

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

VOLUME 39: NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2015

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

For those of us who are church-goers, it's hard to understand why the majority of our neighbors aren't. Yet, Vermont and New Hampshire have the lowest rates of church attendance in the United States. Why?

There are lots of reasons, from the busy, sped-up lives of families today, to plain old inertia, to the failure of unchurched folks to see the relevance of being part of a faith community. In the latter case, people unfamiliar with church generally seem to have a negative impression of churches. The way that the label "Christian" is often perceived in the un-churched public mind bears little resemblance to the warm and caring ways of churches like ours. Unfortunately, as New Englanders, we tend to be cautious about inviting folks to church. We do not want to pressure them---but there is a big difference between a warmly offered invitation and proselytizing! Here are ten things unchurched friends and neighbors probably don't know about our church:

1. It is a caring place with a spirit of joy that places an emphasis on God's grace.
2. Children and youth are cherished and welcome.
3. When we say everyone is welcome, we mean it.
4. We share stories of hope, peace, and love even as we engage the dire and difficult issues of our times, remaining optimistic that we can become people of peace and justice.
5. Here, youngsters and elders mingle, can appreciate one another, and hear each other's stories.
6. When we get together for events, there is often really good food involved, and plenty of it.
7. Folks in this congregation are eager, ready and willing to help one another and others in the community in tangible ways.
8. Conversations about faith, life, God, struggles, joys, challenges, and addressing injustice are part of the normal life of the church and go deep.
9. There is a great spirit of humor in our church. We love to laugh together and the laughter tends to be affectionate and contagious.

We love music and trying out new forms of worship, and want everyone who walks through the doors to feel at home.

Perhaps it is that we can all find caring ways to invite others to share in this abundance.

Blessings and peace,
Mary

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

1 Corinthians 4: 1

SWIM FOR ZIM

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jillian Currier and I am a 15 year old sophomore at Spaulding High School. This summer I have presented myself with an exciting challenge in hopes of raising awareness of the needs and struggles of children in Zimbabwe and earning pledges to travel to Zimbabwe for three weeks next year to help and learn.

It has always been an interest of mine to travel to distant areas to find out about other cultures throughout the world. I also feel strongly that many of my peers take so much for granted and I want to raise an awareness of the struggles that other teens go through to get the same education that we are so easily given. Additionally I feel passionately that there should be equality for education especially for girls.

On Saturday, September 5th I am planning to swim the circumference of Lovell Lake, which is approximately 6.6 miles (the Ironman swim is 2.4 miles). I think it will take 5-6 hours to complete and this is also the distance that most children in Zimbabwe have to walk to get to school. I am hoping to earn pledges to fund my trip and also to help fund educational needs in Zimbabwe.

If you are interested in donating you can go to gofundme.com/jillianswimforzim or you can make a deposit directly to my Profile Bank account at Jillian Currier - Zimbabwe mission trip or you can see me directly. Also you can follow my training progress and notes on Zimbabwe on my Facebook group by becoming a member of Jillian's Swim for Zim and also add your friends. I am always open to any other ideas or suggestions.

Thank you. Jillian Currier

Ed. Note: You can follow Jillian's progress on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/385245971678902/>

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office at 603-522-3189.



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC



And on Twitter - @wakefieldnhucc
<https://twitter.com/wakefieldnhucc>

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Income:	\$145,316.48
Expenditures:	\$148,712.39
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (3,395.91)

Restricted Funds balance as of June 30, 2015: \$2,578.62

The numbers above reflect the actual money received and spent in the past year. A loss never looks great, but there is good news. We still have a positive cash flow. During our 2014-2015 year, we had unexpended funds from prior years to tide us over as well as a two unexpected and non-restricted donations totaling \$4500 which helped supplement other income. Another piece of very good news is that we never needed to withdraw any income generated by the Parsonage Fund this year. We also did not need to tap any appreciation within the fund. Instead, the Parsonage Fund income was reinvested, buying additional shares in the fund.

Now a new exciting church year has begun and with it there will be many joys, but also many challenges. As discussed at Annual Meeting, the finance team will be spearheading a church-wide fiscal discussion on how we will move forward, being good stewards of our church finances to ensure our church will continue for many more generations to come. During this process our church needs to confront the issue of how we will align the use of available resources to tackle budget considerations in the near and long term. Each one of you has a say in this. Your opinions and constructive ideas to help generate revenue and/or savings for the church are needed as we start this conversation that will have an important impact for our beloved church and its family. We need your help. Please take part in any way you are able.

