

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 . . .

The Blessings That Are Yet To Be

Change is hard—especially so in the life of any church. Here we are, standing in the midst of change.

Several of our beloved and most active leaders have moved or will soon move away. One is away for a long period of time. Our great Administrative Assistant will be moving into a new professional role—a wonderful opportunity! Though our church's "new" structure is not so very new anymore, it somehow still *feels* new. We are blessed with a new Director of Christian Education, but challenged by a profound lack of people willing to teach Church School.

In November, as Thanksgiving approaches, we focus on gratitude. Gratitude seems a great place to begin as we face so much change. We are grateful for the dear friends who are moving on with whom we've had the joy of working and playing. We are grateful that our Administrative Assistant has been given a wonderful new opportunity. We are grateful that Maureen Steer has joined our staff.

Can we also be grateful for the challenges we face? Rather than respond with anxiety, will we trust in God's grace enough to see these challenges as new opportunities for engaging rejuvenating practices and ideas? We certainly can if we so choose.

Listed below are some of the most pressing leadership opportunities open in our church. Is God calling you to step into any of these? I invite you to read them out loud, with an open heart:

Church School Teachers. Will you teach, even just once? I continually hear this: "We've got to do more for the children." Yes, we do. You can help by letting Maureen know that you are willing to teach **just one time**. This is not a lot to ask on behalf of the children in our midst. Don't point to the other guy. I am asking you. You won't be doing it alone, and Maureen will help you prepare.

Personnel Ministry Coordinator and team members. We can't move forward with hiring a new Administrative Assistant in the absence of volunteers in this area. You, the members of the congregation, are the employer, and must therefore be involved in the hiring process.

Finance Ministry Coordinator and team members. Things are in great order in this arena; how wonderful it would be to identify an individual who will help us keep it that way!

Many thanks to all who have responded to the invitation to volunteer in any way!

Thanks be to the still-speaking, generously loving God at work in our midst—and perhaps speaking to your heart to engage your very special gifts and talents? In the midst of so much change, let us stand in the midst of prayer and loving discernment.

Blessings and peace,
Mary

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

**SPOOKY FUN.....FOR A GOOD CAUSE!
NOVEMBER 1**

Our wonderful Confirmands, Jillian, Kaylee and Madison, are hosting and planning a Halloween Potluck Supper and Haunted House for Saturday, November 1. Supper will be at 5:00, followed by Halloween games and a Haunted House Tour beginning at 6! ALL are invited---this is an event for all ages! Costumes are encouraged but not required. The price of admission will be two non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry! Come and join in the fun!

THE HARVEST FAIR — NOVEMBER 15



Please join us for this year's Harvest Fair on Saturday November 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have lots of vendors of crafts, jewelry, handmade doll clothes, maple products, potatoes, garlic and much more. A chili, chowder, soup lunch will be served. You can even get yourself a chili-dog!

There will be a Christmas room, gently used books, CDs and DVDs, pies, baked goods, and a delicious lunch will be available. This will be the last chance to buy raffle tickets for the Parish Helpers "Friends of Florence" Quilt, the mink Teddy Bear and the American Girl Doll and Wardrobe as the winning tickets will be drawn at 2 p.m. What a FUN way to start your holiday shopping early!

We'll be looking for help to make this fundraising event a success. All proceeds benefit the church's general fund.

Please consider helping out by baking pies, cooking chili or chowder, and/ or helping to set up, clean up, or work at the Fair. If you can help, please let me know. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 23

We will celebrate the faith journeys of our Confirmation Group on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd. Please mark your calendars and come to show your love and support for three remarkable young women. This will be a very special day!



www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalchurchofwakefielducc

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.

**ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE — NOVEMBER 24**

It will be our joy and privilege to host the Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service this year. This special time of worship, music and fellowship will take place on Monday, November 24th at 7 p.m. We are grateful to our Organist and Choir Director Cindy Eggleston for sharing her talents with us that evening, and to our choir who, very likely, will be singing. We are open to other musical offerings; please let Mary know if you have an appropriate musical piece you'd like to share. As the hosting Pastor, I encourage robust participation from our church community. Please mark your calendars and come to worship with your Methodist, Episcopalian, Catholic, American Baptist, Nazarene, and other UCC neighbors!

