

BEYOND THE GREEN DOORS

**The newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Peterborough, NH
for September and October 2010**

Dear Christian Friends,

We live in one of the most beautiful places in our country. Sur- rounded by the mountains, the hills, the lakes and the rivers, we can retreat from time to time into a place of refreshing in the ceaseless natural beauty of God's creation.

Paul the Apostle wrote these words to the church in Rome: " For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature –have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been, so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20)." So even the wonder and beauty of nature points to God our Creator. How blessed we are to know that it was God who created all of nature so that humankind could enjoy his handiwork! Therefore no one can have an excuse for not believing in God, for he has revealed his existence in his creation.

One day a mother came to me after church and said, "My son has a question." So the young boy asked me, "Why do I have to come to church?" It certainly was not a question that I had never heard before. I have met some adults along the way who have told me that they really don't feel that they have to attend church on Sunday in order to worship God. They have felt that they could worship God outside the walls of a building. My response has been that it is true that one can worship God in many places but the church can be a very special place for believers to come together and worship God and to grow in their Christian faith. But now back to the question of the young boy, "Why do I have to come to church?"

This is the response I got from my grandson, Benjamin, when I ask this question, "Why do you come to church?"

- To fellowship with other Christians.
- To grow in the knowledge of God and His Word.
- To grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are used in the life of an individual and the Body of Christ.
- To equip you for the week...can't do it on your own.
- To send you out to share the Good News to the world.
- To worship God.

I then asked Ben to share with me his thoughts on the role that worship played in the life of the church. Being on a worship team in an area church. I thought that it would be interesting to hear his response. He

began to share with me the importance of leading people into an atmosphere of worshipping God. He continued to share many other thoughts on the subject and the importance of coming together for worship and how the worship experience can draw us nearer to God. The last statement that he made really touched my heart, “ I don’t have to come to church, I want to come to church.”

Worship begins with a call for a faith commitment and an acknowledgment that He is our God and Lord. Coming together to worship as believers avails (to be strong, to be of use, help or worth, advantage-Webster’s Dictionary) us of the presence and power of the Lord God to work in us individually and cooperatively as the people of God. Worship and being in the presence of the Lord and his Holy Spirit can help us to discover and become all that God has planned us to be. So let me put this question before you. If you were asked the question, “So why do I have come to church” what would your response be?

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).”

Grace and peace to each of you,
Pastor Betty

CROP Walk

This year’s CROP Walk for Hunger is October 23.
Hosted by the Union Congregational Church

Our “Son,” Arun

We received a progress report from the Methodist Boarding Home for Boys and Girls in Chandrakal, India on the young man our church supports through World’s Children. Omega Chandrashaku says, “Aran is a very cute and handsome child. Very cheerful face. He is happy and getting food, clothing and education through your kind and generous support. He loves you and deserves all your support. He plays with others. His friend’s name is Shivaraj. Thanks for your concern and help.”

Please take time to read the rest of the report and his letter to us, posted on the rolling bulletin board in the fellowship hall. There is also a recent picture so you can see his cheerful face for yourself.

HOME COMING

September 19, 2010

10:00 A.M.

The choir will sing.

**There will be something special
for the children.**

**You are cordially invited to break bread together at the
Homecoming luncheon directly after the church service.**

Reservations not required!

**If you are able to help the Worship Committee with set up, clean up or food preparation or donation,
please contact Karen Keenan at 532-8283**

JOIN US!!

September Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Carol Munroe | 22 | Ruth Roth |
| | David LaDeau | 23 | Courtney Lawn |
| | Mary Johnson | | Dylan Bartlett |
| 3 | Ellie Strand | 24 | Jim MacInnes |
| 6 | Jeff Woodward | 25 | Ed Hampson |
| 13 | Shannon Dunning-Morris | | Susan Staley |
| 14 | Jimmy Stanton | 27 | John Woodward |
| 16 | Bob Johnson | 29 | Miguel Mairena |
| 18 | Jean Harris | | |

September Anniversaries

- 12 John and Violet Banks
Elmer and Ruth Roth
- 18 George and Fern Eastman
Gloria Lodge and Nils Wenblad
- 19 Andrew and Ellen Dunbar
- 20 Keith and Nancy Luscombe
- 25 Carol and Bill Owen

October Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 6 | Alex Lange | 18 | Ashton Lange |
| 14 | Violet Banks | 19 | Emma Munroe |
| 15 | Tammy Munroe | 26 | Brian Koester |
| 17 | Barbara MacInnes | 28 | Martha Simmons Graham |

October Anniversaries

- 13 Greg and Laura Nerz

World Communion Sunday Special Offering, October 3

When Dr. Dennis Marke graduated from Loma Linda [Calif.] University last summer, a new world awaited him back in Africa. The doctor came to the United States from Sierra Leone, which has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate in the world. To many of us, Dennis' accounts of young mothers and the babies who die because villages have no doctors or midwives are simply sad stories, but to Dennis, they are the realities of his life as an African doctor.

"I wanted to go and meet people in their communities and empower them with knowledge and programs to help them prevent the diseases that are killing them," he explained.

To bring solutions to his home country, Dennis knew he needed more training in public health. He came to the United States as a World Communion Scholar, studying maternal and child health, as well as health education and promotion.

Dennis' studies in the United States were made possible because caring United Methodists gave generously on World Communion Sunday. In today's economy, your contributions are needed more than ever. Your gifts help racial- and ethnic-minority students in the United States and international students. Like Dennis, they want to serve God in life-changing ministries.

Your offering provides scholarships for U.S. (racial and ethnic minority) and international students.

Your giving makes a world of difference.

**Committee Chairs
Remember, your budgets are due by September 26.**

Loose Change Offering

For the Monadnock Area Food Bank continues through Sept. 19.

The Holiday Stroll

The Holiday Stroll is scheduled for Saturday, November 20.

This is a major fund-raiser for the budget.

It's also a fun day to hang around the church with old friends and new.

Start planning your baking and dig out your old no longer used Christmas items.

See you there!

Finance

As of August 16th we were at 61.5% of the year
and had received 64% of the pledges.
\$53,930 (75%) of the anticipated income has been received
thanks to three extra donations totaling \$8,500.

WANTED!

New members of the Worship Committee! The successful candidates will be the first three who contact Karen Keenan or Barbara MacInnes. No previous experience needed. The Worship Committee is an equal opportunity group charged with keeping the worship experience exciting and rewarding.

Computer Collection

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a community wide computer collection. All computers, monitors, printers and accessories will be accepted free of charge. The computers will be recycled through ReConnect, a free computer recycling program jointly managed by Dell and Goodwill. The program's goal is two-fold: 1) to divert used computers and computer equipment from landfills and 2) to provide the community a way to responsibly recycle used computer equipment. Goodwill Industries of Northern New England accepts and sorts the donated computer equipment. Dell's product recovery partner recycles and remarkets the recycled materials. All proceeds support Goodwill's mission.

Volunteers to help on the collection day would be appreciated.

Address Change

Patricia and Ron LaRoche
95 Amos Fortune Rd
Jaffrey, NH 03452
532-4993

Do you really believe what you believe is really real?

The Truth Project, by Focus on the Family, is an innovative DVD-based small group curriculum that will be offered at this church, starting Wednesday, September 8th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, hosted by Jean Harris. The curriculum practically and personally re-introduces believers to the character and nature of God while seeking to instill a systematic and comprehensive Christian worldview within the body of Christ. It is presented by Dr. Del Tackett in 13 “tours”. There are no homework assignments. No books. These tours on the DVDs are in the classroom setting, settings outside the classroom and we hear from experts.

Our culture has become so relativistic it has impacted our identity as Christians. Do you recall the dinner scene in the “Miracle Worker”? Helen Keller, as a young girl, is reaching out and grabbing food off plates as the family tolerates the behavior. That is until Helen meets Annie Sullivan. Miss Sullivan keenly discerns the status of that kind of obedience to being housebroken rather than a loving response. “Obedience without understanding is a ‘blindness’, too,” declares Miss Sullivan! Do we approach God’s banquet table housebroken or transformed with a loving response?

“What is truth?” Pontius Pilate 30 AD. It is important to view the first foundational DVD before seeing any of the others. If you wish to sign up but can not attend on September 8th, see Jean to arrange viewing it before the next class. There is an attendance limit of 12 in this small group study. Another small group will be offered in January, 2011 if there is interest. To answer the question of any age limits – a mature high school student and older will benefit from the series.

Comments of the programs have been, “It’s the first time I saw in color”. Please consider joining in either this fall or next winter! A sign up sheet will be posted for either session.

Jean Harris

The Truth Project

13 Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00

Sept. 8 – Dec. 8

(No meeting Nov. 24)

United Methodist Women

The NH District Annual Meeting

October 2 in Lebanon, NH

New England Conference Annual Meeting

October 23 in Concord, NH

If you plan to attend either, please contact Nancy or Barb

Unit Meetings

Wednesday, September 15 at 12:00 p.m.

in the fellowship hall at the church .

Our speaker will be a representative from the
Monadnock Community Early Learning Center

Wednesday, October 20 at 12:30 p.m.

in the fellowship hall at the church

Pastor Betty will talk to us about her trip to Ireland.

New Hampshire District Day

with

Bishop Peter Weaver

Installation service for new District Superintendent,

Rev. David Abbott

Saturday, September 11, 2010

First United Methodist Church, Laconia Gilford

Route 11A

½ mile East of Laconia By-pass (Routes 3 and 11)

Gilford, NH

9:00 a.m. Gathering and Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Bishop Weaver with Clergy and Laity

Focus: “Mission Leap Year”

At our 2009 Annual Conference each church was challenged to begin one new mission project in 2010. Bishop Weaver will present biblical and theological perspectives on our call to share the Good News and will offer practical guidelines/applications for how to connect to our local communities.

