



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

THE LONG ROAD THROUGH WINTER

After a big snow storm a few weeks ago, before the recent thaw, I noticed at dusk four deer in the yard outside my dining room window. Our home is on a relatively quiet street in Durham, but it is in town. We are fortunate to live near a small wildlife sanctuary, and are blessed with the presence of a number of wild animal neighbors, but I always worry about the local deer population when the snow gets deep. They were coming out of their comfort zone, right into our concentrated residential area, to feed on a nice succulent plant growing in the yard. Food is harder for them to find when the winter snows pile high, and there they were: four relatively young deer, vulnerably out in the open so that they could eat.

There is something about the long winter that challenges us to the core, despite its abundant beauty and the fun one can have in the fresh and powdery snow. It is so cold. It seems to be so long dark each day (though, take heart, the daylight time is lengthening each day). Ice and snow form hazards to our safety, making us feel vulnerable. Less exposure to healthy doses of sunlight (only a little—remember your sunscreen!) can actually contribute to depression; the “winter blues” can challenge our sense of spiritual and emotional well-being. Like the deer experiencing food scarcity, we can struggle to find the soul-food to get through to spring.

Luckily, we are part of a loving community of faith that is a source of comfort for the long stretches of literal or figurative winter in our lives. We can remind one another of the particular beauty of winter as part of God’s creation—the sparkle of sun on snow, the pink sky at dusk, the red cardinal in the tree. We can celebrate the rhythms of church life that bring us the light and revelation of Epiphany in these coldest days, the dazzle of Transfiguration despite the dark, and the invitation to deepen in faith that comes to us with the season of Lent. Perhaps these can be, in ways unexpected and nourishing, succulent spiritual treats through which God will nurture our spring-starved souls.

There are many challenges in our little community right now. Friends we love are healing from a bad accident, others are struggling with illness, and because of winter ice a young woman died last month on the road within the town’s borders. We feel much sorrow, empathy, and compassion. Our response has been to offer loving presence, to band together, to pray, and to be of support in any way we can to our friends as they heal. God’s love and care pours through the relationships in this caring community like warm sun radiating through spring green tree branches.

Let us be with God, and with and for one another, through all the seasons of life. How precious is the gift of the loving community of faith; how precious is the love of our God, experienced through congregational life---and, yes, even through the sight of the newly fallen snow blanketing the rolling hills. God is present, nurturing our souls through all of our winters.

Blessings and peace, Mary

And remember, I am with you always....

Matthew 28: 20b

TREASURER & ASSISTANT TREASURER

Janice Brejwo and Pam Frazier will conclude their service as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer on June 30, 2014. They have served faithfully in these offices for the last four years. We are very grateful for their commitment to completing the many responsibilities of these offices. They have done so with superior attention to detail as they met demanding timelines. We are indebted to them. We appreciate their notice of intention to leave their respective jobs and their willingness to assist in training their successors.

We are invited at this time as church members to search our hearts: could God be calling you to one of these crucial ministries? Together, we are invited to call forth from our membership individuals whose spiritual gifts and individual interests and skills would lend themselves well to a volunteer ministry as either Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. Please pray that the call to these openings will be perceived and responded to, and consider: are you called to serve in this way?

DESCRIPTIONS:

Treasurer:

- Working in conjunction with other church leaders as appropriate, oversees the day-to-day financial operations and cash management of income and expenditures.
- Keeps accurate, complete records and supporting documentation of all church fiscal transactions (budget, non-budget, restricted accounts).
- Maintains church bank accounts.
- Prepares monthly and annual reports.
- Assists with budget preparation.
- Fulfills NHUCC and government reporting requirements.
- Participates as a member of Leadership Council and Team Synergy.
- Maintains confidentiality in relation to discretionary fund and George Wentworth Trust transactions.

Assistant Treasurer:

- Tabulates offerings and other donations.
- Keeps accounting records and makes bank deposits.
- Reports all banking activities to the treasurer.
- Works with the Treasurer in a "check and balance" relationship.
- Reports all monies received from donors on an annual basis for tax purposes and quarterly basis for pledges.
- Writes thank you notes to certain donors.
- Receives accounts for Capital Campaign donations and reports findings to appropriate personnel.

- Assists with budget preparation.
- Participates as a member of Leadership Council and Team Synergy.
- Maintains confidentiality especially in relation to intentional giving and capital campaign giving.

Jan Fairchild

OFFICE HOURS

With the start of the new year, the office hours for both Pastor Mary and our Administrative Assistant Penny have changed. The church office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. This schedule was determined after discussions among Cathy Koukal, Personnel Coordinator, Penny, and Pastor Mary, and is intended to meet the needs of all concerned.

Please observe these hours when you wish to get in touch with Penny for church business, and respect the fact that her days off are weekends, Tuesday, and Thursday. Please do not call her at home or on her cell phone during these days off, except in cases of emergency. In addition, Wendy Dee now holds the volunteer position of Church School Director, and she is the one who should be contacted with Church School issues

Pastor Mary generally takes off Friday and Saturday; this is subject to change at times, depending on the events and activities in a particular week. She works from home on Mondays, primarily on sermon and service preparations, and is generally in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Please limit calls to Mary on Fridays or Saturdays to emergencies only.

Thank you!

*Harriet Wilson, for the Diaconate
Cathy Koukal, Personnel Coordinator*

PAIRS AND SPARES

There will be a special program at the February 12 meeting. Rick Wilcox of the International Climbing School in North Conway will speak and show slides of the White Mountains. All are welcome to attend the pot luck supper at 6 p.m. and the program to begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Elizabeth Fogg at 522-5116.



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BOSTON CITY REACH

CityReach is an overnight urban outreach program that began in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection.

This year we plan on attending the City Reach event the weekend of February 28 and March 1. We are hoping to have 8 to 10 high school youth and 4 adults sharing in this life changing time of service. What is needed besides your prayers and encouragements are various clothing items and toiletries. Your support can be provided by supplying any of the following items.

Comfortable, rugged clothing is just what is needed. Also, they will have about 4 times the number of male guests as female guests, so about 80% of what you donate should be for men or unisex. Large sizes (XL, XXL, and XXXL) are very much in demand, but all sizes are needed. Hooded sweatshirts and sweat pants in both very small sizes (a few for the women) and very large sizes are much appreciated.

CLEAN USED CLOTHING:

- Nylon jackets and pants, ponchos, and raincoats in Spring & Fall
- Warm coats in Winter
- Sweat shirts and sweat pants (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Sweaters
- T-shirts
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Jeans, khakis and other casual pants (80% for men)
- Waterproof boots, comfortable shoes, and sneakers
- Hats, waterproof gloves, coats
- Belts

VARIOUS SUNDRIES:

- All kinds of carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels (used and in good condition) NO large bags or suitcases
- Travel-size toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, Chapstick, toothpaste, and shaving cream in small sizes, as well as tooth brushes and disposable razors, and tampons in small quantities for the 20% or so women (please no aftershave or mouthwash containing alcohol).

New white socks (there can never be too many of these)

New underwear (again, there can never be too many and don't forget 80% of the underwear is for men)

Sleeping bags & blankets (clean and in good condition)

We will be reminding you of this event over the next month. Meanwhile, you can get started by going through clothing items, cleaning them up and bringing them to the church. Or you can begin buying the packaged items (toiletries, underwear) with every trip to the store. By the end of the month we should have a wonderful and blessed supply of items to share for our Boston City Reach guests.

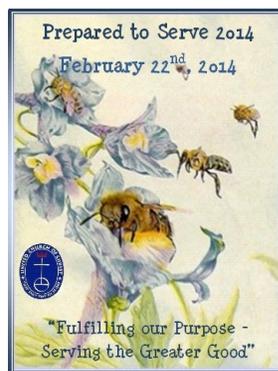
Blessings,

Donna V Ackerman, Youth Coordinator

PREPARED TO SERVE IS COMING

WHEN: Saturday - February 22, 2014
WHERE: Pembroke Academy, Pembroke NH
COST: \$40 for Registration by Feb. 14th
THEME "Fulfilling Our Purpose -
Serving the Greater Good"

Prepared to Serve is now open for registration!



PTS is a wonderful training event designed for all church members and friends. Workshops cover a variety of topics including spiritual practices, stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions, Christian education, music, immigration and other global issues and more! There is something for everyone. PTS is a fabulous opportunity to enhance our personal life, bring depth to our church life and leadership, and become better acquainted with the vast array of experiences across the NH conference. Find the link to the PTS brochure here:

<http://nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/PreparedToServe/>

The cost includes breakfast, refreshments and a buffet lunch. The worship service, exhibits, and connecting with friends old and new is not to be missed. Interested folks will carpool from the church. See Rev. Mary, Penny, or Connie Littlefield for more details!

Connie Littlefield

Z TEAM NEWS

Zimbabwe Here We Come! Ann Bilodeau, Maggie Mason, Christy Avery and I have signed on to another mission experience in Zimbabwe. Christy is the granddaughter of Rev. Bill McConnell, a long time UCC pastor and former interim conference minister, and serves as co-president of Spaulding's Interact Club. We leave at the end of July for a three week immersion in what we hope will include a UCCZ National Youth Event, three work camps (Rufumiso, Dzika and Rimbi), and reconnecting with dear friends along the way. You will hear more details as our itinerary is confirmed and of course, we will be looking forward to another fantastic Service Auction to fund the work of the mission. Flight and other personal expenses are paid by each participant but proceeds from the Service Auction provide the funds to purchase building material for work camps and/or provide medial or educational donations.

Dzika Borehole Project—The Z Team received an unexpected and astonishing gift of \$1,000 from Harbor Consulting of Portsmouth, NH. Harbor Consulting has a long standing tradition of philanthropy and allows each employee to select a charity of their choice. The Z Team's borehole project was selected because of one employee's son who has been involved in Spaulding's Interact Club. (This young man was tireless in his work loading the shipping container!) With the September 5K Color Run proceeds and generous donations, we are at \$2,683 toward the goal of \$6,680. Interact will do another decathlon on Sunday, March 27th that will bring us much closer. (You **KNOW** we will be asking who wants to participate in the next decathlon....)

Friends of Orphan Trust—Thank you, dear people, for your continued support of our FOOT children. We currently sponsor 29 children age 6 to 20 as they continue



Kids fetching water to meet the needs of the 350 primary school kids. The trip can take an hour or longer each way, with precious instructional time lost!

their educational path. Six children are sponsored by people outside of our church community and the remaining 23 are due to your generous efforts. You are making a remarkable difference in their lives!

Connie Littlefield

CHURCH SAFETY AND SECURITY LOOKING FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS

Recently we asked Wakefield Chief of Police Ken Fifield to visit the church and conduct a safety and security inspection. He provided his recommendations for simple modifications we can make to the church building recommended we gather interested members including folks with any kind of medical training to gather together to build and implement a safety and security plan. Anyone with an interest in safety and security or with any kind of medical training with an interest should call Penny at the church office (522-3189) so we can include you in the planning effort.

Bill Goodwin and Dave Schweitzer joined Chief Fifield on the inspection and have identified the motion sensor based lights, camera, panic bar/buttons that can be used to equip us to improve the safety and security of church members, staff/pastor and the community folks using our church. Please contact the office to help create this important FCCW plan for our future.

Dave Schweitzer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

You must have heard the expression that your life can change in a heartbeat. That happened to our family when our daughter, her friend and his daughter were hit head-on Saturday, January 11 on the Spaulding Turnpike. This is a life-changing event. We are so very fortunate that the occupants of her Jeep survived. Immediately the prayer chain was initiated. I truly believe that prayer played a big role in the outcome. Tragically, the life of a 16 year old girl was lost. Two families will never be the same.

Words can not begin to express the heartfelt appreciation we have for the prayer chain (and beyond), the calls and concern that our church family displayed during this time. We truly felt the power of prayer and the love of our church family. It has been only a week since the accident as I write this article for the church newsletter. The week has been unimaginable with "2 steps forward and 1 step back". But Penny, Serena and Wesley are still among us.

Please continue your prayers. Jesus exists and watches over us all.

Our love and blessings, Jan Stanley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): 7/1—12/31/ 2013

Income:	\$ 71,172.58
Expenditures:	\$ <u>74,012.22</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,839.64)

Restricted Funds balance as of Dec 31, 2013: \$3,683.29

The church fiscal year has only six months to go. At the end of December, expenses have again outpaced income. The payment of quarterly bills seems to cause an up and down fluctuation in budget activity and December was the end of a quarter. This accounts for the extreme variance between the month end income (loss) numbers for November and December.

On the positive side, generosity continues to abound within our church throughout the Christmas season. For many years, the church has given the Christmas Eve Service collection to the Christmas Fund (formerly called the Veterans of the Cross.) This year the collection raised \$1,484. Once again, the tradition of Alternative Gift Giving provided much needed resources to some of our favorite missions. Your gifts provided \$440 for the Wakefield Food Pantry, \$370 for Heifer International, \$387 for ongoing Z Team projects and an amazing \$2,225 was added to the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund. Thank you everyone for your continuing support of our church's missions.

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

"NUMBER THE STARS", A NOVEL BY LOIS LOWRY

The scene is Nazi occupied Denmark and the story is of two girl friends – one a Jew. Stories like this one grip me and send me to a very sad place in our history. This story was of the bravery of the Danish people who hid and then smuggled 7,000 Jews to Sweden secreted in false floors in the bottom of Danish fishing boats. I think of Titia and Gijs Bozuwa of course. Both brave survivors and amazing story tellers of their lives during occupation in Holland and Java. At the close of the book is a message for us today: "to create an ideal of human decency, and not a narrow-minded and prejudiced one." May it be so folks – and could it be as soon as tomorrow? Our world certainly needs it.

