



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR

PHONE: 603-522-3189

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

FAX: 603-522-3302

VOLUME 37: No. 12

WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG

DECEMBER 2013

EMAIL: FCCWAKEFIELDNH@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

THANK YOU!

Thank you, dear congregation, for the opportunity to have experienced a very precious sabbatical time. It is a joy to hear from many of you that your journey during the sabbatical period was rich and fruitful, and I can say with whole-hearted joy that the time was certainly those things for me. I am also grateful to dear Rev. Mhururu for his kind pastoral presence among you, and feel very blessed to have been able to spend time with him just before leaving, and upon my return. I return refreshed, restored, and with renewed perspective as a pastor.

The value of Sabbath is affirmed by its inclusion in the Decalogue, those ten foundational commandments given by God from the mountain to Moses, and passed on to the people. When the call to take Sabbath is obeyed, the gifts and benefits are immeasurable. We live in a culture that has convinced itself that Sabbath rest is not even a possibility; however, it is very difficult to taste God's love and presence fully if we never allow God any real space in our lives. The depth of spiritual growth and experience that has been part of this time is something that I will continue to seek and to practice. It is my prayer that each of us can accept the wisdom and even the ethical authority of the commandment to take a true day of Sabbath rest (or its equivalent) each week!

It is lovely to be back and to enter together into the season of Advent, a season in which we are invited to prepare our hearts once again to engage the mystery and majesty of "God among us." Already our calendars are filling with the too-many engagements that seem to come with the way we approach this season of the year. Typically, pastors exhort congregations not to overload their lives, all the while doing a bang-up job of overloading their own (this has definitely included "yours truly").

So, since we are all very good at adding things to our calendars, let's try it this way: during Advent, please add to your calendar at least one hour per week (we will start small) to be in whatever mind-set or space or activity or quiet or place in which you tend to feel closest to God, or think you might. Just an hour a week. And start off your hour with a look at these words:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1: 14a)

May your Advent and Christmas seasons be such that, when you look back, you simply say "thank you, God; that was just what I needed."

Blessings and peace,

Mary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted):

July 1, 2013 – Oct 31, 2013

Income:	\$ 45,759.41
Expenditures:	<u>\$ 48,183.90</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,424.49)

Restricted Funds balance as of Oct 31, 2013: \$3,006.53

It is early November as I write and though expenditures still outpace revenue for the year we have made a tiny bit of gain since last month. The 2013 Harvest Fair is this coming weekend. I am sorry I will miss it this year, but look forward to a good report when I return. Many things, besides the preparations for the Fair, are happening behind the scenes in the church as autumn progresses. The boiler has been cleaned, the first big oil delivery has been made, application has been made for the needed septic permits, the Neighbors in Need Collection is over \$250 (and still coming in) and we received another \$21.50 from shoe recycling! Unfortunately, the elevator broke again, but has been repaired. As Advent quickly approaches, another fund raiser, Christmas in the Village, to be held on December 14th, promises to be a very festive and delicious experience.

This may seem difficult to believe, but the budget team has already begun planning for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The ministry coordinators will assist in determining the amounts needed for the various budget lines in order to continue their work to fulfill the missions of our church. The Leadership Council will then approve the proposed budget which will be available to the congregation at the end of February.

Lots of things are happening and it takes all of us, each in our own way, to keep our church home a safe, comfortable, welcoming place to worship, share, grow, and have fun.

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



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

IT'S TIME FOR ANGELS AND MORTALS!

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, it has become our joyful tradition for all who wish to participate to be a secret "Angel" to a "Mortal." It's a little bit like a "Secret Santa" event--everyone who wants to take part will put their name in a basket on Sunday, December 1, during the worship service. Then, each participant will pull a name out. The name you pull is that of your "Mortal." Someone else will pull your name, and they will be your "Angel."

Angels are asked to keep their Mortals in prayer, and to do little thoughtful things on their behalf, such as send cards, or leave them a little treat, or a thoughtful verse, or that sort of things. There should be very little expense attached to this; it is not necessary to buy gifts and this is not meant to be a burden. Rather, it is to know that someone in your church family is especially keeping you in thought and prayer through Advent and Christmas. You may leave your items for your Mortal under the little tree that will be in the back of the sanctuary. The identities of our Angels is kept secret until the first Coffee Hour after Epiphany, when we will reveal all the identities!

If you wish to take part and absolutely cannot attend church on December 1, please ask a friend to put your name in the basket and to pull a name for you.

The Angels and Mortals Reveal Party will take place at Coffee Hour on January 12th. Questions? Check with Penny or Mary.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Many of our senior members no longer drive or are hesitant to drive at night. We would like to Reach Out to these wonderful people and provide rides to church services or other special church events that they may otherwise miss.

We are currently putting together a list of willing drivers. If you feel called to be part of this ministry, please call the church office and give your name and phone number to the Administrative Assistant. The only requirement is to be covered by insurance. Hopefully many of you will respond to this obvious need.

Gail Feddern & Ed Morrison
Diaconate Coordinators for this Reach Out Program

Do you need a ride? Do you or anyone you know need a ride to Sunday Service or other special church events? Please call the church office, 522-3189, by 3 pm on Friday and we will arrange a ride for you.

THE FEDDERN DIACONATE DISCRETIONARY FUND

The family of Hank Feddern established this fund in his memory and contributes to it regularly. It is kept solvent by other donations as well. As we go into the winter months and needs are rising, the fund is at a low and there isn't much left to give away.

It is the responsibility of the pastor in conjunction with the diaconate to determine who is eligible to receive a gift from this fund. Perimeters have been set to determine genuine need. Our church seeks to help people who are members of our community of faith and/or live in our Wakefield area.

The first step in this process is to refer the request to Arlene Fogg, our Town Welfare Officer. She is often able to tie the person in question into sustainable funds he or she may be entitled to. Often, the reverse is true: Arlene will call Pastor Mary with a request she feels is valid.

Essential needs to be met are most often oil, propane, electricity and gas. Sometimes, we also pay for a medical emergency.

We never make a direct payment to the recipient. Rather, the money is sent to the company or institution in question that provides the service or the goods. Exceptions are a gas card or a Hannaford card.

Since this fund is not part of our annual budget (although our treasurer administers it), we are dependent on the generosity of individuals, who might see this as a direct way to serve the needy in our own church and our own town. It is very much a local mission.

A gift card has been created, patterned on the successful Heifer program, so you can make a contribution in honor of a special person in your life. Instead of a goat or a rabbit, someone in our community will have money for heat, food or whatever the need may be.

Here is how it works:

1. Make out a check to the Wakefield Congregational Church, and note on it "Discretionary Fund. This is important. Otherwise it will go into the General Fund. You can mail it to the church, or leave it in the Deacons Box in the narthex, or hand it to one of the deacons.
2. A gift card will be mailed back to you or handed to you personally, so you can distribute the card(s) to the recipient(s). Please give us your name and address, so we can send you a thank you note!

3. Cash is also welcome. During the December coffee hours a table will be set up where gift cards may be purchased directly.

We hope you will step up to help an increasing number of people, who face poverty, and who live in our midst.

For the Diaconate, Gail Feddern and Titia Bozuwa

**Save the Date
Saturday, December 14**



**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Christmas in the Village
Historic Walking Tour**

PARISH HELPERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, AT NOON

Come One! Come All!! Your presence is greatly desired We want You!

Bring a dish to share if you like. (Salad, entrée, casserole—hostesses will provide desserts). There will be plenty to share. If it is not convenient for you, please don't prepare a dish. Just come!

