

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 11

NOVEMBER 2015

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

MAY IT BE BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL

It hardly seems possible that we could be cycling into cold weather again! As I write this, the leaves still blaze with gold, orange, and red, in hues more vibrant this year than we have seen in a while. The tall pines standing behind the picket fence on the church's east side sway in a breeze that carries the memory of last night's hard frost, and blue sky is giving way to big, back-lit clouds moving in. A veritable herd of wild turkeys is visible from my office window, and many species of birds fly to and fro in the wind. How beautiful it is here, and how I appreciate the cozy warmth of this lovely office, knowing how chilly it is outside!

We are hearing a lot lately about the fact that the beauties of Wakefield and the area cannot be so fully appreciated by everyone, because many people in our town and our county are homeless, or at risk for homelessness, and some are increasingly plagued by the disease of addiction. The availability of cheap heroin has become a terrible problem in our state and our county. Many in our community are talking about what can be done in response to these problems in our underserved area, including the area churches.

Regular meetings are now taking place between members of the area clergy, town welfare administrators, school and public health officials, and others. Together, we are seeking solutions to the vexing problems of homelessness and addiction, and working on ways to bring much needed programs for family support and empowerment, parent education, drug treatment, and safe, clean and well-equipped transitional shelter and related services to the area. We want our efforts to make the most of existing strengths and resources, while bringing those other resources in that are needed to fill the considerable gaps.

Your church is at this table of conversation, and has taken a leadership role in the effort. We welcome ideas that you may have about effective ways to strengthen our community and to develop responses to these hard problems. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, we'd love to have you. Please let me know and I will invite you to our next meeting.

In the meantime, please pray for the health and well-being of families and individuals in our area and beyond who are affected by homelessness and by addiction, and for those seeking to assist them. Should you have a concern for a person you know who might be involved with drugs, let someone who can help know. Don't wait.

I will keep you informed of specific proposals as they are created. Thank you for your prayers, your concern, and your help.

With thanksgiving,
Mary

God is love. 1 John 4: 8b

BIBLE STUDY GROUP WILL START AGAIN!

On Tuesday, November 3rd at noon, our Bible Study Group will gather to begin a new study series, with Julie Kessler facilitating! The series is called *Christian History Made Easy* and promises to be very interesting. For more detailed information on the series, go to <http://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/adult-bible-study/>

If you'd like to take part, please come to this first gathering. A group order for the materials (a book and a study guide) will be placed. For more information, please contact Julie at julielouisekessler@gmail.com.

PUB GRUB AND SOUL FOOD REVS UP!

Join friends and neighbors at the Poor People's Pub on Wednesday, November 11th from 6:00 to 7:30 for some great food and conversation! Each month, through the fall, we will gather at the Pub to talk about questions and issues of importance in our time, and also to just plain enjoy time together. November's question will be, "How can we strengthen our community?" The conversation will be facilitated by Pastor Mary and by the Rev. Sue Poulin of The Episcopal Church of St. John. Hope to see you there!

CAREGIVER SELF CARE SUPPORT

A quick 4 week series of presentations during October concerning caring for yourself while being a caregiver for a loved one has been a valuable experience for those who attended. The group will continue just a bit longer into November and culminate with the option to attend the Coalition of Caring in Concord. This annual day-long event is tailor made for care givers ó honoring their dedication and guiding ways of providing better self-care. If interested in the November 9th Coalition of Caring, please contact: Carol Lundgren @ 978 807-4041. For more information go to <http://www.coalitionofcaring.org/>

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.



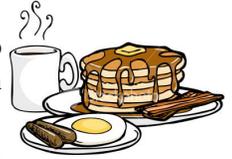
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And on Twitter - @wakefieldnhucc
<https://twitter.com/wakefieldnhucc>

PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT ZIMBABWE TEAM

Saturday, December 5th, 7 am ó 10 am. Come and enjoy a hearty breakfast to benefit our Zimbabwe mission. Ann Bilodeau will be organizing this breakfast which includes, scrambled eggs, pancakes, mini muffins (pumpkin, blueberry, chocolate chip and plain), link sausage, orange juice, apple juice, coffee and tea.



Price is \$5 for children, \$7 adults, \$20.00 for 2 adults & 2 children. Please mark this date on your calendar to come and enjoy a yummy breakfast and support this wonderful cause!

ALTERNATIVE GIFTING

The Holiday Season is just around the corner and if businesses and stores had their way we would be rushing around trying to get those òEarly-Birdö specials. Let's out smart all those institutions that try to commercialize this wonderful season we call Christmas.

If you must give a gift to someone make it an òAlternativeö gift. Our church provides us an opportunity to give the gift of love, and life through organizations like; Heifer, the local Food Pantry, support for the youth of Zimbabwe through FOOT, and contributing really close to home through the Feddern Discretionary Fund used right here in our beloved church community. These are 4 ways that we can pass on our abundance that truly makes a difference.