As was promised in the last issue of the Steeple Views, the July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015 Treasurer's annual report will be out as soon as possible. It will be distributed by email, posted in the narthex and limited copies will be available at church.

We want to hear from you. Feel free to send an email to us or speak to us in person to share thoughts and ask questions.

Janice Brejwo and Shannon Johnson, Co-Treasurers
fccwtreasurer@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH IS NOW ON TWITTER!

Research about church vitality and growth is showing us how important it is to have a web presence as a congregation! We are doing this in several ways:

Our church's website is at www.fccwakefieldnh.org.

We have a Facebook page for the church, which you can find at: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC>

We have created sacred space for prayer, scripture reading and holy conversations on a Facebook page called "Wakefield Wonder and Grace: Church on the Web. If you are on Facebook you can join this closed group by going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WakefieldWonderandGrace/> Rev. Mary is administrator of the page and will approve your request to join. If you are already in this group, spread the news! You can invite others to join! Look for the "Members" section and "Add someone by Facebook name or invite by email."

AND NOW: we are on Twitter! Find us on Twitter here: <https://twitter.com/wakefieldnhucc>

We are all learning so much about meaningful ways of being present as church on the web!

CHURCH YARD SALE!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH FROM 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**

We need people to set up on Friday, Aug. 28, to take down on Saturday, people to bake items to sell, people to volunteer their time that day, people to donate books, furniture, athletic gear, games, house ware, kitchen items, lawn items and any unique gems that have been gathering dust at your house! This is an all church fundraiser to help us keep the lights on and pay the oil bill. You are part of the family so please consider how you can assist and then call Donna Young at 522-3189 or Dalton Ostrye at 620-4892!

There is also a need to collect the large furniture items on Friday that are being stored at various places around town, anyone with a truck, trailer and/or van that can help please contact Dalton. Even if you just have muscles to help out with the moving and lifting that would be awesome. Items we need to borrow for Friday and Saturday. Canopies Tarps to cover the tables and furniture Friday night (Mark your name on one corner.)

Dalton Ostrye

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

Kitchen Cookbooks

Are you thinking about serving food at a church function or do you just need to look something up while you're working in the kitchen? The following cookbooks designed for church activities are available in our kitchen. You can borrow or just consult them.

Church Suppers

Pot Luck

Sacred Chow

Yankee Magazine's Church Suppers and Potluck Dinners

*Linda Petkunas,
Church Librarian*

MUSIC FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

We are in the early stages of planning a music festival at our church for 10/10/15. This is the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend. The event will have local performers giving their gift of music of many styles and should be enjoyed by many. The event will run from late morning to afternoon depending on the number of performers. A lunch of soup, chili, and breads will be offered. I think this will be a good chance for many people to see and experience our church and our loving congregation. I am looking for people to help make this happen, if you know of talented people willing to perform or just help out, please contact me. Thanks,

Buddy Dee

603-522-6307

buddee10@roadrunner.com

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT:

CO-PASTORS RICHARD & JENNIFER RUSSELL

The Russells began serving as our church pastors in 1984. They both came from Seattle, Washington did their undergraduate work at the University of Washington and then studied at Bangor Theological Seminary. They served as missionaries in India under the United Church Board of World Ministries and were active in UCC seminars and conferences at the state and national level before serving as our co-pastors. Their influence is still felt at our church through the missionary work of Connie Littlefield whom they helped inspire.

*Linda Petkunas,
Archives Ministry*

MEET THE BERGS

Longtime church members, Marge and Warren Berg, have entered their 90s with grace, smiles, and many blessings. They live at Witchtrot Farm amidst the beauty of fields and Wakefield history.

They met as teenagers attending the Pilgrim Congregational Church and participated in its youth group. They were attracted to each other and began dating. Marge attended Latin School in Cambridge and Warren, Rindge Technical School. After high school, Marge went to Simmons College and majored in nutrition. She taught home economics during her pregnancy while Warren, a gifted student and athlete, got a scholarship to Harvard where he excelled especially in baseball.