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

Parish Helpers Annual Raffle

CHOOSE FROM
THREE HAND-CRAFTED ITEMS



"Friends of Florence"
Couch size quilt—70" x 84"
Machine pieced by the
Parish Helpers Quilting Team
and machine quilted by
Attic Cat in Effingham, NH





"Minky" the Mink Teddy Bear
Handmade by Edna Wilson



Authentic American Girl Doll And
Handmade Outfits by Catherine Britton

**Tickets—\$1 each or 6 for \$5
Drawing at Harvest Fair Nov. 15**

The winning tickets for the Parish Helpers Raffle will be drawn at the Harvest Fair on November 15.

Come to the Fair to see the items in person and to purchase your tickets. Only \$5 for 6 chances to win one of these wonderful handmade items!

Proceeds help to fund the Parish Helpers' good works for the church and the community.

HANGING OF THE GREENS—DECEMBER 6

There finally is a bit of ‘frost on the pumpkin’ and thoughts of Thanksgiving and then Advent are beginning to seem a bit more eminent.

Given that we are having an ecumenical service at the church on November 24th and that the 1st Sunday of Advent is November 30th, I am already thinking of when we can do the ‘Hanging of the Greens’. Reverend Mary has suggested we could have minimal decorations for that 1st Sunday, including the Advent Wreath and then decorate more for the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

In celebration and preparation for this event, I am hosting a small luncheon on **Saturday, December 6th** at 12 noon which would culminate in our decorating the church. I’ll make some soup, have drinks and coffee, and people could bring a whole sandwich and share half with the group. Maybe someone would be willing to make some cookies or brownies for dessert?? All are most welcome to participate and I would love to have many young people to help in the decorating. We have 1 – 2 trees to decorate and room for other ideas. **I am also in search of a small, table size Christmas tree to decorate and put in the back of the sanctuary for our Angels and Mortals gift giving.**

Since we will also be participating in the “Christmas in Wakefield Corner” event again this year on December 13th, I would plan to have the poinsettias available for the 12th and you will be hearing more about ordering those in the near future.

As always I am open for any and all ideas and suggestions related to decorations that help in making our church a welcoming place for all who may come to worship.

Deborah Smiley
Coordinator for Visual and Decorative Arts.

2015 PAGEANT - "THE ANNOUNCEMENT"

Our church family will be holding our annual Christmas Pageant on Family **Sunday, December 14**. We will be celebrating the role the angels played during the time of Christ's birth. ALL children, toddlers to teens, are welcome to participate. We will need Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and three kings to create the Nativity Scene. Adult help will be needed to costume the children and set the stage. I will be teaching the children a song which they will all sing together closing the Pageant. Practices

for learning the song may take place on Sundays in November just after the Children's Story. There will be a "dress rehearsal" on Saturday morning, December 13, for costume fitting and a "run through" so the children will know what to do on Sunday. The Pageant is always a special event for our church and a lasting memory for the children who participate.

Blessings, Jan Stanley

CHRISTMAS AT WAKEFIELD CORNER SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH FROM 2—7 P.M.



This event is sponsored by our church together with the Heritage Commission. The Village will be decorated and ready to welcome all comers to enjoy the ambiance of this sacred season! Come and enjoy a walking tour of **Christmas at Wakefield Corner**. The tour is expected to include: our church, the Wakefield Library, Nancy Spencer Smith's home, Peter & Lauren Brown's home, the Wakefield Inn, Christmas Caroling and cocoa by the Yule Log fire. There will be live music, a story teller and ambiance galore. The Wakefield Inn will offer FOUR different seating times for those who would like to make reservations (through Pam Frazier only): 2:30, 4:00, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets for tours and tours plus dinner are on sale as of November 15. Pam Frazier is in charge – call or email: 522-0031 pam@mooseview.com. \$20.00 pp for the tour. \$42.00 pp for tour plus dinner. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carol Lundgren at 522-8235 or carollundgren@roadrunner.com.

THE PARISH HELPERS NOVEMBER MEETING

The Parish Helpers were treated to a wonderful program at their October meeting. Many thanks to Marcia and Chuck Hodsdon for sharing photos and stories of their travels in China. It was very interesting and much fun to hear their stories!

At the November meeting we will welcome David Warren from the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro who will present the story behind the World War II quilt that hangs at the museum.

The Parish Helpers welcome all women from the church and community to join!

