

BEYOND THE GREEN DOORS

The newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Peterborough, NH
for November and December 2010

Dear Christian Friends,

I can't believe that it's time to get ready for both our Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Recently, I went into our local discount store and saw the rows of Christmas items already on display, and said to myself, "It's too soon to be thinking about Thanksgiving, let alone Christmas." But, before we know it, these two Holidays will be here to be celebrated. And how will we choose to celebrate these two holidays? The choice can be from a Christian or a secular perspective.

I choose to look at the celebration of Thanksgiving from a Christian stance, as did the Plymouth Pilgrims in 1621. They had suffered the loss of more than half their people within their first winter of arriving in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were not prepared for the harsh winter, the lack of proper housing and the diseases that would ravish their small colony. Out of a hundred-some persons, a scarce 50 remained. There is much more to the story of their hardships of that first year we need to remember, lest we forget to give thanks to those who came to the new world seeking religious freedom and liberty. Or as the first pilgrims wrote: "Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the Advancement of the Christian Faith...those present solemnly and mutually...combine ourselves together for our better ordering and preservation;"- Mayflower Compact, November 11, 1620.

Throughout the account of that first year of the new arrivals, prayer and joyous thanks to the Lord played a significant role in their lives and future. When harvest time of the fall of 1621 arrived, they gathered together with many Indians who had befriended them and for three days they entertained and feasted with joy. Edward Winslow's letter of December of 1621 written to a friend in England described this First Thanksgiving. May the words From a letter of Their Sponsors give thought for thanksgiving to God in remembering their sacrifices: "Let it not be grievous unto you that you have been instruments to break the ice for others who come after with less difficulty; the honor shall be yours to the world's end."

Shifting to the Christmas holiday, may I share briefly with you that I recently happened to see on QVC television some of the Christmas items and decorations that were being advertised. The theme of the evening was, "The Joy of Christmas." I could not help but think that the true joy of Christmas is not about Christmas ornaments, decorative candles for the mantel or the windows, and very expensive music boxes. The true joy of Christmas is wrapped up in the Christmas carol, "Joy to the World." The first words of this beautiful carol are:

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let the earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,....
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!"

As we approach this sacred season of celebration of two holy days, let us remember that both the pilgrims and the Holy Family were able to experience joy not because of their circumstances, but because of the faithfulness of God. Even if we find ourselves challenged in these hard times by the secular demands of the holiday season, we too can stand in joy if we remember that our God still brings Good News of great joy! Or as the psalmist says, "... let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you (Psalms 5:11).

May the Joy of this sacred season fill the minds and hearts of you and your loved ones!

Shalom, Pastor Betty

Christmas Poinsettia's

Each Christmas Season, our altar is decorated with poinsettia's bought by members of our congregation in honor or in memory of friends and family. If you would like to contribute a poinsettia for the altar this year, please let the Worship Committee know by completing this form and returning it to either Karen Keenan or Ann Hampson by December 5, 2010.

Your name _____

Please check one:

_____ I will purchase my own poinsettia and have it to the church by Saturday December 18th.

_____ I would like the worship committee to order _____ poinsettias at \$12.00 per plant. **Please make checks payable to Woodman's Florist and include with your order.**

For the bulletin, please list the dedication information for each poinsettia below:

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

*You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service
or after the Sunday service on Dec. 26.*

Greening of the Church

Saturday, November 27

10:00 AM

All are Invited!

Holiday Stroll

The Holiday Stroll will be held on November 20th. This year we're very excited that the Stroll will include a luncheon again.

We are hoping to enlist some enthusiastic volunteers to help make this fundraiser a huge success. Please set aside new or used, but still good, Holiday items that you would like to donate. If anyone has any Holiday Craft items to donate those would certainly be appreciated.

Last year the food table was a huge success, and we are hoping that we can achieve the same results this year. Pies, cookies, soups, stews, beans, special cakes and any food items that you can make will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a meeting immediately following church on Nov. 7 for those interested in helping.

We will be making our famous apple pies on Saturday morning, November 13th. See Pat Woodward if you would like to help. We will be making chocolate covered cherries at 11:00 Thursday morning, November 4th. See Nancy Luscombe if you can help.

The schedule for the stroll is as follows:

Drop off of donations: November 17-19th

Food drop off: Friday 4:00 – 7:00 PM or Saturday before 9:00 AM

Set up: Wednesday, November 17th 7:00-9:00

Thursday, November 18th 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Friday, November 19th 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

Fair: Saturday, November 20th, 9:30 – 2:00 PM, Cleanup 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Annual Charge Conference

Sunday, December 5, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch to be served between church and the meeting

**The Rev. Dr. David Abbott, District Superintendent,
presiding**

All members are urged to attend

The Laity Corner

Fall has arrived with all of God's colors displayed to us wherever we go when we look at the leaves on the trees – and on the ground! I just love the beautiful leaves on the trees, but when I start seeing them on the ground in my yard and think about the work I have to do to clean them up, I start having other thoughts! But then, I start thinking about how the trees came into being and how I came into being, and my attitude completely changes! And, I know that eventually God will renew the leaves on the trees and the flowers in the ground, and we will be blessed by that awesome power that our God has!

We at the Peterborough UMC have been blessed in so many ways during the month of October. We were able to attend/participate in the Laity Sunday Service as well as listen to several wonderful messages provided by members of the church. And, don't we have an awesome pastor, choir, choir director, and organist/pianist? We are truly blessed!

The Church also supported and encouraged people to attend the Lay Speaking course, "Let's Go Preach," hosted by the Church on Oct. 9 & 23. I am very happy to report that 15 people registered and attended this course ably taught by our own Pastor Betty and Rev. Dr. Mary Johnson. Saturday, October 23, brought us 16 messages/sermons varying in length from 8 to 15 minutes, 15 messages from students and 1 from our NH District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. David Abbott, who was invited to participate in a worship/communion service, have lunch with the students and instructors, and listen to some of the messages. We who attended were truly blessed by the words from God and the enthusiasm shown by all! And, all of the students were very enthused and wanted to know when we would be offering more classes! At this time, our best guess is probably April/May 2011 timeframe. If you have any choices of Lay Speaking Advanced Classes that you would like to see offered, besides the Basic Lay Speaking Class, please let Pastor Betty, Rev. Mary, or me know. Also, for any of our presently qualified Lay Speakers, if you have a class that you would like to teach, please let us know. From all that's been happening and will be happening in our Church in the future, I know that the saying that we hear often, but maybe not often enough, is true – "God is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God is Good!"

May God's blessings go out to you and be with you, your families, and loved ones as we enter our holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let us truly remember to give thanks to our God for the blessings we have received and for the Christ Child who came to us on Christmas Day! Let us insure that we keep Christ in Christmas Day!

Arnie Johnson, Lay Leader

**Remember to return your 2011 pledge
by
December 1.**

November Birthdays

2	Ann Hampson	13	Celia Belletete
	Eric Venning	14	Dave Luscombe
3	Kay Wreck	16	Bruce Wenblad
8	Cynthia Faust		Chris Lawn
11	John Faust	22	Ron Crowe
	29		David Stanton

November Anniversaries

25 Bob and Dean Johnson

Changes for the Directory

Carol Munroe
5717 Pearldrop Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89107
Cmunroe43@gmail.com
03452
603-831-3183

Ellie Strand
329 Rivermead
924-0033 x 329

Martha Graham
Riverview Apts
Building 2, Apt 20
Peterborough, NH

December Birthdays

4	Dwight Williams	17	Michael Crowe
6	Dean Johnson	18	William Robidoux
7	Patricia LaRoche	22	Steve Venning
12	Nancy Belletete		Camille Belletete
	Greg Nerz		Jacob Munroe
16	David Belletete		Nicky Dinino
	28		Scott Keenan

December Anniversaries

21 Pat and Glynn Wells
31 Ed and Ann Hampson

17th Annual Holiday Stroll

Saturday, November 20

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fair Trade Products

from SERRV

New to You Christmas Items

recycled Christmas

The Christmas Shop

handcrafted items, new Christmas decorations
including plant materials and wreaths

Grandma's Goodies

pies, breads, cookies, candies, soups to go

It's your homemade goodies that make this booth such a success.

Chocolate Fountain

dip your own fruits and treats

Luncheon

Soups, breads, and desserts

Chocolate Covered Cherry making –

Thursday, Nov. 4, 11:00 a.m. at church

Apple Pie making –Saturday, Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m. at church

Donations for the Christmas Shop and used Christmas items should arrive at church no later than noon on Friday. Baked goods may arrive on Friday and should arrive no later than 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Ask how you can help!

Gail and Ernie Hoffmann, chairpersons

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th
7:00 p.m.

“Journey to Bethlehem”
by Carole I. Adams

Adult Fellowship Pot-luck Suppers

Nov. 6 at 6:00 PM

“Keeping Fit”

presentation by Greg Nerz, a physical therapist,
Everyone welcome, so come and hear how you can 'stay fit'.
Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Dec. 4th, at 6:00 PM

Annual Christmas Party

Come celebrate the Christmas season together
with a Yankee Swap (something unisex under \$5.00),
sing-a-long, delicious food, and the best of fellowship.
Everyone welcome – you just have to sign up!

United Methodist Women

No UMW meeting in Nov. because we'll all be working on the Holiday Stroll.

Dec. 15th the UMW will meet at Pastor Betty's house for our annual
cookie party and Christmas celebration. We will fill the Gift Bags for
the Antrim Girls' Shelter, and share in fellowship.

All women of the Church are cordially invited to join us!

For a ride, please call Barb MacInnes, 924-1952.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, Nov. 7 at 2:00AM

Remember to set you clocks back 1 hour
Before you go to bed Saturday night, Nov. 6

Special Offering **Sunday, November 28th**

The United Methodist Student Day offerings support deserving United Methodist students who are striving for success in their education and serving their communities. United Methodist scholarships and the student loan fund are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry . Your support contributes to a long history of United Methodists committed to education. The money given on **United Methodist Student Day** makes a crucial investment in the future of The United Methodist Church.

Scott Keenan is a current recipient and Bobby Venning, Nate Luscombe and Courtney Dunning were previous recipients of scholarships from the NE Conference portion of the this fund.

Please give generously.
Your gift makes a world of difference

Christmas for The New Life Home

The Missions Committee has chosen the New Life Home as our Christmas mission. Again this year we will be giving Christmas gifts to the residents. The list has already arrived and the requests are posted on the bulletin board. There are nine women and twelve children (including 2 sets of twins) currently at New Life. You may also give a gift to the home such as toilet tissue, paper towels, or coffee. There is also a collection jar for monetary donations for a food gift certificate. If you would like to participate but don't want to bother with the shopping you may make a donation and the committee will do the shopping.

Donations should be returned to church by Sunday, December 5th

Finance

As of Oct. 17, we are at 80.8% of the year and have received 83% of the pledges.

92% of the total anticipated income has been received, thanks to a two large donations this summer.

Summer offering for Monadnock Area Food Bank-\$146.43
Chicken and Biscuit Supper - \$536
Roast Beef Supper – \$997.50