With World War II arriving in a storm, Warren joined the Marines where he became a captain and trained air corps pilots for eventual duty over Japan.

Their high school romance continued into their college years. They were married in 1944 and a year later they had their first child Peter who was joined by a sister Carolyn two years later and a brother Dana 13 years later. Imagine a marriage lasting 71 years so far, and still very much in love! Today they have 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren and continue to be a close and loving extended family.

After the war, Warren's baseball pitching talents brought him to the Boston Braves during the days of pitching greats Johnny Sain and Warren Spahn. When the Boston Braves moved to Milwaukee to become the Milwaukee Braves, Warren coached the Harvard Baseball Team and entered their Hall of Fame.

Warren joined the Arthur D. Little Engineering/ Consulting firm where he rose in rank to become a major spokesman for the prestigious consulting firm. Warren was also quite active in the Boston community as the President of the Freedom Trail Historical Organization, the Museum of Science and other Boston volunteer organizations. He later decided to leave Arthur D. Little to join the banking industry at Shawmut Bank where he was an executive until he retired in 1969.

Marge was also very active as the President of the Visiting Nurses of Boston and a member of their Arlington Board as well as being a Mom with their three children. They bought the Witchtrot Farm in the early 70s. They loved the outdoors. Marge hiked dozens of trails hither and yon in New Hampshire and a vegetable garden flourished under her green thumb. She loved to write and

became a student in Titia Bozuwa's writer's workshop. For years she has maintained a personal journal history of their active life together. Warren and his cronies hunted and fished together throughout Northern New England while they enjoyed the farm and their Lovell Lake cottage. Marge has always been a history buff and continues as a long-time member of the Parish Helpers.

Marge and Warren are treasured members of FCCW and we wish them many years of continued happiness.

Dave Schweitzer



PARISH HELPERS FAIR

August 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the date of the annual Village Fair. The Parish Helpers hope you will join in the festivities at the Fair that will include crafts, pies, jewelry, and our famous Cookie Walk! We'll have early bird coffee and coffee cake at 9 a.m. and will serve lunch starting at 11 a.m. The Treasure Shop will also be open, so come on down for a fun day at Wakefield Corner.

You will have a chance to see this year's raffle quilt, Blue Rhapsody, and buy your tickets!

We are still looking for more bakers to make pies and/or cookies. If you can, please contact Ginny Schweitzer at 522-9593 or Carol Jeffery @ 522-8915. Hope to see you there!

Carol Jeffery

Save the Date

The Parish Helpers will present
Rebecca Rule, *ō* That Reminds Me of a Storyö
on Thursday, September 10, at 1 p.m.
All are welcome to attend!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

On behalf of Stewardship I would like to say Thank you to Titia, Margie & Dalton for each of their parts in presenting the movie Happy by the Director of Bruce Almighty & I Am right in the comforts of the Bozuwas barn venue!

Going to see this movie, I really didn't know what I was getting myself into---a Disney cartoon? A Jim Carrey comedy? Well, surprisingly, to me at least, this was a documentary based on scientific & sociologic research of brain, individual and culture nation- and world-wide. Quite interesting. Did you know that approximately 50% of your brains disposition to happiness is genetically influenced? Only 10% is situational and affected by life circumstances (such as your job & marital status), and the remaining 40% is affected by your own intentional activity (Lyubomirsky, 2007).

So be intentional--play, enjoy yourself, enjoy your family, make new friends, give thanks for your blessings, do something for others! These are some of the roots of happiness. And by being good stewards to yourselves, it will hopefully follow that you will be good stewards to others.

Wishing you all a great summer! Get that dopamine flowing and be happy!

*Chris Feddern
Stewardship*

FINANCE MINISTRY UPDATE

The Finance Ministry working with the church treasurers held our first meeting of the new church fiscal year on July 26th. We reviewed the year end report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We ended the year well. There will not need to be any adjustments to the 2015-2016 budget as approved at Annual Meeting.

The Leadership Council has approved the plans for the new church septic system and awarded the contract to install it to Lakes Region Septic. Work will begin in the first or second week of August. The funds for this project are currently in a CD with Ally Bank. The Finance Ministry voted to redeem this CD (no penalty) and move those funds into the church savings account so they will be available for this project.

