



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

REVEREND ALBERT MHURURU, SABBATICAL PASTOR

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

In the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe the month of October is a period when we celebrate the time when the first missionaries from New England came in 1893 to establish the church in Zimbabwe.

It is also the time when United Church of Christ, New Hampshire will celebrate the arrival of 12 UCC, Zimbabwe delegates who will be in the conference from October 11 to 26, 2013. It will be a time of sharing and worship.

The Wakefield Congregational Church will also celebrate the end of the sabbatical period for Rev. Mary James and Rev. Albert Mhururu from Zimbabwe. A sabbatical leave is a given opportunity to be spent on renewing and refreshing. By equipping the Pastor you also equip the church. Rev. Mary James is also coming with great excitement. She is also waiting to equip God's people for work.

My stay at the Wakefield Congregational Church has facilitated me to learn, to share and to enjoy the fellowship. I am now going to return to Zimbabwe with the knowledge and experience of the structure of a local UCC church in New Hampshire.

During my time here I have had some wonderful cultural experiences and have enjoyed many different kinds of American cuisine. A trip to Mount Washington, boat rides, experiencing the New England tradition of Friday Night High School Football, apple & pumpkin picking, hiking, beekeeping, agricultural fairs and the beautiful Fall foliage are just a few of those experiences.

My time here could not have been so wonderfully enriched with these things without the hospitality of my wonderful host families and the families of the Wakefield Congregational Church. I am very grateful for you all.

Blessing and Peace

Rev. A Mhururu

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some **pastors** and teachers, ¹²to **equip** the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:11,12

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2013 –
Sept 30, 2013

Income:	\$ 35,336.03
Expenditures:	\$ 37,818.95
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,482.92)

Restricted Funds balance as of Sept 30, 2013: \$3,130.13

Can you believe that the first quarter of this fiscal year is over? Income is running just about even with the budget at 24.62% as of the end of September. Expenses are a little ahead of budget standing at 26.35% of projected amounts. Several expenses, such as Sabbatical, were expected to be paid entirely in the early part of the year so really we are close to being on track. Fortunately, the unexpended funds remaining in our general checking account from the last couple of fiscal years make it possible to pay all our current expenses when they are due.

The Harvest Fair, another major fundraising activity for the church's general fund, is coming up on November 16th. Please consider helping out. There are lots of opportunities to assist in making this fun and yummy event a great success.

Remember to check out the monthly treasurer's report posted in the Narthex. Besides a summary of year-to-date budget activity, the monthly report also includes information on our Profile Bank accounts (three checking accounts and a savings account) as well as the ins and outs of the restricted funds. Questions are always welcome.

Janice Brejwo, Treasurer
jbrejwo@roadrunner.com or fccwtreasurer@gmail.com

Looking for more information on something you read in the Steeple Views? Call the church office during open hours (Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or email the editor at steepleviews@gmail.com. We'll be happy to help! See more from FCCW at our Facebook Page—like us at

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



AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT: MITCH ALBOM

These books are available in our church library and have already been read by several of our church members. Look for them on the moving shelving unit in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesdays with Morrie

This book chronicles the author's time with Morrie, his former college professor and mentor, who is dying and shares the wisdom of his years.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

A novel about a man who dies and in the afterlife encounters five people who were in his earthly existence and lead him to an evaluation of his life.

For One More Day

Another novel about a broken spirited man who spends a day with his deceased mother whose guidance helps him put his life back together.

Have a Little Faith

This is the story of Albom's experiences with people of faith from different religious and economic backgrounds. For more information about Mitch Albom go to his website: www.mitchalbom.com

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

THE EXEMPLARY GUEST

When you live in the Lakes District of New Hampshire, you know what it means to have house guests. They come in all stripes and colors. Some are relatives, some are old friends you forgot you had...and they all have peculiarities, one way or another. I never thought we would meet the exemplary guest.