The November meeting will be on November 13 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Carol Jeffery

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-Restricted): July 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014

Income:	\$26,586.81
Expenditures:	\$23,792.14
Net Income Loss:	\$ 2,794.67

I apologize for not meeting the requirement of posting a Treasurer's Report in the last Steeple Views. The new Treasurer Team is working very hard to rise to the level of mastery with regards to operating the responsibilities of Treasurer. I must say that Judy Trepal and Shannon Johnson have really stepped up to the plate and knocked the ball out of the park, to coin an American past time phrase. I would also like to thank Janice Brejwo and Pam Frazier for their continued support and tutelage in guiding us toward a more efficient team.

*Respectfully, Donna V Ackerman
Co-Treasurer*

WHY DO WE OBSERVE VETERANS DAY?

Veterans Day was originally established 76 years ago as Armistice Day, a day which commemorated the end of World War I (known as "The Great War"). After four years of terrible fighting (August 1914 to November 1918), the combatants signed an armistice which went into effect on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 am, thus ending the War. This legal holiday was established in 1938 in honor of the veterans of WWI and the end of the War. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean conflict, the Act of 1938 was amended to include **all** veterans, and the name was changed to Veterans Day. In 1968, when dates of several legal holidays were changed to ensure three-day weekends, Veterans Day was included. However, after protests from veterans groups and others, the Veterans Day observance was moved back to November 11. This restored its original purpose of recognizing the actual date of the armistice which ended WW I, and the veterans of that War.

The holiday is set aside to honor all veterans, whether they served in peacetime or in war. While those who died are remembered, it is primarily a day to honor living veterans and thank them for their service. Memorial Day is actually the day set aside to those who have died in the service of their country.

Many veterans and their supporters wear red flowers on both Veterans Day and Memorial Day. These poppies remember the many who died in one of the first great

battles of WWI, in the Flanders fields of northern France and southern Belgium. The artificial poppies were originally sold to benefit orphans and others left destitute by the War. The American Veterans of Foreign Wars have since adopted the poppy as their official memorial flower.

Harriet Wilson

AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT: HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

Henri J.M. Nouwen (1932-1996) was a Dutch born Catholic priest, professor and writer. He was interested in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community and taught at Notre Dame and the divinity schools at Yale and Harvard. (Source: Wikipedia)

Our library collection has the following books he authored. They will be on the Fellowship Hall moveable shelving unit during November and after that returned to their respective subject areas.

Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons (S-M)
Clowning in Rome: Reflections on Celibacy, Prayer and Contemplation (S-M)

Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life (R-C)

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life (J-G)

Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian

HISTORICAL MOMENT OF TRIUMPH FROM TRAGEDY

Our first church building on its present site was completed in 1831. On September 2, 1956 the steeple was struck by lightning and fire ensued causing \$200,000 of damage to the building and furnishing with insurance only covering \$12,000.

Just one month later the men, women and children of the congregation dressed in mid-19th century costumes to collect donations from motorists passing through Wakefield Corner. The fire and this unique fund raising event made national news. In two years they had rebuilt the church without debt. This remarkable effort prompted a telegram from then President Dwight D. Eisenhower congratulating them for conquering their adversity.

Source: Through the Open Doors of the First Congregational Church by Majorie G.H. Banks

Linda Petkunas/Archivist

LIBERTY SHANGURO

A wonderful new picture of handsome Liberty is posted on the "Power of Change" jar in the Narthex. Thank you Ann Bilodeau for bringing this back from Zimbabwe. Connie reports that Liberty is now attending Chikore High School. He and his sister Sandra walked 24K (almost 15 miles) to Dzika to see Connie when she was working there. I can just imagine their reunion! Liberty never expected, as an orphan, to achieve an education. This congregation and the church school children are making it happen! And he is grateful. The Power of Change truly is powerful! Bless your generosity!

*Carol Lundgren
Stewardship Ministry*

CONGRATS TO PENNY!

We share our warmest congratulations with Penny Grover, our beloved Administrative Assistant, who has been offered and accepted a position as Lead Teacher for Great Bay Kids Company in Portsmouth! We will miss her very much, yet are overjoyed for her that she has this wonderful opportunity.

Penny has generously offered to work a few hours a week for us during this transition time, and will check phone messages, email, handle the posting and picking up of mail, run bulletins, and copy Steeple Views. Since Penny will do this before and after her full-time work hours over the course of each week, she will keep office hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 8:45, beginning the week of October 27th. Should you need to meet with Penny at another time, please contact her by the usual office email and she will make an arrangement with you to meet (fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com).

