

November-December Newsletter

“Prepare Ye The Way”

"Comfort, yes, comfort my people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins."

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." -Isaiah 40:1-5 (NKJV)

As we approach this holiday season we sometimes feel overwhelmed as we face the preparations for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, etc. As we move into a Season of Preparation and getting things in order, it is also important as Christians that we not only think about turkeys, shopping, and Christmas presents but also make room to remember the larger purpose of this sacred Season of Thanks. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "No people on earth have more cause to be thankful than ours, and this is said, reverently and in no spirit of boastfulness in our own strength, but with the gratitude to the Giver of All Good who has blessed us."

In the old Anglo-Saxon English language the word "thankful" meant "to be thankful". Thinking of one's blessings should stir us on to gratitude. However, as a pastor, I know only too well the distractions and demands that can prevent us from having the time alone to center down to the place where we can truly meditate on the blessings we are surrounded with. The demands in this modern age are endless and without ceasing. Can we any longer be truly thankful in this complex frantic day and age? Have we, as Christians, lost the truth and meaning of the wisdom of the psalmist who said, "God inhabits the praises of His people."? Can we still truly, "...Let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; Yes, let them rejoice with gladness. Sing to God, sing praises to His name;

Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him." (Psalms 68:3-4)

In the desert of our modern commercialized Holiday Season, my friends, it seems that the only way that we can truly make a way in the wilderness of our times for "thankfulness" is to open our own hearts and minds to the miracle of the truth that His Name is indeed "Emmanuel: God With Us". For truly, the only way that our hearts can ever be lifted up in these desperate, demanding times is to fill our minds, soul, and hearts with gratitude that God has made a way in the deserts of all eternity and sent his only begotten son to dwell among us today full of grace and truth and glory in the person of a baby in swaddling clothes. When I am overwhelmed by the demands of the season I

remember that it was the angel of God that announced to the fearful shepherds of old, "Be not afraid for I bring you Good News of great joy for all people. For today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born who is Christ the Lord. For this will be a sign unto you; for you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly hosts appeared with the angel saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to those of goodwill.'"(Luke 2:10-14)

One of the most wonderful things about the Christmas story is its everlasting relevance for all peoples in any age. It is more than a lovely tale once told but is eternally contemporary. It is the voice of Christ crying out in every wilderness place, no matter what may be happening in your life. Truly God has kept his promise by bringing the only "Emmanuel" who is eternally "God With Us" in all the circumstances of today. May your Holiday Season be truly filled with that peace and thankfulness that only the true Emmanuel can ever give.

Pastor Betty

Adult Fellowship Pot-luck Suppers

Nov. 7 at 6:00 PM

"Raising Rabbits"

by Ken and Charlene Schultz

They do much more than "raise rabbits", so come and hear and see how this interest of theirs has changed their lives!

Dec. 5th, at 6:00 PM

Annual Christmas Party

This is always a fun time when we get to know each other

better and have a lot of laughs as we do our Yankee Swap.

This means you bring a gift- of less than \$5.00- to exchange.

We have had some very creative ideas,
so join us for an evening of sociability.

Everyone welcome-just sign up in Fellowship Hall
for your contribution to the dinner.

There will be no meeting in January.

16th Annual Holiday Stroll

Saturday, November 21

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Coffee Break

coffee, tea, soda, muffins, snacks

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

Chocolate Covered Cherry making –Wed., Nov. 5, 9:00 a.m. at church

Apple Pie making – Wednesday, Nov. 11, 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.

Gail and Ernie Hoffmann – chairpersons

Ask how you can help!

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

Christmas Poinsettias

Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

**Poinsettias – _____
Enclosed: \$12 for each poinsettia Total _____**

***Will bring own – _____**

**Please return form and payment to Ginny Williams
or mail to the church
43 Concord St., Peterborough 03458
by Sunday, December 6**

***If bringing your own
Please leave at church before 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 19.**

***You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service
or after the Sunday service on Dec. 27.***

**Annual Charge Conference
Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.**

**The Rev. John Blackadar, District Superintendent,
presiding**

All members are urged to attend

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

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	28	Scott Keenan
	Kayla Putnam		

December Anniversaries

21 Pat and Glynn Wells
31 Ed and Ann Hampson

United Methodist Women

November is World Thank Offering month.
No meeting is held due to the Holiday Stroll.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party at the Parsonage. Please bring cookies, and Pastor Betty will supply a beverage. Lee Charlton will have gifts for the Antrim Girl's Shelter ready to be packaged, and we will be doing some planning for the coming year. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Dec. 9th at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, whether you have come before or not. We always enjoy the fellowship of this meeting. Remember to bring your World Thank Offering.

