

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 40: NUMBER 9
SEPTEMBER 2016

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

THE EMBODIED CHURCH

You may be reading this newsletter at home, but you are not away from church. What we usually refer to as "the church" is only a building---certainly a very special building and a treasured sacred space---but still, it is only a building. You are not away from church because you *are* the church. We are called to carry the act of "being church" with us at all times. As Paul wrote: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually the members of it." (1 Corinthians 12: 27)

We are an embodied church, a loving community of faith that does not switch off our shared identity as people who love God when we leave the building on Sunday morning. The world we live in is so very deeply in need of God's love. As members of an embodied church, we are, in essence, called to be chaplains to the world. As the church, we are called to extend ourselves to bring God's care along with us each day and to share it.

In our state, 90% of people have no connection to a church. A whole generation of people has grown up in our culture without an experience of a loving community of faith, and heaven knows everyone can benefit from the care of a community of faith that is loving, supportive and inclusive. In this time and place, it is more important than ever to be aware that we carry the church with us wherever we go and can easily bring the love of the church along with us. We know that we are held in the care of an extravagantly loving God, and it gives us a deep peace and joy. Why would one not share such joy and peace?

Go forth, and be a chaplain to your neighborhood, your community, your world.

Grace and peace,
Mary

This is my commandment, that you love on another as I have loved you.

John 15: 12

CHURCH SPIRES

The Church Spires of New England
Have a message of their own
To all New Englanders everywhere,
Here is your spiritual home.
Come back to us, ye wanderers,
Do not view us from afar,
To admire our charming beauty,
Pointing heavenward, as we are.
Renew the spirit of your forefathers,
Who devoutly worshipped God,
The faith you have inherited,
Wherever you have trod!
Yes, we have a message
And all the world falls heir,
Man's soul will not perish
With church spires everywhere.

New Hampshire Troubadour, July 1951

This poem begins Marjorie Banks's history book on our church and is even more relevant now as it was then.

Linda Petkunas/Archivist

Ed. Note: Copies of Marjorie Banks's history, Inside the Doors of the First Congregational Church, are for sale and are available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Proceeds benefit the General Fund.

LIBRARY CORNER

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd is set in South Carolina in 1964. It is the story of a teenage girl's search to come to terms with her past and her mother's violent death. She lives with her abusive father and is rescued by her black maid. They are taken in by black sisters who are beekeepers. Lily eventually uncovers the truth about her mother's death and finds solace in beekeeping.

This book is on the mobile shelving unit and will be shelved in the fiction section of the Parish Helpers Library. Our thanks to Jan Stanley who donated this book to our library.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

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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FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)



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

CHURCH SCHOOL AND INFANT-TODDLER CARE BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 4TH



Many thanks to Denine Foulks who designed a great Church School program for our elementary school-aged children. We will offer Church School on the first and third Sundays of every month. The second Sunday of each month will be a Family Sunday service, designed to be meaningful and accessible to people of all ages, including the children. Infant and toddler care will be offered every Sunday, beginning September 4th, in our lovely nursery.

The first lesson on Sept 4th will be Our Faith is built on a Rock and why we are Rock Stars. On Sunday the 21st the project will be to paint faith rocks for home and garden. The last Saturday (24th) the Service club (ages 10 and older) are invited to plant spring bulbs. Lots of information and pictures are on the new Rock Star bulletin board in Fellowship Hall

Hope to see you for Church School registration on the 4th!

PARISH HELPERS

The Parish Helpers's busy summer is coming to a close. At this writing, the Treasure Shop has done very well. The jazzy new shop and upscale items have brought in more revenue than ever. Thank you to all who have donated and those you have worked tirelessly at the shop to make it such a success.

The Village Fair, despite the not-so-great-weather, made out very well. We sold out all the pies and cookies! Thanks to all of you who donated your baked items and those who spent many hours planning and working the Fair.

The vendors who rent space from us were pleased with their sales and look forward to coming back. The love the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at our church!

Reminder that that Quilt and Rug Raffle continues until November.

We won't have a regular meeting in September, but will host speaker, Mj Pettengill, who will present her book, Etched in Granite. **The public is welcome to this event. Please encourage your friends and family to attend.** Book signing and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall will follow the presentation. September 8, at 1 p.m. See separate article on the book signing for more information.

Carol Jeffery

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!

During morning worship on September 11th, we will offer a **blessing of the backpacks** for all our school children! Parents, please have your youngsters bring their school backpacks/bags to church for a special blessing. This will be a Family Sunday, with the whole service geared to the participation and comprehension level of all ages. Infant and toddler care will be provided (as it will be every Sunday).

RELAY FOR LIFE 2017

September 1 begins the new year for Relay For Life of Lake Winnepesaukee. Last year, there was some discussion about the church having a team. I was already committed to the Carroll County Crusaders, and the new team never materialized. So, now it's a new year and if there is real interest, I am willing to lead. The expectation from American Cancer Society is for each team member to raise a minimum of \$100.00. I have learned over the years that many small fundraisers are often more doable than one or two large ones. The 2017 Relay will be held June 3 at the Nick in Wolfeboro. Our chairs for the event, Wayne & Karen MacBrien, have lots of new ideas to make it the best ever. Please contact me if you are interested, we'll talk!

Nancy Dee
buddee10@roadrunner.com

PRAYER CHAIN CHANGES

Because of my continuing (and very frustrating) hearing loss, I will no longer be part of the telephone prayer chain. In order to start the phone chain, please contact one of the following:

Cindy Eggleston	522-3772
Jo Szirbik	522-3004
Gail Feddern	522-3577
Deborah Smiley	475-4347
Elizabeth Fogg	522-5116
Berit Johannessen	522-3268
Glenna Nelson	539-4312
Ginny Schweitzer	522-9593
Jan Fairchild	522-2123

This will result in immediate intercessory prayer for the concern from everyone on the list. These telephone concerns will also be emailed to a larger group for additional prayer.

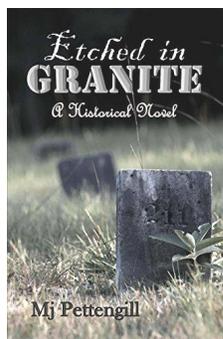
To start the email transmission of a concern, please email it to me and I will pass it along to the larger group.

If you would like to be part of the telephone chain, or if you would like to join those on the email list, please email me at dhwilson39@gmail.com and you will be added to the list.

Thank you for your participation in this ministry! Prayer Power works!

Harriet Wilson

AUTHOR PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING



Mj Pettengill, author of the novel, *Etched in Granite*, will give a presentation at the Church on September 8 at 1 p.m. The event is being hosted by the Parish Helpers, and **the public is welcome!** The presentation will be followed by book signing and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Her novel is set in Ossipee, NH at the site of the County Farm. The following is a brief synopsis: *The year is 1872. The Civil War has ended, leaving behind a nation torn and economically depressed. "Etched in Granite" is a harrowing account of life and death on a rural New England Poor Farm – a tragic, yet triumphant novel that tells a story of courage, survival, and secrets surrounding lost love.*

The story is narrated by the three principal characters: Abigail, a young woman facing unimaginable hardship when agonizing circumstances and betrayal lead to life on the Poor Farm; Nellie, an Abenaki elder and healer enduring great loss while exhibiting resilience during a time of social, racial, and religious intolerance; and Silas, a spirited farm boss illuminating the conflicts of balancing a position of authority with his personal life while navigating small town politics.

Their unforgettable stories are carefully woven together to reveal a hidden part of America's somber past.

The novel was inspired by the author's discovery of a pauper cemetery in New Hampshire where there are 298 numbered graves. It is her mission to give voices to those silenced, to evoke images where they have been erased, and to replace the numbers with names.

We hope you will join us an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Bring a friend!

Carol Jeffery

LOVE, GROW, SERVE

Please consider joining one of our many church Ministries! Please help in any way you can! You will enrich your life, as well as the life of our church! Questions?? Call Calling and Discernment Ministry -

Evelyn Truhn @ 522-7188, truhne@aol.com.
Jan Fairchild @ 522-2123, btownboilers@gmail.com

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our church celebrates its 231st Anniversary this month! A wonderful history of the church was written by Marjorie Banks of Wakefield Corner in 1985. We have received a supply of these books, "Through the Open Doors of First Congregational Church", and they are for sale to anyone interested. Proceeds benefit the church. They are available in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hours for \$20 each.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2016 – July 31, 2016

Income:	\$ 23,212.15
Expenditures:	<u>\$(16,313.76)</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 6,898.39</u>

Checking Non-Restricted balance:	\$ 10,316.94
Checking Restricted Funds balance:	<u>\$ 3,218.62</u>
Total Checking Account balance: 7/31/16	<u>\$13,535.56</u>

The July income number of \$23,212 includes \$7,500 of unexpended funds from last fiscal year. While this is not new money it does help account for the very healthy looking Net Income of nearly \$6,900 for the first month of the fiscal year.

As we have done in prior months, this month we continue the explanation of our five church accounts held at Profile Bank with a look at the Memorial Checking account. This account is comprised of three distinct parts. The first, and probably the most obvious, is the Memorial part. This is money given to the church in memory of individuals who have passed away. We currently have \$1,455.98 in this portion of the account after \$412 was used in July for the two new Baby Changing stations to be installed in the bathrooms.

The second, and most fluid part of the Memorial account, is the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund. As of July 31th the balance was \$5,256.57. This income is generated from gifts received during the year, including Alternative Gifting at Christmas time. Expenditures from this portion are for people in our church and community that are in need. This is a confidential program with Rev Mary and the Diaconate Co-Coordinator making the determination of need.

The third part of the Memorial account is provided by The Wentworth Grant. It is a confidential program that provides grants to assist deserving, needy women in our local community. Rev Mary applies for individual grants for a specific woman when the need arises. Typically the grant is deposited and expended within a very short time frame. Currently there is \$1,655 in the account.

As a reminder, the Treasurer's Annual Report has been distributed to the membership by email and posted in the narthex. Reviewing the treasurer's reports can help you stay informed about how your pledges and volunteering support the work of our church.

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

SAFETY & SECURITY MINISTRY

This ministry is need of resuscitation! If anyone is interested becoming involved please reach out to our Calling and Discernment Coordinator Evelyn Truhn, Pastor Mary or the Church Office.

NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTING SOON

Starting Tuesday, September 13, we'll be jumping into a new Bible study that should prove to be thought-provoking and hopefully faith-inspiring. The study is entitled "Experiencing Jesus" by Marcus Borg. It's designed as a 10-session study but given past history (since we only meet an hour per class), this may evolve into additional classes to do justice to the material. We will meet every Tuesday at noon in Fellowship Hall. A description of the study follows:

"Marcus Borg takes the reader on a journey to discover who Jesus was, what he taught, and why he still matters today. As participants in the study work through the ten sessions, they will experience the masterful way that Borg uncovers a Jesus they may never have known before: a religious revolutionary, a Jewish mystic totally centered in the reality of God, and a movement initiator who opened a path of personal and political transformation."

If you are interested in joining the study, please contact Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or [603-871-8066](tel:603-871-8066)).

A Joyful Noise



What a wonderful inspirational week!! As director of Music Camp I was over the moon with delight at seeing the children and staff have a good time praising and worshiping God. Between 22 and 25 children participated. Each day we had a different theme. The daily Bible story, musical activity, craft, games, and even snack were related to the Bible character of the day: Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Ezekiel, and Jesus. We will forever remember that Father Abraham had many sons. Words can't express how appreciative I am of our dedicated and wonderful staff. We were fortunate to have additional friends and members join us during the week; their help was invaluable.

Shout-outs go to Margie Galabrun, Carol Lundgren, Denine Foulks, Nancy Drew, Patty Golden, Evelyn Truhn, Sharon Lafond, Richard Messer, Linda Messer, Mandy Boggs, Mary Bernier, Joanne Dolbear, Jo Szirbik and Andrea, Rev. Mary, Serena Avery, Rebecca Ellis, Madi Cotreau, Anne Prior, Kenny and Brian Truhn and also to the behind the scenes folks who helped with craft prep work, making snacks, set-up and break-down. Well done good and faithful servants.

Our mission was to introduce an awareness of our loving God to children, both who attend church and to those who do not. We hope the children became aware of people in the Bible and how God guided their lives. We hope the children (and staff) learned that praising God can be fun. And finally, we hope the children felt the love and spirit of God as well as the love and spirit of our church. Mission accomplished!

In His Service, Jan Stanley

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Community String Band	2	3
4 Worship and Holy Communion—10 Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	5	6 Bible Study 12 noon Choir Practice 6 p.m.	7 Scrabble—10 Jam Making and Food Preservation Workshop 5:30 to 7:30	8 Bereavement Support - 11 a.m. Book Signing—1 p.m. 6:30 pm Community String Band	9	10 Loading Zimbabwe Shipping Container
11 Family Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour hosted by Hospitality Team Bells—6 p.m.	12	13 Scrabble—10 Bible Study 12 noon Choir Practice—6 p.m.	14	15 6:30 pm Community String Band	16	17 Memorial Service For Warren Berg
18 Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadership Council Bells—6 p.m.	19	20 Bible Study 12 noon Choir Practice 6 p.m.	21	22 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. 6:30 pm Community String Band	23	24
25 Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	26	27 Bible Study 12 noon Choir Practice 6 p.m.	28	29 6:30 pm Community String Band	30	

Ministry Coordinators & Participants: 7-17-2016

Building & Grounds: Carol Lundgren & Dalton Ostrye

Advisors: Frank Frazier, Rich Zacher; Project Helpers: Nate Fogg, Linda Messer, Susan Raban, Tracey Kolb, Jack Cunliffe, Bob Foulks, Denine Foulks, Julie Kessler, Janet Twombly

Calling & Discernment: Evelyn Truhn & _____(Inviting Co-Coordinator)

Julie Evenson, Margie Galabrun, George Ackerman, Donna Ackerman, Janice Brejwo, Jan Fairchild, Mary James

Vitality Team: Margie Galabrun & Chris Feddern, Leaders. Sue Raban, Denine Foulks, Bob Foulks, Dave Schweitzer, Ginny Schweitzer, Donna Ackerman, Jillian Currier, Sharon LaFond, Mary James.

Vitality Prayer Team: Jo Szirbik, Rachel White, Titia Bozuwa, Jan Stanley, Evelyn Truhn, Jan Fairchild

Christian Education: _____(Inviting Coordinator(s))

Julie Margolis, First Congregational Life Administrator; Margie Galabrun, Denine Foulks, Colleen Nicastro, Tracey Kolb, Julie Kessler

Library: Linda Petkunas; Gail Feddern, Jan Fairchild

Communication: Carol Jeffery; Frank Frazier, Elizabeth Fogg, Julie Margolis, Judy Trepal, Martha Jo McCarthy, Mary James

Decorative & Visual Arts: Deborah Smiley; Rachel White, Susan Raban, Marie Hebb, Carol Lundgren, Jan Stanley

Diaconate: Jo Szirbik & Ginny Schweitzer

Deacons: Debbie Fogg, Donna Ackerman, Gail Feddern, Harriet Wilson, Ed Morrison, Bob Foulks

Hospitality Team: Rachel White & Janet Twombly, Leaders; Linda Petkunas, Sue Lynn, Melissa Cunliffe

Sound Team: Nate Fogg, Barry Truhn, Dalton Ostrye, Alan Bernier, George Ackerman, Max Gehring, Martha McCarthy

Finance: Frank Frazier; Rich Zacher, Harriet Wilson, Janice Brejwo, Shannon Johnson & Julie Kessler. Carol Lundgren, representing Building & Grounds. Chris Feddern, representing Stewardship.

Historian/Archivist: Linda Petkunas; Patricia Golden, Denine Foulks, Chuck Hodsdon, Julie Kessler

Christian Outreach: _____(Inviting Coordinator(s))

Ann Bilodeau, Harriet Wilson, Bob Foulks, Carole Doughty, Jo Szirbik, Evelyn Truhn, Chris Feddern, Julie Kessler,

Jillian Currier, Jan Stanley, Dalton Ostrye, Ginny Schweitzer, Deborah Smiley, Julie Evenson, Rachel White, Margie Galabrun, Connie Littlefield

Musical & Theatrical Arts: Janice Stanley & Denine Foulks

Vocal Choir: Harriet Wilson, Sue Lynn, Evelyn Truhn, Bob Foulks, Denine Foulks, Margie Galabrun, Ann Bilodeau, Donna Ackerman, Jo Szirbik, Carol Lundgren, Deborah Smiley, Mary Bernier

Bell Choir: Evelyn Truhn, Bob Foulks, Denine Foulks, Margie Galabrun, Kevin Connell, Debbie Fogg, Patricia Golden, Nancy Dee, Lynn Watts, Mandy Boggs, Gina Golden, Buddy Dee, Cindy Eggleston

Parish Helpers: Officers

President - Ginny Schweitzer; 1st Vice President - Carol Jeffery; 2nd Vice President - Donna Vanderhoof; Secretary - Linda Petkunas; Treasurer - Rachel White; Assistant Treasurer - Priscilla Frothingham; Auditor - Janice Brejwo.

Personnel: Dave Schweitzer; Bob Foulks, Chris Bozuwa, Barry Truhn, Judy Trepal

Stewardship: Chris Feddern; Mary James, Evelyn Truhn

Moderator: Margie Galabrun

Clerk: Jason Johnson

Co-Treasurers: Janice Brejwo & Shannon Johnson

Assistant Treasurer: Julie Kessler

Honorary Sage: Titia Bozuwa

Pastor: Mary James

Compiled by Jan Fairchild. Names were gathered from completed Ministry Forms (16) and input from Ministry Coordinators (50). This list includes a total of 66 individuals participating in our Ministries!

*God has given each of you a gift from God's great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10*

THE VITALITY TEAM— COMMUNITY TOUCHES SETTING RECORDS!

Your Vitality Team is happy to share that FCCW efforts to reach out and touch the greater Wakefield community is off to a record beginning in the five months since our April launch!

We became the first Wakefield church to sponsor a 4 - 5 year old T-Ball baseball team in the Wakefield Parks and Rec league with our own Luke whom we dubbed "The Orange Crush" on the team. We honored their coach, Christine Berland, with a gift on closing day and at a church service after the close of the season.

We designed bright, eye-catching yellow t-shirts emblazoned with the new FCCW blue/green church logo and "Got Church?" printed on the back and ordered 100 of them. A church pickup truck was followed by walkers in the May 21 Pride Day Parade celebration. Our FCCW booth along with the Parish Helpers' booth across from Town Hall featured face painting by our resident artist Sharon Lafond, a prayer board, lawn seating manned by Pastor Mary and many FCCW bright yellow t-shirt clad members. Sixty-five members have already purchased a t-shirt, and more are available from Ginny Schweitzer.



We opened a historic district "Free Lemonade and Water" welcome center in front of the church on Saturday mornings during Treasure Shop hours. We offered free use of our bathrooms and guided sanctuary tours to interested passersby. Our stand featuring "comfort" rocks, prayer squares, church information cards, music camp bulletins and welcoming conversation into September. We opened an identical welcome center stand at Turntable Park for the 5-week free "Music Under the Tent" series run by the Wakefield Performing Arts group that our own Ed Morrison leads. We gave away over 150 comfort rocks to adults and children, distributed dozens of free music camp flyers and invited many folks to come join us at worship and listen to outstanding music in our sanctuary.

Our music camp run by Jan Stanley and team attracted 26 kids and their families to a gloriously "vital" week of musical fun. We celebrated the music camp during our recent service featuring many happy singing/dancing participants along with their families who joined us for coffee hour after the service.

Our Parish Helpers, always a Vitality spirited group, ran a very successful Fair on August 13 attended by hundreds of folks and featured 8 vendors who set up inside and outside on the lawn.

Pastor Mary has been heading out into the Wakefield community with her yellow t-shirt and laptop to meet dozens of Wakefielders doing her office work while "out and about" at the Gafney Library, Lino's, the Pub and "around town"

Our FCCW community touches since spring has set an all-time record AND new members joining us seems to be following right along!

Come join the Vitality fun and catch the spirit with us!

Dave Schweitzer
Vitality Team Member

YARD FULL OF GRATITUDE

Oh Gosh - 35 plus church members rolled up their sleeves, ate their Wheaties, and showed up to schlep, tote, display, sell and clean up the annual Yard Sale on August 27 (and in prep on Aug 25 and 26). Talk about a TEAM effort!

There is a "back story" to the Yard Sale that has not been mentioned much recently, but it is the Zimbabwe Team's way of giving back and thanking the church family for its wonderful support: Zim travelers, of FOOT children - about 30 church friends who sponsor the education of an orphan in Zim, of the shipping container leaving September 10th, as well as the annual Service Auction, of our sister Rufumiso church, of Connie's on-going beautiful ministry to the Daisy Dube children at the Mount Selinda Orphanage (to name only one of her ministries in Zimbabwe) and countless other ways of emotional, prayerful support).

Was the Yard Sale a success? You bet! In so many ways beyond proceeds: Friendship, Community, Invitation to worship, Welcoming, Reconnecting, hearing stories like "I was married here". Let the good feelings linger. And let's thank God for the countless ways we are blessed (and for clear blue skies). Z Team thanks YOU!

Carol Lundgren

JAM MAKING AND FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOP ON SEPTEMBER 7

Local organizations Global Awareness Local Action (G.A.L.A.) and Jack Mountain Bushcraft School are back at it again with another workshop in their NH Re-skill-ience Workshop Series, hands-on workshops focusing on homesteading, sustainable living, and traditional bushcraft skills. The next workshop, Jam Making and Food Preservation with Ann Hamilton of the UNH Cooperative Extension takes place on **Wednesday, September 7th, from 5:30-7:30pm** at our church.

Participants of the workshop will learn about the latest research-based methods and recipes, have questions answered, and learn about preserving food safely at home, using a boiling-water canner. Participants will gain hands-on experience in jam, which means there will be a yummy treat to take home!

The workshop costs \$15 for admission, plus a \$6 materials fee for a total of \$21 per person. Pre-registration is requested at www.galacommunity.org, or by calling 603-539-6460

INFANT AND TODDLER CARE PROVIDER NEEDED

Our Church School program will be up and running in September! We are looking to HIRE an infant and toddler care provider for each Sunday. If you know a qualified person who is interested, please let our Personnel Ministry Coordinator Dave Schweitzer know.

We will always need ONE volunteer to work with that person. Please let Julie know in the Church Office if you are willing to be the volunteer helper 522-3189!!

Thank you! Our children and youth are a precious part of our congregation. Let's show them our support and love!

GOOD SAMARITANS

Through my experiences and observations, I've come upon a limited understanding of the cultural balance of self and community within Zimbabwe. I came to know Zimbabweans incredibly adept at maintaining the needs of the self and the needs of the community. People will forego selfish intuition in order to provide for someone else whom is believed to be worse off. From fulfilling some errands for a friend, to sharing food, to volunteering to construct a building, anything can be done for the community so long as it is beneficial.

Although I have noticed this trend of behavior, it's difficult for me to understand what causes it. From a faith-based paradigm, I could guess that Christianity, a widely-followed religion in Zimbabwe, often brings the action of the good Samaritan to mind in its teachings. Putting emphasis on the kindness of the good Samaritan can influence people to follow in the Samaritan's footsteps. Another cause could be human compassion, or simple empathy, where someone observing another's suffering may have experienced a similar situation or may understand what the other person could be going through. Having felt another's suffering empathically, the observer would want to aid the person in reducing their suffering. A possible other explanation could be that the actor is offering to help because they would want to receive assistance if they were in need; in other words, the actor could be seen as giving aid with somewhat selfish intentions. As one Zimbabwean explained to me, someone may help another person just because they have the capability to share what they have when they have more than enough.

Whether the cultural norm of helping others is based on faith, empathy, selfish aspirations, or abundance of resources, there is a cultural norm in Zimbabwe to provide for others. People in Zimbabwe seem to appreciate, and possibly recognize the need in, sharing their gains amongst their community and family members. Perhaps when there is a lack of services provided by the market or public institutions, ordinary people offer what they have. Whatever the cause is, the result is clear; the mercy and humility of the good Samaritan lives on in the culture of

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Dear Church Family,



Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks for all of the love, prayers, rides, cards and ever present caring that you have given Eric and I over these 6+ months. Each Sunday we raise up our prayer concerns and in between we have our very helpful prayer chain going. I felt that you should know that those prayers, and all that goes with them, truly have made a difference in our lives.

This kind of illness, like so many, is difficult, draining, isolating and most of all, something that needs a lot of time and energy just to keep going day to day. ***There was never a time that I did not feel your love and concern.*** Our children were very supportive, and we feel blessed by their efforts and support, as well as that of our siblings close and far away. But our church family also provided so much sustaining love throughout this ordeal. Some of you were able to help with rides for which we were most grateful, especially Tom Stanley and Jean-Michel Galabrun, while many others sent cards (many times!) which Eric so appreciated.

Most importantly, you all gave of yourselves in the thoughts and prayers that we know were shared and expressed, even if we weren't present.

What I want to say is "THANK YOU". Your love, the love of this congregation, our church family, has helped in ways too numerous, too deep and too wondrous to fully express and for all of that we are most thankful.

Deborah Smiley and Eric Chamberlain

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Church Office maintains an electronic Church Directory. To be included in this directory please contact the Church Office at [603-522-3189](tel:603-522-3189) or fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address.

Electronic copies will be sent to All Church via email bi-monthly (Jan, March, May, July, September, November) A few hard copies of the directory will be made available and put in the Sanctuary quarterly (January, April, July, October).

Now would be a good time to request inclusion or update the existing contact information we have for you!

Thank you!

Celebrations!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Joe & Barbara Cawlina
21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham

TAKE ACTION AT OUR "ACTION TABLE!"

After worship every Sunday our new "Action Table" in the Fellowship Hall will present many Ministry opportunities and Volunteer opportunities!

It's your Church
Take Action and join in!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOURS

We all enjoy spending time with friends at Coffee Hour and thanks to Rachel White and Janet Twombly who, more often than not, make sure the coffee is on and served and things are cleaned up afterward. Please consider volunteering to take over one of the the ðLoaves and Fishesö coffee hours (every Sunday except the second Sunday of the month.) No special skills required, just the desire to lend a helping hand and contribute to the welcoming spirit in our church! Please talk to Rachel at the next coffee hour or call her at 520-2316.

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.	Jan F.
Tom and Barbara T.	Donald L.
George B.	George J.
Art W.	Sid S.
Mackenzie M.	Marcia H.
Marcia	Parker V.
Marsha A.	

AND FOR:

Our global neighbors in places where there is great strife.

Our servicemen and women

Our friends at Rufumiso Church, Zimbabwe
Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement
Communities in our area

IN LOVING MEMORY—WARREN BERG



It is with sadness that we inform you that Warren Berg, beloved spouse of Marge Berg and long-time church member, passed away on Sunday, August 21st.

We will celebrate Warren's life with a memorial service on Saturday, September 17th, to be followed by a reception prepared by the Parish Helpers.

Please hold Marge and the whole family in your prayers.

REVEREND THOMAS BARKER

We are sad to share with you this notice of the death of the Rev. Tom Barker. Tom served our church as Pastor from January, 1980 to December, 1983. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



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

HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 4. 10 a.m.

Wakefield Memorial Bell Choir at Sunday Service
Church School Registration

Wednesday, September 7, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Jam Making and Food Preservation Workshop

Thursday, September 8. 1 p.m.

Author Mj Pettengill ô Presentation and Book Signing, Refreshments
Public Welcome!

Tuesday, September 13, 12 Noon

New Bible Study series begins

Thursday, September 22

Our church's 231st Anniversary!