

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

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

PARABLES OF THE PEOPLE

On a recent Sunday, our Gospel reading for the morning consisted of two of Jesus' short parables, from Matthew 13: 31-33.

For the sermon time, I encouraged everyone to participate. Each worshipper had received upon arrival a piece of paper and a pencil. I invited everyone present to complete the following sentence: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to" or "the kingdom of heaven is like" Having just had the joy of experiencing the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, I kicked off the exercise by offering this:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a violin in the hands of an orchestra's first violinist, which, when sounding the "A" note prior to the concert, brings all the other instruments into tune and a beautiful unison. "

What followed was an extraordinary sharing of parables written by all of you. I wasn't sure many of you would step up to share, but so many of you did! The parables you wrote were so wonderful that we collected them all---those that were read out loud and those that were not---and I have compiled them here for to use in our prayer lives. Such inspiration! Where writers signed their names, I attributed the parable. If they did not, and I could not recall who offered a particular parable, the authorship is not attributed.

The kingdom of heaven is like:

Beautiful music. -- Berit Johannessen

Water, Renewing , Restoring, Refreshing, Cleansing, Above us, Below us, Within us. -- Lois Royal

The most beautiful sunrise.

A hot fudge sundae after a long day at work: very rewarding. -- Penny Grover

The deepest, widest ocean.

A newborn baby—endless possibilities, innocent.

The ocean—Endless, beautiful, pure.

A beautiful flower garden.

The joy of a child's first laughter.

Peace and contentment; a beautiful spring day.

Serenity, peace and love as God intended.

A place of total and continuous love and oneness with God for all eternity. -- Jonathan Yazel

All of God's creatures "speaking" their unique "calls" in unison. -- Dave and Ginny Schweitzer

A reunion of friends and family.

Life on the islands.

A bee spreading pollen—flowering the world.

By His Grace for His Glory. Thanks be to God.

A beautiful babbling brook.

A sweet baby's smile.

A room full of smiling children that fills your heart with joy and love.

The perfect sound and feeling of one's own heart beating.

Continued on next page.

Pastor's Page Continued . . .

A beautiful day on the lake; fishing and taking in all of nature and the peacefulness. -- Curt Cook
A sweet fruit that when shared offers spiritual nourishment to everyone.
Free of suffering, war. Like sunshine and rainbows. Like love and giving.
The calm and beauty after a mighty storm.
The sunrise—warm, beautiful, full of light and promise.
The sound of rain on your roof when you're going to bed or the feeling of the wet grass the next morning on your bare feet.
The plane of perfection. An unspoken language.
When all things in my life are in harmony.
A super-sized ice cream sundae with extra jimmies. Perfect! -- Gina Golden
A garden full of flowers and unending sunshine. -- Patricia Golden
A beautiful spring day.
The joy of getting a text from my son or daughter.
The quiet and grace of a blue heron's flight.
The calm on a bright blue lake.
The singing of voices in unison.
The work of bees pollinating the flowers, vegetables and all the bountiful nature around us.
A smile.
Forgiveness.
Full of all the love and beautiful spirit that Connie is and gives and portrays!
A chrysanthemum—many corners, many spaces and that wonderful fragrance. -- Susie Goodwin
The song of the thrush. The smell of the sea.
Love and joy.
All the love from pets you've ever received.
A heart that sees the right things no matter what is bad in the world around it.
A kaleidoscope.
A peaceful garden.
A joy-filled heart.
A joyous family reunion.
The sound of children playing and laughing outside on a summer day.
The morning dew, sparkling on the grass like diamonds to dazzle our eyes.
Moisture for the blade, to sustain and enrich its existence.
A child at peace in his mother's arms. -- Jan Maki
Nature trails; Peaceful waters; Singing; A family reunion!
The answer to a final exam—all questions answered sitting at the feet of Jesus. --Linda Pella
A community gathered around a project of peace.
A beautiful flower.
A bird's song—pure and present. --Beth Fox
A dream. A beautiful place.
Peaceful perfection beyond the grasp of evil, selfless love.
A great mountain in which herds of oxen-sized mountain goats graze in endless fields of lupine in bloom.
Climbing the highest peak and seeing as far as you can—nothing but peace and stillness --And my church family.

Blessings,
Mary

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office at 603-522-3915.