Your loved one probably doesn't need another piece of clothing or tool. Instead send them a card that indicates that you have donated to one of these organizations in their name. George and I give every year a card to our God Daughter indicating that in her name a contribution supporting a FOOT child has been dedicated. Rachel is now a freshman in college, but for many years she has been excited to receive that card knowing that her God Parents are helping a child in Zimbabwe to go to school.

Displays in the Fellowship Hall will be made available very soon for you to view and choose the card and organization you wish to sponsor. Let's give the gift of love and life this season.

Blessings,
Donna V Ackerman
Outreach Ministry Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): June 1, 2015 – Sept. 30 2015

Income:	\$ 39,199.98
Expenditures:	\$ (38,898.43)
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 301.55</u>

Checking Non-Restricted Funds balance as of September 30, 2015: \$5900.73

Restricted Funds balance as of September 30 2015: \$2643.37

My goodness, we are over a quarter of the way through the 2015-16 fiscal year. As you can see above, income was still slightly ahead of expenses paid as of the end of September. The 230th Birthday gifts were a huge boost to the fund raising line. More gifts have continued to come in since the end of September and the total now stands over \$3100! Thank you to all who blessed our church with these special gifts.

As is necessary to keep our fiscal house in order, we are always planning ahead. As the weather turns cooler and heating season ramps up, so also will the utility bills. The thought sends a shudder, but soon snow will start falling and with it snow removal costs. We continue to strive to find ways to save money, spend wisely and try to raise revenue. Discussion has already begun concerning the preparation of the next fiscal year budget. We look forward to hearing from you and your thoughts of what we can do to develop a sustainable budget while still providing quality programming to meet the spiritual needs of our Church community.

*Janice Brejwo and Shannon Johnson
Co-Treasurers*

PLEDGE UPDATES

As of September 30 we are one-fourth way through our 2015/2016 year and our promised pledges received are at 27.47% overall. These percentages may sound a bit factual but I think they're important to know.

Thank you for your strong and consistent support. This makes such a difference in supporting the financial life of our Church. It's great to see our slow, steady progress to greater financial stability!

Chris Feddern, Stewardship

INTRODUCING COMMUNITY FOLK BAND: A BEGINNER FRIENDLY MUSIC EXPERIENCE

For years, many of us have enjoyed the opportunity to learn and play with the gentle, caring and talented multi-instrumentalist Shana Aisenberg in Community String Band. We are now introducing a brand new program (in addition to String Band) called **Community Folk Band**. This will be a five session class, and will be very beginner friendly. It will meet on the following Thursdays at 6 p.m.: November 12th, 19th, and December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. It will cost \$15 per session. Here is the description:

Community Folk Band: Learn to play traditional American folk songs on mandolin, banjo, acoustic guitar, fiddle, dulcimer, autoharp, bass, ukulele, harmonica, etc. Many songs in the American folk repertoire are very accessible for beginners to play, requiring only a few chords. We'll explore various topics including; how to learn songs by ear, how to hear chord progressions in a song and learning to play with others. Songs are taught by ear, however written lyrics and chord sheets will also be provided. Especially for beginners, however open to any level. Attendees should have basic playing skills on their instruments. Taught by Shana Aisenberg. Thursdays from 6 to 6:45 PM.

Community String Band (mixed levels) will continue to meet on Thursdays at 7, right after **Community Folk Band!** **BONUS:** If you want to attend BOTH, the cost is \$20 for both. To attend one or the other, the cost is \$15.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS



A successful deep cleaning of the sanctuary took place with many helping hands. We are grateful to all who set aside October 24 to make the church literally sparkle!

Dalton climbed the ladder and cleaned an inch of dust off the ceiling fan!

If you ever see something outside or inside church that appears to need attention, please do not hesitate to send an email or call the office.

Carol Lundgren and Dalton Ostrye

MEET THE NELSONS



Glenna and Dick met in 1946 shortly after Dick was discharged from the US Army after serving 4 years in the hot and dense jungles of Burma as a radio operator. Glenna was born in Andover in 1924 and Dick in Saugus in 1922. They met on a blind date in 1946, felt an instant attraction to each other and dated exclusively for 2 years. They were married in Andover, MA in 1948 where Glenna grew up. They have just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary and were presented their first great grandchild to make 2015, a very special year.

Glenna graduated from Simmons College with a major in business administration and began working in a psychiatrist's office in Boston for a short time. Then she worked at Children's Hospital for the head of the Orthopedic Department, Dr. William Green. Dick began his sales career in Lynn, MA. They moved to North Hampton, NH in 1954 so Dick could work in Portsmouth. Over a period of 13 years they had 6 wonderful children, 4 girls and 2 boys! Their family has always been close, with 5 of their children living nearby and their oldest son living in California. Glenna became a full time mom when the children began arriving.