For further information, or a ride, please call Barb MacInnes at 924-1952.

United Methodist Student Day Special Offering Sunday, November 29th

A RICH HISTORY OF EDUCATING UNITED METHODISTS

This Special Sunday had its beginnings in 1866, when a special fund provided for advanced education of Sunday-school children and of candidates for the ministry and missionary service.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES – MAYBE EVEN SOMEONE YOU KNOW.

Like many things, college costs continue to rise. Thanks to United Methodist Student Day, people in your annual conference – perhaps even members of your family—have a chance to attain higher education. Students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities receive scholarships and loans. Participating annual conferences receive 10 percent of the offering for merit-scholarship awards to students of their choosing.

Scott Keenan and Bobby Venning
were beneficiaries of the conference portion of this offering for the last 2 years.
Nate Luscombe and Courtney Dunning were previous recipients.

New Life Home
From the directors' desk
September 2009

For the past two years George's health has been declining. After many hospital visits, tests, and procedures it has been determined that his liver is failing. He is now at the point where a liver transplant is needed. Through it all God has been faithful to us. By God's grace we have persevered in the midst of all of the stress and pressures and have found God to be our hiding place.

We have been referred to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida where they specialize in liver transplants. George has been accepted into their liver transplant program. This means we must go to Florida and wait for a liver match. This is a big step of faith for us.

Having to pick up the ministry for a season is so very difficult. We are not at all concerned about the everyday function of the home because God has blessed us with a wonderful, dedicated staff that has been with us for years. Our daughter, Victoria, is resigning her job and will also be joining our staff.

We will keep you abreast of our progress and trust that you will hold us up in prayer.

With Grateful hearts,
George and Grace Rosado
Directors

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 seven women and nine children 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.

Donations should be returned to church by Sunday, December 6th

Remember to return your 2010 pledge
by
November 22, 2009



Hendersonville Rescue Mission

Greetings to our faithful partners in ministry,

Well, summer has almost gone, and I pray you had a wonderful time. Recently we had our annual banquet with powerful testimonies from men in our Turning Point program. They shared their new relationship with Jesus Christ as the Lord who set them free from alcohol and drugs. They told how they are so thankful for the Hendersonville Rescue Mission staff, volunteers, and those who financially support this ministry! It was a great time had by all.

The following stats I shared with around 200 friends who attended the banquet. In the last 17 years we have served almost 800,000 meals and provided shelter to almost 17,000 men, women and children; and nearly 2,000 people have received Christ Jesus as Savior. Your faithful support has allowed us to minister to literally thousands over our nearly 30 year history! Thanks for all you do to help this ministry. God bless and enjoy the remainder of your summer.

In His service,
Rev. Anthony S. McMinn
Executive Director/C.E.O.

This is the national mission supported by our budget.

Kids' Café Manchester, NH

The Salvation Army Kids' Café is dedicated to empowering inner city youth and their families to enhance their self-sufficiency. The components focus on feeding children physically, emotionally and spiritually; strengthening families, teaching respect, encouraging education and promoting positive lifestyles. Our commitment is to provide a safe environment that fosters individual growth and emphasizes community involvement.

This is a new mission project being funded from our budget.

Watch for more information in future newsletters.

CROP Hunger Walk

Please express my gratitude to your pastor and congregation for the United Methodist Church's role in hosting the Monadnock Area Crop Walk on Saturday, October 17th. Your volunteers were extremely organized and so very welcoming to all the walkers and the refreshments were a delight!

We had about 80 walkers representing 11 area churches and preliminary figures indicate that the walk will raise nearly \$10,000 for Church World Service, 25% of which will be distributed to our 8 area food pantries.

Again, thanks to all of you for graciously supporting the walk.

Tom Gundlach
Coordinator
Monadnock Area CROP Walk

Thanks for the volunteers: Cindy Faust, Bob Johnson, Andrew Dunbar, Lee Charlton, Karen Keenan, Greg Robidoux, Priscilla Crowe, Dwight and Ginny Williams, Keith Luscombe, Pastor Betty, and all the bakers. Thanks to the Robidoux family for the donation of bottled water, Coll's Farm Stand for cider, and Tom Gundlach and his wife for the apples. Thanks to Pat Woodward, our lone walker. Total collections from our church - \$415.

Nancy Luscombe
Mission Committee Chair

Finance

We are at 82.7% of the year and have received 78.9% of the pledges.

79.1% of the total anticipated income has been received.

Summer offering for Monadnock Area Food Bank-\$128.35

Chicken and Biscuit Supper - \$683

Roast Beef Supper – \$1135