And we will once again have our Yankee Swap! Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 value) and be prepared to have some fun! The Parish Helpers welcome all women of the Church or community to join our group! We meet the second Thursday of the month at the church. Hope to see you there! It won't be Christmas without you! Don't miss it!!!

PARISH HELPERS RAFFLE QUILT —The 2013 Raffle Quilt winning ticket was drawn at the conclusion of the Harvest Fair. The winner is Donna Lewis of Wakefield.

So many thanks for this successful raffle:. To Linda Chaggari (friend of Carol J.) who donated the quilt top, to Florence Morrison for bringing it to the quilter and finishing the binding, to Pam Frazier for the printing of the tickets and coordinating the sales (and selling so many at the Marketplace), to all the Parish Helpers for the sales (especially Midge Leonard who faithfully sold them at the Treasure Shop over the summer!) Great job, everyone!

Z TEAM NEWS!

The shipping container, which left Rochester on Sept 14, landed in Beira Mozambique on November 20th. Joseph Sibiya notes that it may take 6- 10 days to get from Beira to the unpacking location of Mutare, Zimbabwe. It is so exciting to know that the boxes will be like Christmas presents for our friends in Zimbabwe!

An excerpt from a recent email from Rev. Mhururu:

"I am now trying to adjust after being away for such a period. The food and weather have changed. When I left for USA in July it was winter time in Zimbabwe yet when I arrived in New Hampshire it was your summer. When I left it was the beginning of your winter, yet in Zimbabwe it is now our summer. Yesterday the weather was 36 degrees Celsius in Harare. (97 degrees F!) The Glen view Church is excited that I am now back. So far I have given a report to the Northern Conference Executive then the next day I preached and then gave a report to Glen view Church. Tomorrow Rev Mugari and myself will give a combined Ukama report to the Ministers of the Northern Conference.

"The trip back home was a blessed one because Jo and her husband played a great role to take me to Boston airport. I felt honoured. They really blessed my trip. I travelled safely.

"My wife and the whole family were excited to receive the clothes I brought. My grandchildren's goodies fitted well. The whole family was very happy. They are now waiting for the other few items I send by the container.

"I am happy to know that Rev Mary is now settled and I hope you will continue to support her vision."
Blessings and peace, Rev A. Mhururu.

Newest FOOT family member!



We would like to introduce our newest sponsored child, Brita Tarangwa. Precious little Brita is in the 2nd grade and is 8 years old. She goes to Chinaa Primary School and was selected by Mr. Fred Bandama, Chinaa's headmaster, who was a member of the delegation that visited NH in October.

Brita lives with her grandmother, Mary Tarangwa

who is frail and struggles to keep two of her grandchildren. Joseph notes that Brita is very bright and is in the top of her class but that she has "nothing materially" and that food is insufficient.

Consider the gift of sponsorship as the Christmas season approaches. Of our 29 sponsored children, 23 are sponsored by individuals year round. For the other six we seek donations through the **alternative gift giving program**. You have the ability to make an astounding difference in the life of these precious children by gifts which provide food, clothing and the money for school fees .

Connie Littlefield

TREE OF MEMORIES



One of the most meaningful and expressive events of the holiday season, the Hospice Tree of Memories, is celebrating its 18th annual commemoration at the Wakefield Opera House on Saturday, December 14, at 1 p.m. This occasion provides opportunities for family, friends, and neighbors to remember a loved one by placing an inscribed porcelain dove, a symbol of serenity, peace, and tranquility, on a lighted tree. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony.

To purchase a dove in the name of a loved one, please speak to Ginny Schweitzer (522-9593) or contact the VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County at 569-2729 by December 6.

AN INVITATION

*Members and Friends of the
Community Church of Milton
Joyously invite your Prayers and Presence*

*In Celebration of
The Ordination of
Betsy Sargent Webber
to the Christian Ministry
Sunday, December 8, 2013*

at

*2:00 p.m. in the afternoon
7 Steeple Street, Milton, NH
RSVP appreciated 652-7914
or email*

CCMilton@myfairpoint.net

AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT
BARBARA JOHNSON (1927-2007)

Barbara Johnson's strong faith and sense of humor sustained her through adversity. She has been called the "merry missionary of mirth." Her books will uplift your spirits and help you see the world through her hope filled eyes.

