

BEYOND THE GREEN DOORS

The newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Peterborough, NH
March-April 2011

*Love bears all things,
Believes all things,
Hopes all things,
Endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13:7*

Dear Christian Friends,

I think that we all need to be reminded from time to time how much God loves each of us. I once read these words, if we were the only one on this earth, God's unconditional love, love by choice and by an act of will the Lord Jesus would give His life for you so that you would know the forgiveness of your sins and the promise of eternal life. In addition to these promises, one can know and experience the personal transforming love of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a love that is called "agape." A word to which Christianity gave new meaning. Outside of the New Testament, it rarely existed in Greek manuscripts of the period.

"Agape denotes an undefeatable benevolence and unconquered goodwill that always seeks the highest good of other people, no matter what they do." It is a self-giving love that gives freely without asking anything in return. Agape is a love by choice. In the Gospel of John he writes these words that speak of the ultimate love of our Heavenly Father "For God so loved the whole world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but through Him the world might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

As we enter into what we called the Lenten season, may you find some quiet time to reflect on the tremendous love that God has shown us through the life and death of His one and only begotten son, Jesus Christ. God is not so removed from us that He doesn't care for us or what is going on around us. He came to be with us through His Son and promised that He would always be there with us. He would not leave us as orphans after the death and the resurrection of His Son, but He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to be with us forever to comfort us, teach us, guide us and remind us of the many promises of our Heavenly Father. May the words from the hymn O How He Loves You and Me speak to the depth of your soul and spirit as we prepare for the Lenten and Easter season:

"O how He loves you and me, O how He loves you and me!
He gave his life. What more could He give?
O how He loves you, O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

Jesus to Calvary did go; his love for sinner to show,
what he did there brought hope from despair.
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how he loves you and me!"

Grace and Peace from Pastor Betty

What does it mean to be United Methodist?

We are offering a 5-week course beginning Sunday, March 6th from 11:15-12:00 noon. A short video will be shown each week beginning with Wesleyan Heritage and ending with "How do United Methodists 'do church'?" A discussion period will follow the video. This is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your knowledge of Methodism. For those thinking of joining the church, it's a great way to have your questions discussed.

Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, or call Barb MacInnes at 924-1952.

**Free Tax Preparation Assistance
At the River Center
Call 924-6800**

United Methodist Women

Monday, April 11, 7:00 pm
at the church

Nancy Luscombe will be doing the program
"Finding Peace Through Action"
from the 2011 UMW Program Book

All women are encouraged to attend.

Adult Fellowship Pot Luck Suppers

**Saturday, March 5, 6:00 pm
Game Night**

Bring a game you enjoy playing, or join the group playing BINGO.
Lots of fun for everyone!

**Saturday, April 2, 6:00 pm
Program to be announced**

**Sign up in the fellowship hall or
call Barb and Jim MacInnes at 924-1952.**

Daylight Savings Time
begins
Sunday, March 13
Set your clocks one hour ahead

March Birthdays

1	Ron LaRoche	18	Glynn Wells
9	Clara Morland Rush	20	Phyllis Porter
16	Nathan Luscombe	23	Ken Schultz
	Laura Nerz	25	Karen Zemken
	Nan McCurdy (missionary)		

March Anniversary

26 Arnie and Mary Johnson

ROAST BEEF SUPPER

Saturday, April 30

5:00 – 7:00 PM

\$10 Adults

\$5 Children under 12

Roast beef, smashed potatoes and gravy,
green bean casserole, coleslaw,
yellow cake with lemon or chocolate sauce

April Birthdays

5	Bobby Venning	19	Andy Morgan
6	Marion Wilcox	20	Steve Gatcombe
	Courtney Dunning	22	Andy Lawn
11	Pat Woodward	26	Ellen Dunbar
14	Arnie Johnson	27	Anthony Dinino
18	Karen Ravndal-Emery	28	Staci Keenan

April Anniversaries

14 Andy and Pat Lawn
24 Jim and Barb MacInnes
30 Christine and Greg Robidoux

Tax Payers' Hymn – "I Surrender All"
Politician's Hymn – "Standing on the Promises"

Finance

As of February 20 we are at 15.4% of the year
and have received 17% of our pledges.
We We have received a total of \$11,126 (14%) of the
anticipated income.