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC

NEW FALL OFFICE HOURS

Beginning on September 8, office hours will be:

Monday — 8:30 to 2:30
Tuesday — 8:30 to 12:30
Thursday — 8:30 to 12:30
Friday — 8:30 to 12:30

CHURCH LIBRARIES UPDATE

Subject Area Highlight: Spiritual Growth
Location: Fellowship Hall

Books in this subject area focus on the process of spiritual growth. They expound on how to change into a more positive, loving and productive person. Here is a sampling of titles in this section:

- [The Amazing Results of Positive Thinking](#)
by Norman Vincent Peale
- [Living Loving and Learning](#) by Leo Buscalia
- [Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go](#)
by Adam Hamilton
- [The Purpose Driven Life](#) by Rick Warren

If you're feeling spiritually stagnant, why not take some time to explore this shelf.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

PARISH HELPERS NEWS

The Parish Helpers are going on a field trip! The September meeting will be held at the **Silver Fountain Inn and Tea Parlor in Dover** where we enjoy high tea (aka lunch) together. The date is as usual, the second Thursday, September 11, and we will plan to be there by noon. We can car pool from the church around 11 a.m.

You can choose to have the "tea" which includes tea sandwiches and scones and a pot of tea. Or you can order a sandwich or salad, quiche or something else from the lunch menu which you can view at www.silverfountaininn.com. I will need to tell them how many are coming ahead of time, so please let me know by Sept. 4 if you will be joining us. You can email me at carol.jeffery@gmail.com or call 522-8915.

I am happy to report that the **Village Fair** was a big success. We raised about \$2,000! The **Treasure Shop** is also doing very well and looks like we will break last year's record for top sales. Give yourselves a pat on the back! It's been a busy but productive summer! The Parish Helpers are unstoppable thanks to the incredible team work we exhibit year after year! Thank you to each and every one of you!

The Parish Helpers welcome all women from the church and community. You don't have to be a church member to join. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions, please contact me by phone or email!

Carol Jeffery

STEWARDSHIP VISIONING AND FUNDRAISING IDEAS

A small group of stewarding folks gathered on August 12 to for a 'Stewardship Visioning Meeting'. The purpose was two-fold: to express the focus of our Ministry and to discuss fundraising ideas & strategies for this year.

While fostering time, talent and treasures, Stewardship Ministry has several focuses including: our Annual Intentional Giving campaign; becoming a 'greener' church by reducing our carbon footprint & conducting energy saving research; supporting 'radical hospitality' by greeting and involving new members, friends, and the community to programs of interest and by encouraging opportunities for young parents and families to experience God's love.

Fundraising is also a continuing and evolving conversation we hope will result in many exciting and successful events. We have a fundraising goal in our budget and we know our pursuit of that goal can be fun, interesting and very rewarding in many ways! You'll be pleased to know there will be a second 'Christmas in Wakefield Corner' village tour that FCCW will host in conjunction with the Heritage Commission and the Wakefield Inn. Who knows what else the next year will bring? Community events, online sales, music & dance, Pride Day, local discounts—the idea list and possibilities go on.

The next gathering will be sometime mid-September and we hope you will join us as we launch some of these ideas and plans are made. This is an invitation to all!

*With God's Love,
Carol Lundgren, Chris Feddern*

MUSIC LESSONS



Something new and exciting is happening. Beginning on September 15th, Beverly Woods will be offering music lessons at our church on Monday afternoons, between 4 – 6 PM. This opportunity is open to all age groups. What would you like to learn? Piano? Guitar? Voice? Drums? Pretty much anything musical will be offered here. The cost will be \$30 per each half hour lesson. We do have some limited Alden Young funds to help subsidize those children whose parents might need some financial consideration. For further information, please contact Margie at mgalabrun@roadrunner.com

Margie Galabrun

**CHURCH SCHOOL RECOMMENCES
SEPTEMBER 7**

Our new Church School year begins on September 7th and I can't wait to see all my little friends again. Come and join us. Bring your children. Let's make this a GREAT year.

*Margie Galabrun
Ministry of Christian Education*

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD PANTRY

As summer draws to a close, a lot of our friends are packing up their summer places and preparing to head south for the winter. As you are cleaning out your kitchen cabinets, please keep the Wakefield Food Pantry in mind. Many of our friends and neighbors struggle in the cold weather trying to keep their homes warm **and** provide healthy meals for their families. The Food Pantry provides emergency aid to families who cannot afford to put food on the table.

Some examples of things the Food Pantry needs:

- **Canned goods**, especially meats, soups, stews, vegetables, and fruit;
- **Paper products** such as tissues, paper towels, and toilet tissue;
- **Personal care items** such as, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, pain killers, shaving cream (and razors), and feminine hygiene products;
- **Beverages** such as juice, juice boxes, coffee, tea, and cocoa mix
- **Snacks for school lunches** such as peanut butter or cheese crackers, pudding cups, and fruit cups

Please do not donate opened or partial packages, expired products, or damaged packages. All of these have to be discarded. Bless you for your continued support of this ministry!