Related to this, we immediately need to put together a hiring committee. The timing is a challenge because our Personnel Ministry Coordinator is moving very soon, and there is at this time no active Personnel Team. We cannot move forward with hiring an Administrative Assistant until we have volunteers to serve in the important area of Personnel Ministry. Please let Mary know if you are interested in sharing your gifts and talents in this way.

We will celebrate Penny's tenure in her staff roles at our church at Coffee Hour on October 26th, so please come join in the fun!

Luckily for us, Penny will continue to be present among us as a church member. Blessings and best wishes to her!

Rev. Mary

NOTES FROM ZIMBABWE



While away in Zimbabwe, Connie Littlefield has been posting photos and stories on Facebook on our church page or the Zimbabwe Team Page. Here are some recent postings.

From Connie: "I wrote earlier about Rumbidzai, who tried to teach me how to play a rock game. I learned that Rumbidzai's mother died

last week and I just couldn't rest until I found her. She is living with an aunt and has not been in school since June when her mom became ill. She is now enrolled in grade 4 simply by me meeting the headmaster and giving her name! NO FORMS! Wow! She now has new school uniforms, shoes, exercise books and flashes a brilliant smile at the thought of going to school."

Posted by Ann Bilodeau: "Connie discovered this bicycle and a bunch of toys that had been locked away. When she asked about them was told that they didn't want them stolen. SO the kids never got to play with them. Taking on the matron, diplomatically of course, Connie said "I DON'T CARE ...IT MEANS SOMEONE IN ZIMBABWE IS PLAYING WITH THEM!" Some of these toys had been sent 3 years ago. So books, lacrosse sticks, kites & balls galore and, of course, the BICYCLE! YEA! Connie for freeing the toys. HAPPY CHILDREN = HAPPY CONNIE!"



Forget is the tall young man teaching the kids how to ride a bicycle.

NOVEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Potluck Supper and Haunted House 5 p.m.
2 All Saints Sunday Worship And Holy Communion Church School 10 a.m. Bells —6 p.m.	3 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	4	5 Scrabble 10 a.m. Deacons Meeting 4 p.m.	6 Community String Band 7 p.m.	7	8
9 Family Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells Practice 6 p.m.	10 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	11 VETERAN'S DAY 	12 Calling and Discernment 4 p.m. Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	13 Bereavement Group — 11 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Community String Band—7 p.m.	14	15 HARVEST FAIR 9 a.m.— 2 p.m.
16 Worship Church School 10 a.m. Leadership Council Bells - 6 p.m.	17 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	18 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	19	20 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Community String Band 7 p.m.	21	22 Book Signing 3—5 p.m.
23 THANKSGIVING AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Worship & Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	24 Choir Practice 6 p.m. Ecumencial Thanksgiving Service 7 p.m.	25 Bible Study 12 noon	26	27 THANKSGIVING DAY 	28	29
30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship Church School 10 a.m. Bells—6 p.m.						

Celebrations!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4	Skip & Sharon Theiling
18	Bob & Ann Eaton
21	Hector & Marlena Livingston
26	Doug & Dorothy MacKenzie

BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, November 22, 2014

3—5 p.m.

Rob Nelson's

Long-awaited novel comes out!

Mitterhal's Post

published by Piscataqua Press

There will be a **READING** by Rob, music and refreshments.

for information call 603-522-3398

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We ask your continued prayers and support for those members of our church and wider community who are ill, or who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for their families

Paul T.	Curt C.
Dot R.	Marcia
Tom and Barbara T.	Marsha A.
George B.	Jan F.
Art W.	Donald L.
Mackenzie M.	George J.
Beth M.	

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

TREE OF MEMORIES



One of the most meaningful and expressive events of the holiday season, the Hospice Tree of Memories, is celebrating its 19th annual commemoration at the Wakefield Opera House on Saturday, December 13, at 11 a.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.



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COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1—SPOOKY FUN POTLUCK SUPPER

NOVEMBER 15—HARVEST FAIR

NOVEMBER 22—ROB NELSON BOOK SIGNING

NOVEMBER 23—CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24—ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

DECEMBER 6—HANGING OF THE GREENS

DECEMBER 13—TREE OF MEMORIES—11 A.M.

DECEMBER 13 —CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

DECEMBER 14—CHRISTMAS PAGEANT