But now, after the last three months, I can tell you the characteristics of one: He is completely himself, but knows how to blend in. He very quickly figures out the host's routines and adapts to them. He knows when to be heard and when to be quiet. He is very prompt for all meals and outings. He knows how to carry on interesting conversations. He prays with us before the evening meals. He jokes, but doesn't tease. He doesn't burden others with aspects of his private life or goes on and on about them. Most of all: he has a wonderful sense of humor.

You have already figured it out: I am talking about Reverend Mhururu. Gijs and I really enjoyed his stay with us. Having him here enriched our lives. Thank you Reverend Mhururu!!!

The Bozuwas

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on November 17th, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with the members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. On November 17th, please give generously.

Donna V Ackerman, Christian Outreach

228



Did you know that on September 22nd our church turned 228 years old? Time flies! The 228 "take a tag" boards in Fellowship Hall (kitchen side) are refreshed and ready. There are so many small but meaningful ways to help your church. Stop by and look over the tags. You can even make up your own

if you feel that church is in need of something you can provide. Happy Birthday to our Church!!!

Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Ministry

WELCOME BACK, REVEREND MARY GOD'S SPEED, REVEREND MHURURU

We are two weeks away from the end of the experiment called "The Sabbatical." Our church went through a similar experience once before, when Rick and Jennifer Russell went to India for their sabbatical, back in the eighties.

We are the richer for it. This time our church offered sabbatical time to two ministers—"our Mary" and Rev. Albert Mhururu. The latter used it to explore American UCC ways of worshipping and organizing its church life. Rev. Mary used it to turn inward, gain spiritual momentum, study, read and rebalance her church life versus her personal life.

Meanwhile the Wakefield congregation benefited from dipping its toe into an African culture. We were enriched by a foreign presence that quickly became familiar to us. We will carry forward with dear memories of Rev. Mhururu in our midst, and with a revitalized Rev. Mary whom we have missed in spite of all the excitement of the past three months.

GOD'S SPEED to you, Rev. Mhururu, and a heartfelt WELCOME BACK to you, Rev. Mary!

*Titia Bozuwa and Jo Szirbik
Co-Chair of the Diaconate.*

HARVEST FAIR—NOVEMBER 16

Harvest Fair! Hope you will join us from 9 am –2 pm for our church's annual fall fundraiser! We will have vendors with everything from crafts, jewelry, and handmade doll clothes to maple products, Scentsy and More, a Christmas room, gently used books, CDs and DVDs, pies, baked goods, and much more. Lunch will be available from 11 am to 1:30 pm with your choice of chowder or chili, bread, and beverage. Start your holiday shopping early and come support the church and local merchants. **Proceeds from the Harvest Fair will benefit the church's general fund.**

How you can help: We need donations of pies, homemade baked goods, hardcover books, CDs and DVDs in good condition, and any hearty fall crop items from your garden that you still have for our Harvest room. (Please no VHS tapes and we ask that all baked goods be packaged for sale.)

Please call (522-3189) or email the office at fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com if you have donations or any questions. Thank you!

Penny Grover

Z TEAM NEWS

What a pleasure it was to have Rev. and Mrs. Mugari, Rev. Mutsumbei and of course, Rev. Mhururu in worship for our Ukama Partnership Sunday in October. Authentic Zimbabwe singing and drumming helped us celebrate 16 years of partnership! Rev. Mhururu, Ann and I attended the Ukama Partnership Fair. Ann got some drumming lessons and learned more about Zim culture, including marriage and funeral rituals. Rev. Mhururu and I attended workshops on current status of medical care and updates in educational initiatives.

Our Zim travelers brought letters from our friends at Rufumiso. Here is an excerpt from the church secretary Felistus Sigauke, who is a nurse at Birchenough Bridge Hospital.

“I hope I find you in good health and every member of Wakefield Church. The majority of Rufumiso Church members are in good health. The church building is now fitted with window panes. We are still mobilizing funds from church members to buy and replace broken down church benches. We have managed to build a bathroom for the Reverend. The poultry fund has generated some profit and we have decided as a church to start building decent accommodations for the Reverend. Some church members have donated various building items for the parsonage. There are so many challenges in the church but with God’s grace nothing is impossible. We are putting faith in action. Please pray for us.”

Robinson Maheu, former church deacon wrote: “How is the Zee Team? At Rufumiso we are going on well. I completed my 4 year term as a Head Deacon and I handed the stick to Mwandu Sithole. We are enjoying the time at the church. Would you greet Annie, Jo, Maggie, Cathy and the rest of the Zee team? How is Pastor Mary James? Greet her and all the congregation members. We lost some of our Rufumiso members. It is always bad time when we miss someone. Water is very little in our big river here. But we are still growing vegetables in our gardens. God Bless you.”

Water is an issue in many parts of Zimbabwe and we continue to raise funds to provide a borehole at Dzika. We will be selling raffle tickets for a table top Penny Rug made by Ann Bilodeau and for a lap quilt made by Trisha (Margie’s cousin). Both are on display in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$1.00 for singles or six tickets for \$5.00. All proceeds will benefit the borehole fund.

Connie Littlefield



Ukama Partnership Sunday Worship

PARISH HELPERS PROGRAM

CARL LINDBLADE —THE ROOSEVELT FUNERAL TRAIN

Carl Lindblade began his hotel career at the Balsams Resort in Dixville Notch and for the past 40+ years has operated 3 and 4 diamond hotels and resorts. In addition to years of hands-on experience, he brings a commitment to community and industry service. Among his assignments he was a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, Interim Director of the NH office of Travel and Tourism Development, Innkeeper of the Year, Travel Person of the Year, Past President of the NH Lodging and Restaurant Association and American Hotel and Lodging Association Volunteer of the Year. He is currently a lecturer in the hospitality management department at the University of New Hampshire where he enjoys teaching as it affords him the opportunity to share experiences with students. In 2009, as a volunteer, Carl coached the Conway New Hampshire Kennett High School's Lodging Class to a national championship in a competition sponsored by the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

The Parish Helpers welcome back Carl Lindblade who will present his program “The Roosevelt Funeral Train” at the monthly Parish Helpers Meeting on Thursday, November 14, beginning at 2 p.m. The Roosevelt Funeral Train is probably the greatest train event in American History (along with the Lincoln Train 80 years earlier) — Deception, Cover up, Betrayal, A Russian Spy, the A Bomb, A Nation Mourns. A White Cadillac Convertible, A Russian Portrait Painter, all in 4 Days of History!

All are welcome to attend this program. The Parish Helpers will meet as usual at 1 p.m. for coffee or tea, dessert, and a business meeting. All women of the community are welcome to join the Parish Helpers.

Carol Jeffery

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Capital Campaign Advisory Group met on October 16 to begin considering the best way to evaluate the proposals now being received for CC expenditures, of which there are now 15. A standard form for presenting these and future proposals is being developed. It asks 4 basic questions: What is being proposed, why is it important to our church, how much would it cost and when should it be done. Once finalized, this form will be sent to all those making proposals.

The Advisory Group plans to meet again on November 13 to review and prioritize the proposals that have been submitted and, importantly, the funds currently available to accomplish them. Recommendations will be submitted by the Advisory Group to the Leadership Council in advance of their November 17 meeting. Decisions of the Council will be communicated to the congregation.

We are now into the second year of the Campaign, and the Advisory Group has asked that pledgers and contributors be encouraged to keep their commitments up to date. Many have already done so, but we wanted to give everyone a reminder. As we have said all along, any contribution, however modest, will be welcomed. Our goal is to have 100% participation in this historic effort.

*Bill Goodwin,
For the Advisory Group*

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR—NOVEMBER 3

Join us on Sunday, November 3, for a special coffee hour to welcome back Reverend Mary and to thank and send Reverend Mhururu off with our best wishes. Coffee Hour will follow our regular Sunday Worship and Holy Communion Service that begins at 10 a.m.

TEAM SYNERGY GATHERS

Once a quarter Ministry Coordinators gather to talk about the life and rhythm of our church. Last month the Stewardship Ministry co-coordinators, Carol Lundgren and Chris Feddern, were pleased to preside over the Team Synergy meeting to design the next 8 months of our fiscal year with an eye toward outreach and in-reach. Soon, a calendar will be published for the congregation so that all can see what the balance of the year includes. The group was enthusiastic about opportunities and sober about challenges.