Harriet Wilson

NEW DIRECTORY FORM

Please remember to fill out and return to the office the **Communication Form** that is included with this issue of the Steeple Views. These forms will be used to compile the new directory that will be out in December. **In order for you to be included in the directory, the form should be in the office no later than October 1st.** If you are getting this newsletter by email, you can download and print the form or pick one up on the back table in the sanctuary. Any questions please speak with Penny in the church office.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ

I've just ordered two new coffees because the names were so intriguing. I ordered **African Roots** to honor our partnership with Zimbabwe, and **Midnight Sun** because it made me think of Lawrence of Arabia. And, of course, we always stock **Colombian**. See the following descriptions from Equal Exchange.

Organic African Roots Coffee — a Medium Roast, Light Brew. We source these beans from our partner co-ops in East Africa, the origin of coffee itself. This blend is bright and complex with notes of exotic fruit.

Organic Midnight Sun Coffee — French Roast, Dark Brew. This intensely dark blend is balanced and delicious with rich chocolate fudge and a syrupy mouth feel.

Aroma: fudge, Nutella®, marshmallow
Flavor: balanced, cherry, milk chocolate, smoky
Mouth feel: heavy & thick

Organic Colombian—Full City Roast, Medium Brew. Complex and bright with refined citrus notes, dried fig, sweet chocolate, spice, and banana.

Aroma: maple, honey, citrus
Flavor: complex, grapefruit, dried fig, banana
Mouth feel: soft & lush

Any questions about the Café or the product, ask me —

Margie Galabrun

P.S. Yes, I realize that Midnight Sun is arctic, but when I ordered the coffee I was thinking of tents camels and bedouins. Perhaps that's what will come to mind when you drink it too. Enjoy the exotic intrigue. — M.G.

ARFF WALK

(Animals Raising Funds for Food)

SEPTEMBER 6



Walkers and pets will walk from Turntable Park to the Poor People's Pub and back in a fundraising effort for the Wakefield Food Pantry. Walk with or without a pet, with or without sponsors. (\$5 donation is requested for walking without sponsors.) Sign up and sponsor sheets are available at the many Wakefield Churches. For more information, call St. John the Baptist Church at 522-3329 or email lupey17@gmail.com.

WAKEFIELD WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Wakefield World Music Festival, a celebration of world culture through live music performances and workshops, will be held in the Opera House on Saturday, September 13. Admission is free and all are invited.

You will be able to hear performances and take part in workshops. Get up close with the musicians, ask questions and learn more about their music and culture. Don't miss this chance to hear and see music from around the world from your seat right here in Wakefield. Four international cultures —Spanish, Japanese, African, and Indonesian —are presented by musicians who have performed all over the world and who are known for their hands-on workshops.

The Festival is supported in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts with matching funds from state and local foundations, businesses, and individuals. The festival - a gift to the residents of the Town of Wakefield and to the region - is produced by the Opera House Performing Arts Committee, the performance branch of Wakefield Projects Inc, as part of WPI's mission to rejuvenate the Wakefield Town Hall and Opera House.

MAUREEN STEER HIRED AS DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In March, the Ministry of Christian Education hosted a discussion to envision what our church school might look like in five years time. Responses were enthusiastic, hopeful and forward thinking. They reaffirmed our commitment to church school and to Christian education for all ages. From that meeting, a direction was established to fund a new position. We're now very pleased to announce that Maureen Steer has been hired for the position of Director of Christian Education.

Many of you will remember Maureen from her time with us while she was in seminary. Now, as a seminary graduate, she returns with her numerous skills to help us facilitate and develop programs related to lifelong faith formation and Christian Education. This is a part time position funded for approximately 10 hours a week. We hope that the position will grow and develop. However, in this first year, the initial challenge will be for the Director to help us to grow our church school population.

There will be a pot-luck dinner on September 11th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall to welcome Maureen as our new Director of Christian Education. We hope to see you there.

Margie Galabrun

VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION

Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice will be holding Four Information Sessions for anyone interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer. The information sessions will outline the expectations of volunteers who choose to work in this rewarding area and the training curriculum requirements. If you are interested please plan to attend one of the following sessions to hear more detail about Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice's Volunteer Program. Pre-registration is required.