The Annual Yard sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21,
but
we need a volunteer to be the chairperson.

If you are willing, please contact Ken Schultz, Finance Chair
or Phyllis Porter, AdCouncil chair.

This is one of our biggest fund raisers.

The Laity Corner

As I write this message, we are fast approaching Lent, a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of the Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not we prepare for Easter. However, without our hearts and lives being ready, we may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with our brothers and sisters, we should commit ourselves to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ.

The Peterborough United Methodist Church will be observing Lent with special services starting with Ash Wednesday, March 9. Other special observations are Palm Sunday, April 17; Maundy Thursday, April 21; Good Friday, April 22; and Easter, April 24. Information for each of these services has been prepared by our Worship Committee and is provided on the church web site, www.peterboroughumc.org and elsewhere in this newsletter . Please come and join us with our special Lenten celebrations of the times in Jesus' life leading up to His physical death on the cross and His glorious resurrection!

May God bless all of us as we enter into this time of reflection of Jesus' life and our lives, and the re-dedication of ourselves to Christian life.

Arnie Johnson, Lay Leader

Sponsor A Child

**The Missions Committee is again asking for contributions
toward the support of "our child."**

Arun (ah-roon) Hanumanthu was born June 18, 2004. He is now an orphan staying at the Methodist Boarding Home for Boys and Girls in Andhara Pradesh, India. He sends his thanks for our support.

It costs \$25/month to provide Arun with room and board and an education. We also usually send an extra \$20 for Christmas and \$10 for his birthday, making the total we are looking for \$330. If you feel called to this project please contribute any amount you feel you can afford. Checks should be made out to the church and clearly marked "Sponsor a Child." Contributions should be in by the end of April, please.

UMC Special Offering Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, April 3, 2011



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of the six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. OGHS enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering.

UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. OGHS gifts underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business," meaning that every penny of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project—not on office administrative costs. This enables UMCOR to respond to natural or human made disasters.

The OGHS offering makes ministries available in the United States and across the globe. In 81 countries in all, you assure the United Methodist Church is in the lead to alleviate suffering through OGHS.

Lenten and Easter Services at Peterborough United Methodist Church Please join us!

Ash Wednesday, March 9th, 7 pm: Ash Wednesday begins the journey of Lent, which leads us to the promise of resurrection. Lent is about refocusing our true identity and reclaiming our purpose as God's agents for change and preparing for the proclamation of the Good News of God's Kingdom.

Palm Sunday, April 17th, 10 am: Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and is an opportunity for Christians to prepare their hearts for the sacrifice of Christ's Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

Maundy Thursday, April 21st, 7 pm: Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus. We re-live Christ's last prayers and his instructions to all who would follow him.

Good Friday, April 22nd, 12 Noon: On Good Friday, we take the time to reflect and meditate as we listen anew to the last words of Christ from the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 24th, 10 am: He is Risen! Jesus' resurrection from the dead is celebrated. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, all Christian believers are also assured that we too will rise from the dead and ascend into Heaven. We worship a resurrected and living Lord who stands among us even now, ready to answer every prayer and bring comfort in all the seasons of our lives. This miracle of renewed life and the mystery of the empty tomb gives all Christians hope, faith and joy and calls us to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, life over death, and justice over falsehood.

Easter Altar

Each Easter our altar is decorated with lilies bought by members of our congregation in honor or in memory of friends and family. If you would like to contribute a lily or other flowering plant for the altar this Easter, please let the Worship Committee know by completing this form and returning it to either Karen Keenan or Ann Hampson by **April 3, 2011**.

Your name _____

___ I would like to add color to the altar by purchasing my own tulip, daffodil, etc.
(Please have the plant at the church by
10 AM on Saturday, April 23rd)

OR

___ I would like the worship committee to order ___ lilies at \$12.00 each. **Please make checks payable to Woodman's Florist.**

For the bulletin, please list below the dedication information for each flower, whether you wish to order or will be bringing you own.

of flowers circle one:

_____ in honor / memory of _____

_____ in honor / memory of _____

Please remember to take your flowers home with you after the Easter service.