In the end, God's loving grace is imbued throughout all we do and hope to do.

Please pray for God's continued guidance and presence. If you would like to participate in any way, you will be welcomed with grace and love.

Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Ministry

WANTED: NEW or USED BLANKETS in GOOD CONDITION

To be distributed at the Wakefield Food Pantry

DROP OFF ANY TIME at St. John's Episcopal Church

118 High Street, Sanbornville

Leave them right inside the RED DOORS of the Church building (the door sticks so just give it a push!)

Want MORE INFO? Call 522-3329

Keep someone warm! Donate a blanket!

Celebrations!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Mary Ann Fountain	19 Doug MacKenzie
2 Glenna Nelson	20 Mary Beth Cook
3 Kim Cornell	21 Berit Johannessen
4 Gail Feddern	22 Hector Livingston
4 Arthur Wheeler	23 Ann Bilodeau
5 Vincent Mangano	23 Bruce Levis
8 George Ackerman	25 Lauryn Robinson
14 Pam Wiggins	28 Tyler Domings
14 Midge Leonard	29 Catherine Britton
15 Lois Royle	29 Bill Hughes
15 Edna Wilson	29 Mary James
16 Gordon Hollis	

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

18 Bob and Ann Eaton
21 Hector and Marlena Livingston
26 Doug and Dorothy MacKenzie

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family –

The Polycystic Kidney Disease Walk for a Cure is over for another year. And once again, you and others have shown your care, your concern, and your generosity in contributing to put a stop to this disease. This year, with your help, I raised over \$2100. And that's just our part.

The Boston Walk has received over \$128,000 so far. (Nationally, this year's Walk has raised over \$1,543,000.) Over the 7 years that I have participated in this Walk, you've helped me raise over \$10,800!

So once again I say thank you, and bless you, for all your contributions and your support –

Harriet Wilson



FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Paul T.	Cathy K.
Dot R.	Mackenzie M.
Jo W.	Beth M.
Julia W.	David M.
Tom and Barbara T.	David S.
George B.	Allie F.
Art W.	Curt C.

And for:

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

A WORD FROM REV. MARY

Dear Church Family Members,

Grace and peace to you all! I hope all is very well with you. You have been in my prayers each and every day.

I will be returning from my sabbatical time on Monday, October 28th. It has been a wonderful and fruitful sojourn, and it is lovely to say that I will truly be overjoyed to return to pray, worship, serve and play with our wonderful congregation!

My gratitude for this sabbatical time knows no bounds.

I thank you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Blessings and peace,
Mary

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ALL SAINTS DAY
3 Worship and Holy Communion & Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells 6 p.m.	4 Choir —6 p.m.	5 Non-Violent Communications Workshop 7—8:30 p.m.	6 Deacons Meeting 4:30 p.m.	7 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	8	9
10 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour & Pampered Chef Bells 6 p.m.	11 Choir —6 p.m.	12 Non-Violent Communications Workshop 7—8:30 p.m.	13 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	14 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	15	16 HARVEST FAIR 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
17 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Bells 6 p.m.	18 Choir —6 p.m.	19 Scrabble 10 a.m. Non-Violent Communications Workshop 7—8:30 p.m.	20	21 Prayer Shawl Ministry—10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 p.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	22	23
24 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Time TBA Bells 6 p.m.	25 Choir —6 p.m.	26 Non-Violent Communications Workshop 7—8:30 p.m.	27	28 THANKSGIVING 	29	30



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



HARVEST FAIR



NOVEMBER 16

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY

Sunday, November 3
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
 Psalm 119:137-144
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
 Luke 19:1-10

Sunday, November 17
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 65:17-25
 Isaiah 12
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19



Sunday, November 10
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Haggai 1:15b—2:9
 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
 Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 24
Thanksgiving Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Luke 1:68-79
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23:33-43