NOON LUNCH

(Provided free of charge, but donations to offset expenses will be gratefully accepted)

1:30 p.m. Installation Service

3:00 p.m. Dessert Reception

Heifer Project

Food is no sure thing for families living in the mountains of western Honduras. With many men working outside of the country, the majority of farmers in this region are indigenous Maya Chorti, Lenca, and Ladino women. The land available to them is steep and erosion prone, making it difficult to grow a steady supply of food much less grow a surplus for market. Heifer is working to change the lives of these peasant farmers by giving them the tools to create stable and prosperous futures by building a sustainable food system.

One Heifer supporter who saw the effectiveness of Heifer's work in Honduras through a study tour has committed to **matching all contributions to this initiative dollar for dollar up to \$238,000, a quarter of the total project cost!**

With this project Heifer will do the following to change the lives of 2,058 families in 43 communities in the Copán and Lempira departments of Honduras:

- place 225 cattle, 7,770 hens, 15,000 fish, 62 goats, 58 sheep, 200 rabbits, 65 bee hives, and 8,000 fruit trees

- provide extensive training on how to increase and diversify farm production in balance with local ecosystems
- work with local organizations to promote community development activities and strengthen leaders

This is the project our Heifer Funds went to this year.

The Laity Corner

Summer vacations are ending and schools are starting up again! Some folks will be happy for the change, and some will be sad. Others will just remark, “What happened to the wonderful summertime? Where did the time go?” Almost time to put the lawnmower away and dig out the shovel and snow blower.

I think the highlight of my summer was the trip to West Virginia for Mary’s Annual Family Reunion, traveling with our son, Scott, and with Pastor Betty with our travel trailer! The “icing on the cake” of that trip was the Renewal of Wedding Vows by Mary and me (47 years of marriage in March), officiated by Pastor Betty, observed by the family members from all over the US, England, and Greece. What a wonderful happy emotional time!

I’m sure that all of you have some wonderful stories of summer fun and frolic! But, now that we are back, we must consider opportunities that abound ahead of us. There are services every Sunday, always with the need for Liturgists, Ushers, and Fellowship Hosts, Adult Fellowship gatherings, committee meetings (after well-deserved summer breaks), planning for the yard sale, collection of old computer equipment, choir starts up again, planning for Laity Sunday October 17, attendance of leadership conferences hosted in our New England Conference Districts, observance of the installation of our new NH District Superintendent September 11, and the church hosting of Lay Speaking courses October 9 & 23 (courses announced soon). And, of course we can’t forget the annual Church Conference completing the business of the church (date to be determined). I’m sure I left out a few since I don’t have the church calendar in front of me at this time.

I guess what I’m driving at is that we have a very busy stretch of time ahead of us, so we need to be aware of the planning it takes to make all these things happen. I hope you took the time during the summer as a time of refreshing yourselves, a time of relaxation and renewal. The busy times that are upon us again will sometimes stretch our resources (people, materials, money, etc.) very thin which may cause negative feelings.

This leads me to a few selected verses from the Bible to hopefully help us on our way to being cheerful workers: from Proverbs 15: - “¹³ A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit....¹⁵ All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast....³⁰ A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.17: ²² A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” And from 2 Cor 9: “⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

So, be cheerful in all that you do. God and others love us even more when we are cheerful, and we probably get the job done faster and better, too!

God Bless,
Arnie Johnson, Lay Leader

Chicken and Biscuit Supper

Saturday, Sept. 25

5:00 – 7:00 pm

\$7 Adults

\$4 Children under 12

**Creamed chicken and peas on biscuits, coleslaw, cranberry sauce,
assorted desserts and coffee**

Roast Beef Supper

Saturday, October 16

5:00 – 7:00 pm

\$10 Adults

\$5 Children under 12

**Roast beef, smashed potatoes, coleslaw, butternut squash, gravy,
Amaretto cheesecake or cake with lemon sauce, coffee**

**Sign up sheets for dessert makers,
waiters, assistant cooks and clean up
will be posted the first Sunday of the appropriate month.**

Christmas Wreaths

We are offering the wreaths in various sizes again this year. All wreaths are double sided. A red bow can be included at no extra cost (must be specified).

Ask your family members, your neighbors, your friends and your co-workers. **This year please collect the money when you take the order.** Turn your orders and your money in to Priscilla Crowe no later than Sunday, **October 10.** To contact Priscilla for questions call her at 924-3215 or email her at randpcrow@Iglide.net

Sizes and prices

12 inches = \$13.00 14 inches = \$15.00
16 inches = \$18.00 18 inches = \$20.00
24 inches = \$24.00

Name _____, size _____ bow?__

Name _____, size _____ bow?__

Name _____, size _____ bow?__

Name _____, size _____ bow?__

Name _____, size _____ bow?__

This is a simple fundraiser. Very little effort is required from most of us.

So sell, sell, sell!