal visit and the answers to these questions become extremely valuable as we go "forward in faith". It's a thrilling time in the life of our church – historic, even. Regardless of the money pledged individually, we strive to have each member make a pledge – no matter how modest or grand. Can you imagine the accomplishment of reaching 100% participation of members? Decades from now, **that** congregation will look back and be grateful for the vision of **this** congregation.

Not able to have a personal visit? While that is desired, we realize how tricky scheduling can be. A packet can be made ready for your consideration. Just let the church office know. What an exciting time in the life of FCCW!

*Carol Lundgren*

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS NOTICE

The closest where the electrical panel is housed is in need of being cleared out. The items that are currently there block access to the panel. This is a fire code violation. There is a small dorm sized refrigerator in there. Does anyone know who it belongs to? If it is not claimed it will be removed. We do not have the room to store it.

The vacuum cleaner that is stored in the old kitchen and is used in Fellowship Hall should be emptied after every use. The filter should be cleaned as well. This filter is at the base of the dirt holder. To clean it take it outside along with a dustpan brush – remove filter and brush clean. It is a dirty job (I use latex gloves) but if it is not done the vacuum will not work well.

*Ann Bilodeau*

**IN THE DARK** —Our thanks go out to the Parish Helpers for supplying the room darkening shades in the Fellowship Hall. Now when we want to view a presentation on the big screen during daylight hours, we will see it much better!!

## PRAYER SHAWL ANNIVERSARY

Thirteen loving women gathered to share prayers and bless newly completed shawls as they celebrated the third anniversary of the Wakefield Prayer Shawl Ministry in January. Many thanks to group leader, Jan Fairchild, for organizing and leading the Shawl Ministry!



### HOUSEKEEPING HELP NEEDED!

Over the past few years, a team of loyal volunteers have been cleaning the church, resulting in a savings of about \$5000 per year in our church budget. At this time, more help is needed to clean the fellowship hall, the hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, and the sanctuary. If you can spare an hour a two once in a while to help out, it would be most

### CIRCLE 227 – REFRESHED AND READY!

Here are some of the ideas waiting to be selected:

- Be a Good Shepherd Driver
- Become a Lay Visitor
- Volunteer for Church School
- Coins for Liberty's Education
- Join the Choir
- Donate to Music Ministry
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- Cleaning Part of Church
- Book Review for Library
- Copy Paper
- Juice for Church School
- Volunteer for Coffee Hour
- Book of Forever Stamps
- Gift Certificate Grocery Store

*Carol Lundgren*

# Celebrations!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Barbara Cawlina  | 17 Anthony StPierre  |
| 2 Bob James        | 19 Lisa Robinson     |
| 2 Marilou MacLean  | 20 John Hilderbrandt |
| 3 Kenneth Crew     | 21 Matthew Steer     |
| 3 Maureen Steer    | 23 Alisa Eaton       |
| 10 Peter Foss      | 23 Valerie Brown     |
| 11 Rob Lundgren    | 24 Curt Cook         |
| 12 Peter Connell   | 24 Barry Lockard     |
| 12 David Haag      | 25 Cheyanne Boggs    |
| 12 Ryan McCarthy   | 25 Arlene Leyare     |
| 13 Susan Tamilio   | 25 Sid Silcocks      |
| 14 Marion Blomster | 25 Kristin Weeks     |
| 14 Ann Gehring     | 26 Martha Charnock   |
| 14 Anders Jacobson | 27 Charlie Bilodeau  |
| 15 Nicky Mercer    | 27 Tom Weeks.        |
| 16 Chris Bozuwa    | 28 David Fairchild   |
| 16 Jessica Brown   | 28 Emma Royle        |
| 17 Ryan Dee        | 28 Stephen Silcocks  |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Paul & Agnes Carlson (1946)
- 10 Joe & Jan Breywo (1973)
- 14 Lance & Marilou MacLean
- 15 Paul & Maureen Steer

## FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Connie B.          | George B.    |
| Paul T.            | Art W.       |
| Dot R.             | Cathy K.     |
| Jo W.              | Mackenzie M. |
| Julia W.           | Vivian C.    |
| Tom and Barbara T. |              |

Our global neighbors in places where there is great strife.  
 Our servicemen and women  
 Our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe  
 Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement  
 Communities in our area



## LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

- 1 World Day of Prayer
- 3 Spiritual Life and Faith Formation Team Meeting  
after church
- 6 Diaconate Meeting 4:30
- 12 Centering Prayer 4:00
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 26 Centering prayer 4:00
- 28 Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae
- 29 Good Friday
- 30 Holy Saturday
- 31 Easter Sunday!

## NEW MEMBER

Deborah Herd recently joined our church. We wholeheartedly welcome her in our midst. Deborah (or Deb) was born in Schenectady, NY, but was raised in the Berkshires after her parents moved there when she was just three months old. Her high school years were spent at NH Preparatory School in New Hampton, and she attended Goddard College in VT.



She pursued an education in Special Education, but eventually reached back to her good experiences as a “candy striper,” volunteering in a hospital. This led her to becoming a certified nurse assistant. As such, she worked for 32 years.

Presently, her home is on Acton Ridge Road. She is busy working and repairing her old Cape and barn, while keeping chickens. Deb has a German Shepherd and a parrot, called Simon, who often tells her “Stop it.”

Deb loves to read, paint and walk. She enjoys our weekly Bible study and has already come to love our church family. Deb generously donated the figures in our nativity scene. They were bought by her parents on a trip to Italy.

*Titia Bozuwa/Diaconate.*

# FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> Worship and Holy Communion Church School 10 am  RSM Meeting After Worship	<b>4</b> Choir 6 p.m.	<b>5</b> Bible Study 12 noon	<b>6</b> Diaconate Meeting 4:30	<b>7</b> Scrabble 10 a.m..  Weight Watchers—5:30  String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Family Game and Dessert Night  6—8 p.m.
<b>10</b> Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m. Leadership Council Mtg.	<b>11</b> Choir 6 p.m.	<b>12</b> Bible Study 12 noon  Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	<b>13</b> Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	<b>14</b> Parish Helpers - 1 p.m.  Weight Watchers—5:30 p.m.  String Band Beg.—6 Mixed —7 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Installation of Rev. Gina Finochiarro as Pastor of Wolfeboro UCC -3 p.m.	<b>18</b> Choir 6 p.m.	<b>19</b> Scrabble 10 a.m.  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Weight Watchers—5:30  String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Prepared To Serve
<b>24</b> Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m.	<b>25</b> Choir 6 p.m.	<b>26</b> Bible Study 12 noon  Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Prayers Shawl 10 a.m.  Weight Watchers—5:30 p.m.  String Band Beg.—6 Mixed —7 p.m.		



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



LENT BEGINS ON  
FEBRUARY 13.

ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE  
AT 7 P.M.

## FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

### February 3 —4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30



### February 17—First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### February 10—5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

### February 24—Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 *or* Luke 9:28-36