Glenna and Dick were devoted parents who still found time to provide a caring ministry to those in need around them. Dick grew up active in the Masons. First in Demolay, then the Masons, and later in the Shrine. He was active in the Shrine Mini-Patrol for many years. Dick retired in 1988 and they moved to their home on Pickpocket Road in East Wakefield. For years they rode their Honda motorcycle to many places around the country. They joined the First Congregational Church of Wakefield in 1989 after years of active church life in North Hampton. Glenna co-coordinated the Good Shepherd Ride Program begun by Pastor Rick Russell so many years ago. Dick loves being around people and drove the Miller Auto Courtesy Van.

Both Dick and Glenna are charter members of the FCCW -Zipper Club for those many lucky FCCW patients who experienced open-heart surgery. After 67 years of a wonderful life together, Dick and Glenna continue to be just as in love as they were walking down the aisle in 1948, enjoying their cozy mountaintop retreat and worshipping with their FCCW church family.

Dave Schweitzer

LIBRARY SUBJECT AREA: RELATIONSHIPS LOCATION —FELLOWSHIP HALL

This library category encompasses various types of relationships humans have with marriage partners, co-workers, peers, family members and even pets. It explores a wide range of effects these relationships have on individuals and analyzes them from psychological, spiritual and ethical viewpoints.

Here is a sampling of titles:
Chicken Soup for the Cat & Dog Lover's Soul
by J. Canfield
The Art of Loving by E. Fromm
Peer Pressure: Standing Up for What You Believe by B. Jones
Same-Sex Marriage?: A Christian Ethical Analysis by M. Ellison

Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian

COINS FOR LIBERTY

Each month a wire transfer is made to the FOOT bank account in Zimbabwe. Liberty is one of the orphans whom YOUR coins support for his education. FOOT ó Friends of Orphans Trust. Liberty has a future. Connie has seen him recently and he is doing well. Your continuing drop of pocket change makes this happen! Bless you for remembering him in prayer and with coin.

NOTES FROM ZIMBABWE

I have been back in Zimbabwe for a month now and I am not sure where to begin. The kids at Daisy Dube are doing great. They were relaxing a bit while I was away. They were quite happy to see me and knocked me to the ground with their hugs and kisses. Not so many hugs and kisses as I press them to continue studying, do their chores, live up to expectations. Ah, kids are kids everywhere!

One of the older girls invited me to a GEM/BEM Club meeting at Emerald Secondary School. (GEM/BEM stands for Girls Empowerment Movement/Boys Empowerment Movement and is sponsored by PLAN International.) The club is widely popular and emphasizes making good decisions or avoiding sexual involvement and early marriages, drinking, smoking, dropping out of school etc. and emphasizes education as the key to a better life. The club members begin each meeting with 50 or more students singing enthusiastically, reciting poems about youth empowerment, and encouraging one another to succeed in life. The club advisor told me that many of the girls miss several days of school each month because they don't have sanitary products and cannot attend. She wondered if I could do anything about it. Hmm. The things we take for granted.

A small team of friends have started working on a mobile medical clinic in the Save Valley Conservancy, a 2000 sq mile area with no medical care. Some people have to walk upwards of 45 kilometers (almost 30 miles) to access the nearest clinic. To do this work, four Zimbabweans and I registered a non-governmental trust called Project Kuchengetedza Zviwanikwa, which translates to Project Preserve. The focus is on people, animals and the environment in the Save Valley. This area encompasses a natural game preserve where poaching game animals has reached new heights as people try to earn a living and feed their families. Environmental degradation has taken its toll on the landscape as people have harvested trees randomly. Teenagers have moved away from cultural norms. (Sound familiar?) Income generating projects, micro finance support, a youth center, a cooperative agriculture/irrigation scheme, workshops on a variety of community issues, and a focus on cultural values are also under the umbrella of PKZ. Rodwell Mudzingwa, my adopted son from Rufumiso/Birchough Bridge, is a logistician with Doctors Without Borders and we hope to partner with them as we move forward on plans to establish a base medical camp and ultimately a mobile van to reach the most isolated areas.

The Acton School system has donated 25 desks which we hope to send on the next container. You will be hearing about our Sponsor a Desk program as we tackle shipping costs. I am attaching a photo of Pillany Murrere, a hearing impaired young lad who is now attending a special boarding school program at nearby Chikore due to the generosity of an administrator at Spaulding High School. Go Spaulding! Groceries, school supplies, uniforms and an education what a life changing gift for young Pillany.