We reviewed our current church investment strategy and are going to leave it as is for now, however, we are going to be taking a five-year approach to monitoring these investments over the next couple of months and may recommend changes to this strategy in the future. We set a

goal to complete and review all the financial policies and procedures this year and have them ready for next year's Annual Meeting.

We will be working with Team Synergy on the exciting new directions for our church and working with the Leadership Council and all the other ministries to bring our budget for next year in-line with our anticipated revenue as directed by the congregation at this year's annual meeting.

The Finance Ministry will be meeting on the last Sunday of every month after service. All are welcome!

Frank Frazier, Finance Ministry

HIGHLIGHTS OF A NEW MEMBER: DENINE FOULKS

We are happy to welcome and introduce you to Denine Foulks, who was no stranger to our area, since she vacationed on Lovell Lake since she was two years old, but who decided, with her husband Bob, to live here year around after having lived for several years of their retirement in South Carolina for six months per year. They bought a house on Wakefield Road and have been there since late 2014.

Denine was born in Chicago and brought up there, as well as in Detroit. She got a nurse's degree and when she went to college to pursue a degree in biology, she met Bob. Together they started a life filled with travel and adventure. They volunteered for the Peace Corps in Afghanistan from 1967 to 1969. Bob and Denine have four children, three boys and one girl.

Since Bob served in the Air Force, they lived in England, Japan, and many places in the States. Denine taught biology in several high schools and worked as a RN Consultant. Denine is also the author of an illustrated (by herself) children's book, titled *Jimmy Pfeiffer Dragonmeyer*. (You can find it on Amazon.com).

We are very happy that Bob and Denine chose our church as their spiritual home!

Titia Bozuwa, Diaconate

ALL CHURCH YARD SALE!

AUGUST 29—9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

ANOTHER SIDE OF ZIMBABWE

I often write of all the challenges our dear children and friends face. This is a change of pace and also represents life in Zimbabwe!

Mt. Selinda Secondary School hosted the 2015 National Hand Ball Tournament for athletes 17 and under. This was a HUGE deal as twenty five top teams (both boys and girls teams) representing every province throughout the country competed. Mt. Selinda staff went above and beyond preparing the athletic fields and creating accommodations for more than 500 players, coaches and guests. On the day of the event, the weather became windy with dust flying everywhere. Very quickly hundreds of Mt. Selinda high school students brought buckets of water to wet down the field. The high school choir led in the Zimbabwean national anthem and a nearby high school majorette and rhythmic dance team led the festivities as boys and girls teams looking õsmartö in colorful uniforms took to the fields. The locals took advantage of the crowds to sell bananas, oranges, sugarcane, drinks, snacks of all descriptions and even sadza to supplement their income. Officials and regional VIPs arrived throughout the day, and as a white person and an international visitor, I was given special seating on a nicely draped and ribboned seat in the VIP tent and invited to join the dignitaries in greeting the teams. But you know me. I would much rather mix with the hundreds of students and other adults standing along the sidelines and so I did!

Zimbabwean Hand Ball is like basketball (with dribbling and passing) yet players score by getting a ball by the goal keeper and into a smaller type soccer net. Seven players play fast and furious over a 40 meter field for two 20 minute periods. The players and their fans are enthusiastic during all aspects of the game and all run onto the field when their team wins.

I also attended a Rotary event in nearby Chipinge. Yes, Chipinge has an active Rotary Club. I witness the induction of four new members and the new president, Sister Pauline, a Roman Catholic nun! The Rotary is small but mighty with approximately 25 members and they are quite proud that they often come in first in percentage attending meetings, projects, and participation in regional, national and international events. I enjoyed my first pot luck dinner, hearing the familiar 4 Way Test, and sitting around chatting with great people. I felt right at home, like I was at a church pot luck! The Rotarian sitting near me was a retired social worker for the Zimbabwe Department of Social Welfare and a wise natural healer. Did you know that eating three nasturtium leaves (or the

flowers) was good for the flu or a sore throat? He went out into the night in the middle of our dinner and brought in a nice handful of leaves for me to try. A bit suspicious I was pleasantly surprised when it WORKED. So now you know!

