

# BEYOND THE GREEN DOORS

The newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Peterborough, NH  
January-February 2011

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light.” –Ephesians 5:8

Dear Christian Friends,

As the days ahead begin to take on more light each day, I delight in the thought that soon there will be less darkness and more sunshine to remind us that springtime is not that far off. Perhaps you may be thinking that I am being a little too optimistic. So let me talk about the kind of light that we do not have to wait weeks nor months nor years to experience.

There is so much that was written in the Bible about light. You may recall that the Prophet Isaiah wrote these words, “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light;....” (Isaiah 9:2) This was written seven hundred years before the birth of Christ. Thus, the fulfillment of this prophecy came with the birth of the Christ child. Years later, when Jesus was teaching His disciples and the multitudes, He said to them, “ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

Then in the Gospel of John, “the beloved disciple” of Christ, wrote these words, “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5) In the same gospel, Jesus spoke these words, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Recently, a friend shared with me these words that I want to share with you. Upon reflecting on the following quote written by Nelson Mandela, I thought of the beatitudes our Lord taught to his disciples and the crowd on the mountain. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify you Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

## **Let Your Light Shine**

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are  
powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant,  
gorgeous, talented and fabulous?”

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that  
other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God  
that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously  
give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others.”

**Nelson Mandela**

In this new year of 2011, may your light shine before people, bringing a message of hope and peace to a darkened world.

*Pastor Betty*

## **Transferred to the Church Triumphant**

**Eleanor (Ellie) Strand**

September 3, 1917 - December 24, 2010

### **January Birthdays**

3	Jack Koester	14	Janet Mack Lewis
6	Keith Luscombe	18	Charlie Munroe
	Jessica Nerz		Kristel Gatcombe
8	Marty Stanton	20	Dick Dunning
9	Rob Morris	22	Gloria Lodge
12	Michael Robidoux	29	Pat Lawn

### **January Anniversaries**

3	Ken and Charlene Schultz
	Amanda and Anthony Dinino

### **February Birthdays**

6	Nancy Luscombe	14	George Eastman
9	Charlene Schultz	20	Prisiclla Crowe
	Katy Luscombe	26	Matt Keenana
13	Fern Eastman		Ryan Lawn
	28	Lillian Belletete	

### **February Anniversaries**

14	Tammy and Charlie Munroe
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If your birthday or anniversary does not appear when it should please contact Nancy Luscombe.

**AdCouncil meeting**  
**January 17, 7:00 p.m.**

### **If you use offering envelopes**

There are "fifth Sunday" envelopes in the back of the box, for January, May, and July.

No numbers have been assigned so if you wish your offering to be tracked, please be sure to put your name on the envelope.

## **United Methodist Women**

The United Methodist Women will not meet during  
January and February.  
Starting in March we will begin meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the  
church.

**Adult Fellowship  
presents**

**The Sweetheart Dinner**  
February 5th

**Watch for more information in the bulletin.**

*No meeting in January.*

**Attention Committee Chairs...**  
**Annual reports are due in the church office by Monday,**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **Nichols Road Parsonage Update**

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Parsonage has been sold  
to a nice young couple with two young children. Papers were passed on Thursday, Dec. 23rd.

The money has been deposited and a special account  
will be set up in compliance with the United Methodist Discipline.

### **Pastoral Care Team Mission Statement**

To assist the pastor through visitation and other contacts with church and community individuals,  
in order to provide prayer and companionship, and any other pastoral care service that may be  
needed and asked for by that individual or other person(s) living in that household.

Reports will be made to either the pastor or the designated representative of the pastor.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

*Matthew 25:40*

Please call Lillian Snellman or Phyllis Porter at 924-0818 if you are in need of the Pastoral Care  
Team services.

## The Laity Corner

### ***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

from

Arnie Johnson, Lay Leader

***“Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’” (Rev. 21:5 (NKJV))***

I suppose that January of a new year is a time of reflection, a time of seeing where we've been and where we might go in the upcoming year and further into the future. It's also a time that some people might wish that last year could be forgotten and start afresh in the new year. To those people I might ask, "If things were going so badly last year, why did you wait until January to make changes?" Starting afresh can happen at any time!

How do we know that we can start afresh, begin anew, at any time? Scripture tells us in 2 Cor 5:17 (NKJV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* The scripture does not tell us we need to wait for January to make it happen, it tells us that if we are in Christ, we are new creations!

As we continue in this new year, let us all remember that we need to strive to be God-centered in our lives. If we do that, all good things will fall into place. *“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”* Then He who sat on the throne said, *‘Behold, I make all things new.’*” Rev 21:4-5 (NKJV)

I complete this Laity Corner with a few words, the chorus, of a song that my wife and I wrote reflecting on Rev. 21:5. Believe and become new!

*Behold God is making all things new,  
All Things New, All Things New.  
Divine Love is always with you,  
Always with you.*

May God bless you in 2011 as you once again become new in Christ!

## **Souper Bowl Sunday February 6**

This will kick off the beginning of **Heifer Project** month.  
The missions committee will be selling soup for your Super Bowl party.  
There will be hamburger soup and vegetarian minestrone.  
A third choice has not been decided on yet.  
Orders will be taken Sundays, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>  
for pick up after church on Sunday, February 5.  
(Prices will be available at time of order.)

In addition to Souper Bowl Sunday, there will be a collection jar for loose change for Heifer Project each Sunday during the month of February.

**Special Offering Sunday  
January 16, 2011**

**Human Relations Day**

Your gifts to Human Relations Day provide avenues of restored relationship through ministries like:

**Redemption Kids,**  
a Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program;  
**Community Developers,**  
self-improvement programs;  
**United Methodist Voluntary Services,**  
community advocacy that challenges oppression and injustice

**Give as you are prayerfully led.  
Your gift makes a world of difference.**

**Recycling Helps in Mission**

**Campbell's Labels**

Keep your Campbell's UPCs coming. They are still being sent to the Cooper Community Center in Roxbury, MA, a United Methodist Mission Project. They are redeemed with Campbell for school supplies, among other items necessary for their programs.

**Aluminum Can Tabs**

Bring in your aluminum can tabs from soda cans, soup cans, etc. (Be careful though because some of the cat food cans are not aluminum, check them with a magnet to be sure. Aluminum will not stick.) These get delivered to the Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, MA. With the proceeds from their sale they are able to purchase major equipment for the hospital.

For more information on either of these projects see the bulletin boards in the Marion Bagley Memorial Fellowship Hall or ask Nancy Luscombe.

## **Cleaning for a Reason**

Fighting cancer is difficult enough, but living with it is even tougher - and that's where the Cleaning for A Reason Foundation steps in. This nonprofit offers free professional housecleaning, and maid services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment for cancer - **any type of cancer**.

There are 5 participating services in NH, the closest being in Nashua and Concord. If you currently use a professional house cleaning service to clean your home, please call and ask them if they've heard of the Cleaning For A Reason Foundation. Every day, they recruit a new maid service to join our program and become Partners with a heart and soul for house cleaning.

Check it out at [www.cleaningforareason.org](http://www.cleaningforareason.org)

## **Coffee Hour**

Do you enjoy the time of food and fellowship  
following the Sunday service?

Could you take a turn hosting?

It's simple.

Come a little early, set up the coffee pot,  
put out a few goodies (homemade or store bought).

Spend a few minutes cleaning up after.

If we each take a turn or two, we could have goodies year round.

**Sign up for your turn, on the bulletin board by the kitchen window**