*Blessings to all,
Connie*



NEW ADDITION TO OUR WEBSITE— DONATE ONLINE

An exciting new addition to our upcoming update of the Church's website will be the addition of a "Donate Now" button. This will be on a new e-Giving page that will allow not only our Church Family but the wider community to support the missions and programs of our Church by donating electronically and by funding those donations using their credit or debit cards.

[Donate Now](#)

With guidance and recommendation from the UCC Financial Ministry team we have selected a service used by over 3,500 Churches in the US, including the UCC itself for our e-giving partner.

We will hopefully be rolling this out in the next month or so and there will be more details in the next Steeple Views.

Our new e-Giving page will also allow you to pay your pledges electronically via credit or debit card as well. It will be very easy to set up a "Recurring Gift" on say a monthly basis for your pledge.

However with all this great new ease and convenience there will be a fee of approximately 3%-5% for every e-gift you give the church depending on which credit card you use. Our new e-giving web page will point that out and politely ask folks who want to "Donate-Now" to add a little extra in to cover these fees.

This will be another great step in promoting our Church to a wider audience of folks who support our mission and allow them to participate in it by helping to fund them from where ever they are in God's wide world.

Frank Frazier

Celebrations!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Mary Ann Fountain	15 Edna Wilson
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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

TURNING POINT 230

Have you seen the new ðCircle Boardsö at the top of the stairs just outside the narthex? These represent many simple ways we can each ðgift the churchö. Check it out! Letö keep the birthday celebration going all year long!

PARISH HELPERS NOVEMBER MEETING

The Parish Helpers meet again on November 12 at 1 p.m. We will have a much-needed business meeting and social time, getting to know each other better!

Hostesses for this meeting are: Pam Frazier, Maryann Fountain, and Jill Mullen. Linda Petkunas will lead the devotions.

Remember ö If you have any raffle tickets to turn in, be sure to get them in before the November 14 Harvest Fair. The winning ticket will be drawn at the closed of the Fair.

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 H.
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

BIRTHDAY THANK YOU!

I guess itö still trueö everyone still loves a birthday party! And the celebration of our 230th year is a prime example.

A fun and wonderful service was held on Sept. 27 complete with a birthday cake finale and birthday wishes and gifts. Thank you all for your participation and for your gift donations. To date we have received **\$3,193.35** which will be applied to our fundraising line!! A special shout out to the Parish Helpers for their generous donation of \$1,000!

This is our birthday ðyearö so if you would still like to make a donationö great! Just put ðBirthday Giftö in the memo line of your check.

Once again, your generosity shines through like a bright light!

*Chris Feddern
Stewardship*

NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 AM Special All Saints Day Worship and Holy Communion All Saints Day	2 6 pm Choir	3 12 Noon Bible Study	4 10 am Scrabble 4 pm Diaconate	5 7 pm String Band	6	7
8 10 AM Worship and Coffee Hour 6 pm Bells	9 6 pm Choir	10 12 Noon Bible Study 4 PM Centering Prayer	11 6 pm Pairs and Spares 6 pm Pub Grub and Soul Food PPP	12 1 p.m. Parish Helpers 7 pm String Band	13	14 9-2 Harvest Fair 
15 10 am Worship 11:15 am Team Synergy 6 pm Bells	16 6 pm Choir	17 10 am Scrabble 12 Noon Bible Study	18	19 10 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm String Band	20	21
22 10 am Worship and Coffee Hour 6 pm Bells	23 6 pm Choir	24 12 Noon Bible Study 4 PM Centering Prayer	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship 6 pm Bells	30 6 pm Choir					
				December 5 ^o Pancake Breakfast December 5 ^o Hanging of the Greens		



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



COMING SOON—ON NOVEMBER 14!

THE HARVEST FAIR

It's not too late to sign on to help with this all-church fundraising effort. Bake a pie, cookies, candy, sweet breads or anything you like to bake to donate. Help set up on Friday night any time from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Work for a few hours during the fair. Donate some good hard cover books you no longer read or DVDs you no longer watch. Got some jewelry you no longer wear? Donate it to the Jewelry Table. Any job big or small will be helpful. Please speak with Ginny Schweitzer to let her know how you can help.

Please plan on attending the Fair and bring your friends and stay for lunch! This year's fair will be bigger and better than ever! Let's make this day a huge success!!

Don't forget we're also going to pick the winning ticket for the beautiful Parish Helpers Raffle Quilt - Blue Rhapsody.

See you at the Fair!

Harvest Fair



Saturday, November 14
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Wakefield,
United Church of Christ
2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH

Crafts, Baked Goodies, Homemade Pies, Jewelry,
Art, Gift Baskets, Children's Corner, Penny Sale,
Books, Quilt Raffle, Gently Used Home Decor and
MORE!

Join us for a warming lunch starting at 11 a.m.
Soup, Chowder and/or Chili
with a vegetarian option