DATES:

Tuesday, September 9 @ 10:00am Gilford Public Library, 31 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford, NH

Thursday, September 11 @ 10:30am Moultonborough Public Library, 4 Holland St., Moultonborough, NH

Wednesday, September 17 @ 2:00 pm Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice, Wolfeboro Branch Office, Medical Arts Building, Huggins Hospital, 240 S Main St., Wolfeboro, NH

Thursday, September 25 @ 10:00 am First Congregational Church of Wakefield, 2718 Wakefield Rd, Wakefield, NH

Are you looking to volunteer in a very meaningful way? Are you compassionate, caring and want to be supportive of patients and their families at a very difficult time? Do you have a few hours a week to spare and want to make a difference in someone's life? Become part of a team of professionals by helping families feel less alone during a difficult time! Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice relies on community volunteers to provide family visits for respite care, bereavement support and companionship to hospice clients throughout the Belknap County and Southern Carroll County vicinity. You can help provide life-enhancing support for only a few hours a week and share in the incredible hospice experience. No medical is training required.

Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice encourages anyone who wants to learn more about end-of-life choices and the Hospice experience to attend the information sessions.

Please contact Martha Horton, Volunteer Coordinator, to sign up for any of the dates mentioned. If you have other questions, call 603-569-2729 x3263 or email at mhorton@centralvna.org.

Celebrations!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Christine Feddern | 18 Sara Denver |
| 2 Ryan Hughes | 18 Margie Galabrun |
| 8 Susan Girardin | 18 Carol Kachoris |
| 8 Lora Stanley | 19 Eric Perkins |
| 10 Meaghan Connell | 19 Sharon Theiling |
| 10 Rachel White | 22 Brenda Croke |
| 11 Mark Evenson | 22 John Croke |
| 11 Ken Jeffery | 22 Ginny Silcocks |
| 12 Cindy Denver | 24 Connor Nelson |
| 12 Priscilla Frothingham | 25 Joe Brejwo |
| 12 Donna Vanderhoof | 26 Rebecca Mooers |
| 13 Paul Twombly | 27 Curtis Carr |
| 14 David Schweitzer | 28 Edie Garland |
| 15 Ethan Ball | 30 Janice Brejwo |
| 16 Russell Baldwin | 30 Suzy Carter |
| 16 MacKenzie Robinson | |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Joe & Barbara Cawlina
- 21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham
- 22 John & Brenda Croke



Dear FCCW Church Family,

Sending a huge 'thank you' to a great, supportive church family for your warm and caring wishes to me during my knee replacement surgery.

The many calls, cards and hugs you gave me along with my wonderful family made all the difference.

With love,

Dave (Schweitzer)

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Paul T. | Curt C. |
| Dot R. | Marcia |
| Tom and Barbara T. | Serena H. |
| George B. | Harold |
| Art W. | Ed M. |
| Cathy K. | Paul and Agnes C. |
| Mackenzie M. | Marsha A. |
| Beth M. | Jan F. |
| David M. | Tim D. |

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

REST IN PEACE

We were saddened by the passing of long time member of our church and the Parish Helpers, Dorcas L. Knight, 94, who died on July 30, 2014, after a period of failing health. She was born in Malden, Mass., the daughter of J. Frank and Nellie Winch (Fales) Marsh. She was predeceased by her husband of almost 50 years, Cecil E. Knight. She is survived by her daughters Cynthia June Nelson and Mary Elizabeth Valliere, 8 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

WELCOME BACK, ZIMBABWE TRAVELERS!

Travelers Ann, Christy, Sarah, and Maggie, have arrived back in the USA after a three-week mission trip to Zimbabwe. We look forward to hearing about their travels in the months to come.

Our friend, Connie Littlefield, is settling in for her two-year stay in Zimbabwe. We hope to get updates from her from time to time!

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Choir Practice	2 Bible Study 12 noon	3 Deacons Meeting 4 p.m.	4 Scrabble 10 a.m. Community String Band 6 p.m. Beginner 7 p.m. Mixed	5	6
7 Worship And Holy Communion 10 a.m. Church School AARF WALK Fundraiser	8 Choir Practice	9 Bible Study 12 noon	10 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	11 Parish Helpers 12 noon Pot Luck Supper 6 p.m. Community String Band 6 p.m. Beginner 7 p.m. Mixed	12	13 World Music Festival (Opera House)
14 Family Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Team Synergy Meeting	15 Choir Practice	16 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon	17	18 Community String Band 6 p.m. Beginner 7 p.m. Mixed	19	20
21 Worship 10 a.m. Church School	22 Choir Practice	23 Bible Study 12 noon	24	25 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. VNA Training 10 a.m. Community String Band 6 p.m. Beginner 7 p.m. Mixed	26	27
28 Worship 10 a.m. Church School Coffee Hour	29 Choir Practice	30 Bible Study 12 noon				



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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POT LUCK SUPPER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
6 P.M.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING
MAUREEN STEER
DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION