



# 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

PHONE: 603-522-3189

FAX: 603-522-3302

WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG

EMAIL: FCCWAKEFIELDNH@GMAIL.COM

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## ***THE PASTOR'S PAGE . . .***

### **WHY?**

As I write this reflection, the city of Boston is lock down, along with a number of the surrounding towns. None of us now know how the manhunt that is unfolding will turn out, though by the time you are reading this, we will know. Will the young man who is the remaining suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing be arrested peacefully, or will this end as badly and as tragically as it began? I am sure many of us have spent most of this day in prayer, praying that there will be no more harm done. As we hear reports of the shock of people who knew him and liked him, we add a new question to the growing list of questions that begin with "why." Why would someone as seemingly friendly and so involved in "normal" life, as this young man at this point seems to have been, do the terrible things that he has allegedly done?

If he lives through the process of apprehending him, he may have his distorted reasons, but the very deepest "why" is probably as unanswerable as are those large and universal questions to which it points: why do people commit evil acts? And why can't God seem to stop them when they are determined to carry them out?

These are *the* questions. Volumes have been written speculating, searching, reaching for the answers—answers which are ultimately unknowable. How, then, do we avoid despair, hopelessness, and helplessness when such disastrous events happen?

Maybe we change the question to one we *can* answer:

What are we going to do in response?

God has answered this question for us. In the ancient Christian creeds and in our denomination's Statement of Faith, we affirm that God came to us in the form of Jesus Christ, shared our common humanity, and set before us the supreme example of how we are meant to live. Jesus taught us that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being, and in conjunction with that, to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In Luke, when questioned as to just who is our neighbor, Jesus taught his listeners in the parable of the Good Samaritan that even our enemies are to be thought of as our neighbors.

The "why" of disaster and tragedy is impossible to answer. The "what do we do" is very clear. Love, love, love.

Let us bring all the light and love we can muster into our hurting world. God made us to do this.

Blessings and peace,  
Mary

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

**Whole-hearted Giving Stewardship Drive – Nearing Completion-** Yes, the annual giving drive is inching toward conclusion. What a blessing it is to be part of this process, to engage with members and friends about the “business” of our Faith -- giving back to God from the many blessings we have received. And from that giving back, we join together in stepping into the 228<sup>th</sup> year of our life as a settled congregation. There is much to do in the year ahead. Thank you, most sincerely, for your attention to the Whole Hearted Giving effort.

**Fundraising ... Conversations -** Here are some of the ideas that came from our conversations thus far ... if you would like to be involved, please contact me: ski/skate/winter duds sale in the fall; day of infant/youth/maternity clothing sale; Sunday dinners; church photos made into post cards; fundraising dinners at local restaurants; ongoing offering of items for sale through Craig’s List, Amazon and Ebay; encouraging increased community use of FCCW space; personal financial planning to benefit FCCW; sponsoring local garden and farm tour in June/July; community oriented speakers/presentations of local interest held at Opera House. Please contact Carol Lundgren with ideas and offers. Our 2013-14 budget anticipates \$6,000 in fundraising activity. 522-8235

**Circle 227 – Waiting for YOU!** Please check out the many new tags on the CIRCLE 227 board in Fellowship Hall. There you will find ideas of items your church needs. Most ideas are small, practical, easy to find and affordable! Toilet paper, trash bags, paper towels, soap pumps, copy paper, gift cards to Staples, Rite Aid, Hannaford – these are just some examples. Take a tag, won’t you please? Bless you!

**Liberty’s Education** – thank you so much to all in the congregation and church school who faithfully drop coins into the Liberty Education Fund in the jug in the Narthex. Thanks to these coins, a young orphan goes to school. What a blessing. Spare change won’t weigh you down if you drop it in the Liberty jug and it will definitely LIFT him up in mind and spirit!

*Carol Lundgren*

For further information about what you read in this newsletter, please email the editor at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) or call the church office. We’ll be happy to help!



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

## PARISH HELPERS LUNCHEON

The Parish Helpers will hold their Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers on May 9 at the Knotty Pine Restaurant on Pine River Pond Road at 12 noon. If you haven’t already signed up, please call Ginny Schweitzer at 522-9593. As always, all women of the church and community are welcome at the Parish Helpers!

## SCAMP COMING SOON

SCAMP show is coming soon. "The Choice, A Duel of the Decades" will be presented at the opera house on the following dates: Sneak preview May 10th at 7:30; May 17th and 18th at 7:30, and then May 19th at 4:30. Tickets are \$4 and \$5, Reservations: 244-9352.

## Z TEAM PANCAKE BREAKFAST – SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH

Mark your calendar to enjoy some delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee cake, muffins, juice and hot beverages. Adults \$7, Children \$5, Family meal deal (2 adults and 2 kids) \$20, and children under 3 eat free! Pancakes will be served from 7:30 – 10:00 a.m. Makes a nice way to treat the men in your life on the Saturday before Father’s Day!

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Wakefield Food Pantry is gearing up for the Community Garden. Check out their website at <http://greaterwakefieldchamber.com/wakefieldfoodpantry/> for information regarding volunteering, donations, wish lists etc. We need people right now to help design the garden. Please see Lyn Shepard for more information. Call 603-345-1805 or email [lyn.1.shepard@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.1.shepard@gmail.com).

## POTLUCK FUNDRAISER COMING IN JUNE

The first potluck of the summer season will be held at the beginning of June. This potluck will be a "2 4" dinner. You get 2 bowls of Macaroni and Cheese or Shepherds Pie or one of each. Also on the menu will be salad, rolls and, of course, dessert. I am looking for a crew of folks to set up, serve, clean up, bake desserts, and bake their favorite Mac ‘n cheese or Shepherds Pie recipe to donate to the dinner. Please see Lyn Shepard for details. Or call 603-345-1805 or [lyn.1.shepard@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.1.shepard@gmail.com).

*Lyn Shepard*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Income:	\$105,120.01
Expenditures:	<u>\$105,750.12</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (630.11)

Restricted Funds balance as of March 31, 2013: \$2,183.34

The net income/loss number continues to bump up and down. It is not a surprise when income lags expenses at the end of March. Please do not fret. We still have a positive cash flow in our checking account. This positive cash flow allows us to pay all the bills as they come in. In the not too distant past, bills were often juggled about and some put aside until the next Sunday collection or some fund raising event provided the resources. So actually our financial picture is improving. On a very happy note, \$421 was collected for One Great Hour of Sharing in March.

Early each month the treasurer's report is posted in the narthex and distributed by email to all ministry coordinators and officers. The report includes the latest year-to-date numbers broken out by ministry and expense as well as the current fiscal year budget so you can see how we are doing. Let me know if you would like to be added to the distribution list by contacting me at the address given below.

*Janice Brejwo, Treasurer*  
[jbrejwo@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbrejwo@roadrunner.com)

## LIBRARY NEWS

At the library, we have some new books on the shelves. "Bad Girls of the Bible" comes highly recommended, and we would love a review. There are also some books donated by George Harvey that you may find of interest. Please take a moment at the next coffee hour to browse. There are also new or gently used books for kids and teens.

While we love to see lots of cards in the box (which means books are out), we also love to get them back for others to enjoy. If you have recently received a reminder of an overdue book, please try to find it and return it to us. Thanks, we appreciate it.

*Nancy Dee and Mary Beth Cook*

## CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS!

We need cookies and volunteers to assist in the Pride Day Cookie Walk to be held on Saturday, May 18th. Please let me know if you can bake something yummy... all varieties are welcome... and/or can help with morning set up, assisting during the day, or clean up. Remember that this is a church fundraiser and your assistance is greatly appreciated!

*Connie (340-2116)*

## PRIDE DAY NEEDS YOU, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

Please help in any way that you can. Can you think of a new way to show our community who we are and what we do? Do you have ideas about displaying? Can you help work the booths? Can you help plan or participate with the parade entry? Do you have a tent? Can you buy some necessary supplies? There is so much to do and everyone is welcome to assist. Please contact the church office or Margie Galabrun with your ideas and offers of help.

## DZIKA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The "Put on Your Sneakers for Dzika" wacky decathlon was a great success, raising \$2,104.00 to renovate Dzika Primary School. You may remember that we started this project with memorial contributions in honor of Betty Crowe and Brian Schwartz, continued with memorial contributions given in honor of Peg Harvey, and supplemented by three successful "decathlons" – the first held at St. Anselm's College and the last two at Spaulding High School. We had a team of Rotary Club members, a sorority from Plymouth State University, Grace Community Church youth group, four Spaulding student teams, two competitive, fun Spaulding teacher teams, a highly enthusiastic family and friends team, and our own Z Team. (And Pastor Mary was a FABULOUS addition to our team!) Thank you to all who assisted and supported this effort



## NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

It is the custom in Zimbabwe for each group within the UCCZ to enjoy an AGM – an Annual General Meeting. The Women’s Ruwadzano is held in August and more than 5,000 women are excited to attend a weekend filled with singing, dancing, worship, and inspirational preaching. The Christian Youth Fellowship AGM is also held in August and it is common to have 2,000 – 3,000 gather. (Neither group ever seems to sleep!) The Men’s Volunteers have their weekend and earlier this month the youngest members of the church – The Sunday School – had their AGM! This is held in regional gatherings for the little ones while the others are held nationally. Can you imagine? Hundreds and hundreds of children travel without their parents but with a youth leader and gather for games, fellowship, music and Bible stories. (See the picture of kids enjoying a sack race.) I am reminded that Rev. Matuvhunye said the biggest difference between the UCC and the UCCZ is that their largest group at worship is the children. It will be interesting to learn how they do this!



Celebration! Rev. A.J Mhururu is getting married on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This proud father of four and even prouder grandfather to three has been widowed since 2007. The bride to be is Gamuchirai Taremba, and as is the custom, all members throughout the UCCZ (and Wakefield!) have been invited to the wedding.

*Connie Littlefield*

*Ed. Note: For more information and photos of Rev. Mhururu, go to the church website to view a photo album sent to us by his son, Owen. More to come in next issue of Steeple Views.*

## PARISH HELPERS QUILT RAFFLE

Tickets will soon be available for the annual Parish Helpers Quilt Raffle. This year’s offering is a beautiful maxi-queen size quilt. Look for photos in the next Steeple Views or online on our website or Facebook page. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place at the church fair in November—just in time to make someone a wonderful Christmas gift!

### **JUNE 23: THIRD ANNUAL MINISTRY FAIR & ANNUAL MEETING**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a day of celebration and planning. On June 23 our worship service will focus on celebrating the work and accomplishments of all our ministries. Everyone will be invited to learn about the ministry teams and choose those they will serve during the coming year.

A Pot Luck lunch will be shared before the Annual Meeting convenes. Watch for more information which will be forthcoming on the church website, weekly church bulletins, the next Steeple Views and emails.

### **BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF OUR EVOLVING CHURCH STRUCTURE**

On April 13, the Calling and Discernment Team facilitated a special gathering to discuss Spiritual Gifts, Church Mission and Vision, and our formative church structure. Donna & George Ackerman hosted this event in their home. Nineteen people participated in a rich conversation about the benefits of our organization, the challenges of good communication and ways we can continue to develop as a priesthood of all believers, practicing our gifts within and for the church community. The Calling & Discernment Team will use the information from this conversation in recommending process and changes in organization.

We will hold our third Ministry Fair on June 23 and the Church Officers and Ministry Coordinators will take an active role in assisting people in choosing the best Ministry fit for their spiritual gifts.

Please refer your questions and comments to the Calling and Discernment Team members: Mary James, Donna Ackerman, George Ackerman and Jan Fairchild.

***To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit  
for the common good.  
1 Corinthians 12:7***

*Jan Fairchild*



## Take Action on Climate Change!

In 2007, delegates of the 26th General Synod passed a resolution on climate change that called the global warming crisis "one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of God's precious planet earth." This resolution called on all of us in the United Church of Christ to urge our national government leaders "to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory measures that reduce the absolute amount of greenhouse gas emissions." The resolution also urged state and local governments to develop renewable-energy transportation systems and take other steps to create a more sustainable infrastructure.