No bake cookies with either peanut butter or coconut has become a HUGE hit with the kids at Daisy Dube. The kids now know how to make them on their own. (You should see the toddlers simply shake all over with delight whenever I bring a tray of any type of goodies!)

I have also learned that I am not a fan of painting in Zimbabwe. You have to mix your own õtintersö to get the desired color which usually isn't the color you are seeking, the consistency isn't anywhere near what you get at Sherwin Williams, and roller brushes fall apart very easily. So, after doing two rooms with the kids, with lots of laughs and all of us covered in hard to remove enamel paint, I raised the white flag, and hired a wonderful local guy to carry on!

I will be home soon and can't wait to see you all! Don't forget about the shipping container!!!

*Love to all,
Connie Littlefield*



Little Boys Washing the Car

See how you can contribute to our
Zimbabwe Mission . . .

The Shipping Container Wish List
is included in this issue!

Celebrations!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Phillip Twombly	14 Matt Mooers
4 Chris James	15 Amanda Crew
4 Madeline Johnson	15 Shannon Johnson
5 Douglas Ball	17 Nancy Jacobson
6 Shane Caplette	19 Stephanie Ballard
8 Rebecca Ellis	23 George Blomster
8 Julie Evenson	23 Matthew Boggs
9 Harriet Wilson	24 Dick Wilson
10 Judy Levis	28 Debbie Soucey
11 Cassandra Ball	29 Anastasia St Pierre
14 Dan James	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1 Donald & Janie Silcocks
15 Steve Michalsky & Patty Golden
20 David & Sharon Tinkham
21 George & Jo Szirbik
22 Royal & Carole Doughty

AMBASSADORS OF ABUNDANCE

From the New Hampshire Conference UCC: September 19th, 2015 at Lake Opechee Inn & Conference Center, Laconia, NH ô We don't often take time out to focus on celebrating all of God's good gifts in our lives! This is the reason for Ambassadors of Abundance, an event designed to simply celebrate and reflect upon all the blessings we share here in New Hampshire! ALL are welcome to attend - as we unite our hearts and intents on an Abundant Future for our churches and our Conference!

The evening will begin with musical entertainment and refreshments, continue with a three-course meal, and conclude with a presentation featuring the inspiring Rev. Quinn G. Caldwell, Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Syracuse, New York.

Registration opens in early August. With a modest fee of \$16.50 per person, you might also consider reserving a full table of 8, for only \$132.00. We hope you'll join us for this fun and festive event!

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

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

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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN HILDEBRANDT

The Diaconate gratefully acknowledges the many donations from the family & friends of John Hildebrandt to the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund

This Fund provides emergency relief for people of our church & community.

THANK YOU

The Parish Helpers would like to express their sincere gratitude for the beautiful new paint application on our beloved Treasure Shop.

Many thanks to Royal Doughty, David Schweitzer, and Dalton Ostrye for their dedication, valuable time, and hard work maintaining our charming building!

Rachel White, Parish Helpers

AUGUST 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9-Noon Treasure Shop Open
2 10 am Worship/ Communion	3	4 Noon Bible Study	5 9-Noon Treasure Shop 4 pm Diaconate meeting	6 10 am Scrabble Bereavement Support Group 11 am 7 pm String Band	7	8 9 am -2 pm Village Fair 9-Noon Treasure Shop Open
9 10 am Worship/ Coffee Hour	10	11 10 am Scrabble Noon Bible Study 4 pm Centering Prayer	12 9-Noon Treasure Shop 6 pm Pairs & Spares	13 7 pm String Bank	14	15 9-Noon Treasure Shop Open
16 10 am Worship 11:15 am Leadership Council	17 6 pm Choir	18 10 am Scrabble No Bible Study 7 pm Christmas in Wakefield Meeting	19 9-Noon Treasure Shop	20 7 pm String Band	21	22 9-Noon Treasure Shop
23 10 am Worship/ Coffee Hour	24 6 pm Choir	25 Noon Bible Study 4 pm Centering Prayer	26 9-Noon Treasure Shop	27 10 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm String Band	28	29 9 am -2 pm All-Church Yard Sale 9-Noon Treasure Shop
30 10 am Worship	31 6 pm Choir					



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 809
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THIS MONTH AT FCCW

August 8th Village Fair

August 16th Leadership Council

August 29th All Church Yard Sale

Details inside!