Daily Splashes of Joy: 365 Gems to Sparkle Your Day—
A daily devotional book will help you start your day in a happy frame of mind.

So, Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy—
Barbara shares her difficult life experiences and how she has joyfully handled them.

Fresh Elastic For Stretched Our Moms—If your child has broken your heart this book will help you heal.

These books are on the mobile shelving unit in Fellowship Hall.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

WANTED: COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR

Do you enjoy providing hospitality?
Do you enjoy organizing social activities?
Here is an opportunity for You!

Our Coffee Hours provide opportunities for socializing, visiting with old friends and meeting new friends. These fellowship times occur following the worship service on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We have a cadre of faithful volunteers who contribute the refreshments. We would like to develop a group of people interested in organizing these volunteers on a rotating three month schedule.

We are grateful to Priscilla Frothingham for her skilled coordination of the coffee hours from September through December. We are looking for a new coordinator starting in January. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity or if you are called to this type of ministry, please contact Jan Fairchild, 522-2123.

Jan Fairchild
Calling and Discernment

NEW TIME FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
6 P.M.

Please note the time change for this year's Christmas Eve Service. It will be held at **6 p.m.**— a change from last year. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
HISTORIC TOUR—DECEMBER 14

Team Synergy ministry coordinators inspired a fund raising idea: Christmas in the Village – An Historical Walking Tour. Here we are, in the MOST quaint, picturesque and historical little village around – so let's throw open some doors and invite the community in for a visit! There are four stops on this walking tour which will take place as the sun goes down on December 14th from 4-6 pm. Luminarias will grace the walkways of each stop and participants will have a great opportunity to absorb little known and well-known historical details of our very own First Congregational Church, of the Wakefield Library, of church member Elizabeth MacRury's home and finally, the Wakefield Inn. Each stop will be DECKED in the splendor that is Christmas! The tour tickets are \$10 each per person, though children up to age 12 may tour free.

A second option of the tour is to dine at the Wakefield Inn. Advance reservation is required. Call the Inn at 522-8272. Special seatings are at 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm. The cost for food, gratuity and meals tax is \$20 per person and \$12 for children under age 12. Payment for tour (\$10) and tour plus dinner (\$30 pp) is to be made to First Congregational Church. Every tour participant, whether dining at the Inn or not, will be welcomed and given a complimentary homemade cupcake. An opportunity to see a bedroom suite made ready for Santa and one or two other decorated guest rooms will also be part of stopping at the Inn. Tickets may be purchased in advance for the tour or tour and dinner combination. Call Pam Frazier at 522-0031 or email her at pam@mooseview.com with the words "Wakefield Tour" in the subject line. Tour tickets will also be available at our church at the beginning of the event. We are very excited by this opportunity and grateful to the hosts of each stop!

Carol Lundgren

HARVEST FAIR SUCCESS!

Many thanks to coordinator Penny Grover and all her helpers who made the Harvest Fair a big success. It was wonderful to see so many of the church people participating in one way or another. About \$1,500 was raised for the General Fund by our church working together!