**As we join together as a denomination to care for creation through the Mission 4/1 Earth Campaign, please take a moment to send a letter to Congress and urge them to address climate change seriously as a moral imperative for change.**

Scripture compels us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation. For plants and animals, global warming means that many will be unable to adjust to the changing climate and will become extinct, thus reducing the diversity and beauty of God's great earth. The impact on human life is equally severe. Our changing climate will impact our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters the hardest. Many will lose their homes, crops, and livelihoods to increasingly volatile weather and rising seas.

**As individual people of faith, we can power down our households and green up our communities, but 2013 will be the year when shouting out to our lawmakers can have its greatest impact. Act now!**



*(Ed. Note: Online readers can click on the "Take Action" link to be directed to a page to send your letter electronically.)*

# Celebrations!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Sarah Connell      | 14 Scott Frothingham    |
| 5 Emma Dolbear       | 17 George Ackerman Jr.  |
| 7 Jane Ostrye        | 17 Bridgette Gehring    |
| 8 Scott Mercer       | 18 Lance MacLean        |
| 9 Maurice Hatch      | 19 Cindy Eggleston      |
| 10 Sophia Moran      | 21 Mim Sargent          |
| 11 Sharon Baldwin    | 22 Peg Bridges          |
| 11 Patricia Martin   | 23 Marc Galabrun        |
| 11 Wayne Robinson    | 23 Lynn Shaffer         |
| 13 Nicholas Gatchell | 29 Scott Twombly        |
| 13 Dot Roberts       | 31 Brittany Frothingham |
| 14 Elizabeth Fogg    |                         |

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Sid & Ginny Silcocks (1948)
- 13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau
- 18 David & Gisela Haag
- 24 Chip & Karen Hagy
- 29 Rob & Kelly Druge
- 31 Dick & Harriet Wilson

## FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Connie B. | Tom and Barbara T. |
| Paul T.   | George B.          |
| Dot R.    | Art W.             |
| Jo W.     | Cathy K.           |
| Julia W.  | Mackenzie M.       |

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

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE



June 2 —Conference Minister Gary Shulte visits as Guest Preacher and special Coffee Hour

June 15—Z Team Pancake Breakfast

June 23—Ministry Fair and Annual Meeting

## MEMORIAL SERVICE



A Memorial Service will be held for Vivian Chick, who passed away on March 10, at our church on Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m. A reception hosted by the Parish Helpers will follow.

## NEW MEMBER SESSION

A new member information session will be held after the worship service on **Sunday, May 19**. Refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in becoming a member is encouraged to attend!

## THANK YOU

From Rachel Mollica on behalf of little MacKenzie, for whom the Congregation sent a card.

“We came home yesterday to a nice surprise package. There was a package for McKenzie from your church. There was a coloring book, some crayons, stickers and chocolate which are all things she loves. But the most touching was a letter and a handmade card from the congregation with words of prayer and encouragement. She loved it. Thank you and your church for praying and thinking of us.

*Love, Rachel, Travis, McKenzie and TJ*

# MAY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Diaconate Meeting 4:30 p.m.	2 Scrabble 10 a.m.. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	3	4
5 Worship and Holy Communion Church School— 10 a.m.	6 Choir 6 p.m.	7 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	8	9 <b>ASCENSION DAY</b> Parish Helpers 12 p.m. Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed —7 p.m.	10	11 Memorial Service For Vivian Chick 11 a.m.
12 Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m.	13 Choir 6 p.m.	14 Bible Study 12 noon	15 Monthly Clergy Luncheon PPP—12 noon	16 Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed —7 p.m.	17	18 Wakefield Pride Day
19 <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. New Member Info Sesion	20 Choir 6 p.m.	21 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	22	23 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed —7 p.m.	24	25
26 <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m.	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Choir 6 p.m.	28	29	30 Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed —7 p.m.	31	



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



MISSION 4/ 1  
EARTH  
CONTINUES TILL  
PENTECOST  
MAY 19

## MAY LECTIONARY

### May 5—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

### May 12—Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

### May 19—Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

### May 26—Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15