Carol Lundgren

Number the Stars was awarded the Newbery Medal in 1990 as the "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT: CORRIE TEN BOOM (1892-1983)

Corrie was born in Haarlem, Netherlands and grew up in a devoutly religious family who were members of the Dutch Reformed Church. When German invaded their country during World War II, her family protected hundreds of Jews from Nazi authorities. In 1944 they were betrayed by a Dutch informant and the entire family was imprisoned. After the war she set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp survivors and Dutch citizens who had cooperated with the Germans and she founded a worldwide ministry. Corrie writes about her life experiences and faith. The following books which are available in the Biography section of our library in the Parish Helpers Room:

He Set the Captive Free, In My Father's House, and Tramp for the Lord

And these books are located in the Meditations & Meditating section of the Fellowship Hall library: Each New Day and Not I, But Christ.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

PARISH HELPERS

We're growing! Twenty-nine women braved the cold and ice to attend the January meeting and listen to local author, Jessie Crockett's talk on writing crime novels. The Parish Helpers will meet again on February 13 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dave Schweitzer returns with a third installment from the Hanson Family History—"Murder and Indian Marauder Mayhem in Brookfield, NH." As always, all women from the church and community are welcome! Hope you'll join us!

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Calling all who enjoy inspiring reading and prayer: Mary is putting out a call for written submissions from church members and friends for short reflections in the form of prayers, poems, essays, or the like for a Lenten devotional booklet. You are invited to write a piece for this booklet; we hope to have 40 submissions--one for each day in Lent. It is asked that each piece submitted be your original work, and that it be no more than one page in length. Pieces shorter than that, are, of course, entirely welcome. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, February 19th. Once all the submissions are in, we will put them into a devotional booklet, on-line and in print (for those who request print copies). This will allow us to share a Lenten walk together in a very special way.

Celebrations!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Barbara Cawlina | 19 | Lisa Robinson |
| 2 | Bob James | 20 | John Hilderbrandt |
| 2 | Marilou MacLean | 21 | Matthew Steer |
| 3 | Kenneth Crew | 23 | Alisa Eaton |
| 3 | Maureen Steer | 23 | Valerie Brown |
| 10 | Peter Foss | 24 | Curt Cook |
| 11 | Rob Lundgren | 24 | Barry Lockard |
| 12 | Peter Connell | 25 | Cheyenne Boggs |
| 12 | David Haag | 25 | Arlene Leyare |
| 12 | Ryan McCarthy | 25 | Sid Silcocks |
| 13 | Susan Tamilio | 25 | Kristin Weeks |
| 14 | Marion Blomster | 25 | Rose Zacher |
| 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 |
| 17 | Anthony St. Pierre | | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

“OPEN-HEARTED AND GENEROUS GIVING . . .”

Rev. Mary James

So many of you did just that! Alternative Gift Giving this Christmas Season grew the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund from a bleak \$167.29 to \$2,225! Your gifts will enable Rev. Mary and the Diaconate to help families in our very own church and local community that are in crisis.

Thank you to all who made this possible. Many people will be blessed by your generosity.

Gail Feddern for the Diaconate



FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Paul T. | Beth M. |
| Dot R. | David M. |
| Jo W. | Florence M. |
| Julia W. | Curt C. |
| Tom and Barbara T. | Marcia |
| George B. | Penny C. |
| Art W. | Wesley H. |
| Cathy K. | Serena H. |
| Mackenzie M. | Ryan R. |

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

You . . .

*Helping to keep the doors open wide,
the lights always shining,
and the roof strong.
In the name of God.*

The Stewardship Ministry would like to thank you for your generous and ongoing support.

*Together **we all** make our missions possible.*

If you have any stewardship ideas you would like to share or discuss to help keep our Church moving forward, Carol Lundgren or Chris Feddern welcome your conversation!

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship And Holy Communion 10 a.m. Leadership Council Meeting	3 Choir —6 p.m.	4 Bible Study 12 noon	5 Deacons Meeting 4:00	6 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	7	8
9 Family Sunday Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. New Member Information Session Coffee Hour	10 Choir —6 p.m.	11 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	12 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	13 Parish Helpers— 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	14	15
16 Worship and Church School— 10 a.m.	17 Choir —6 p.m.	18 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon	19 Deadline for Lenten Booklet Submissions Steeple Views Deadline	20 Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	21	22 Prepared to Serve
23 Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	24 Choir —6 p.m.	25 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	26	27 Weight Watchers—5:30 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	28 City Reach	City Reach



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Sunday, February 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12



Sunday, February 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach
15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48