Celebrations!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rachel Yazinka
- 1 Tom Stanley
- 2 Shannon Mercer
- 2 Lynn Watts
- 3 Robert Gehring Jr.
- 3 Marie Hebb
- 8 David Silcocks
- 9 Richard Zacher
- 11 Dorothy MacKenzie
- 13 Carol Jeffery
- 16 Jeff Ballard
- 16 Jay Tamilio
- 20 George Harvey
- 26 Jessica St Pierre
- 30 Greg Crowell

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Arthur & Louise Wheeler
- 10 Eric & Amanda Boggs
- 27 Peter & Linda Foss
- 28 John & Persis Hildebrandt



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. | Curt C. |
| Art W. | |

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



Dear Friends,

A sincere "Thanks You" to all who have been so kind as to send cards, notes, e-mail, phone calls over the past few months since Curt's fall and subsequent hospitalization. He is in a Rehab center in Littleton, Mass. His leg has healed and he is learning to walk again. We are hoping he can return home before Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated and we miss the church very much. I do enjoy our new condo in Stow, Mass. and being near our daughter and family is great. Best wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving.

With love
from Janet & Curt Carr

COMING UP IN JANUARY



- Jan. 6—Epiphany
- Jan. 12—Family Sunday
Angels and Mortals "Reveal Party" at Coffee Hour
- Jan. 18—Beginning of a week of prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan. 19—Team Synergy Meeting after church—
Topic: The Budget
- January 20—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent Worship and Holy Communion & Church School— 10 a.m. Bells 6 p.m.	2 Choir 6 p.m.	3 Bible Study 12 Noon	4 Deacons Meeting 4:30 p.m.	5 *Scrabble—10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadership Council Mtg. Girl Scouts 4–6 p.m. Bells 6 p.m.	9 Choir 6 p.m.	10 Bible Study 12 Noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	11 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	12 Parish Helpers 12 Noon Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	13	14 Tree of Memories 1 p.m. Wakefield Village Historic Tour 4–6 p.m.
15 Third Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Bells 6 p.m.	16 Choir 6 p.m.	17 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 Noon	18	19 Prayer Shawl Ministry—10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 p.m. Community String Band Beg—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Girl Scouts 4–6 p.m. Bells 6 p.m.	23 Choir 6 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28
29 First Sunday after Christmas Worship and Church School— 10 a.m.	30 Choir 6 p.m.	31 New Year's Eve		*Scrabble on December 5 will be held at the home of Catherine Britton		



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



**CHRISTMAS EVE
 SERVICE
 DECEMBER 24
 6 P.M.**

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

Sunday, December 1
First Sunday in Advent
 Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday, December 15
Third Sunday in Advent
 Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47b-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11



Sunday, December 8
Second Sunday in Advent
 Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 29
First Sunday After Christmas
 Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday, December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2013



Please use this form to order your Christmas Poinsettia plants.

Orders must be placed by **December 1st**. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church of Wakefield.

Order forms and payments may be left in the Visual and Decorative Arts mailbox, to the attention of Deborah Smiley, located in the church narthex or mailed to the church.

Name of Donor (s) _____

Dedication (In Memory of/ in Honor of) _____

(number) _____ Red Plants @ \$11 each = \$ _____ (number) _____ Doubles @ \$21 each = \$ _____

(number) _____ White Plants @ \$11 each = \$ _____ (number) _____ Doubles @ \$21 each = \$ _____

Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.

Alternative Gift Giving 2013



As in the past, we have the opportunity to share our resources with others during the Christmas Season. Our monetary gifts are appreciated by a number of worthwhile causes. For 2013 we are trying to simplify the process by having those of you who choose Alternative Gift Giving to write only ONE CHECK. This check will be disbursed according to your wishes. The check should be made out to the First Congregational Church of Wakefield and should accompany this form. It is very important that you specify an amount that you wish to give to each of the causes listed below. You can give to one, two, or all.

I wish to participate in Alternative Gift Giving in the following manner:

Z- Team (proceeds to benefit the FOOT children) (see article on P. 4) \$ _____

Wakefield Food Pantry \$ _____

Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund (see article on P. 2) \$ _____

Heifer Project (more info at www.heifer.org) \$ _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please remember to return this form to our Assistant Treasurer, Pam Frazier, with amounts indicated and your signature. Our Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer will handle the details to insure your giving wishes are honored.

Thank you and have a blessed holiday season.