

Beyond the Green Doors

The newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Peterborough, NH
for May and June 2010

“A Thousand Tongues”-Rev. Elizabeth Davis

“I will praise the LORD, who counsels me..... I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure.” Psalms 16:7-9 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

Few things in life have the power to influence us for good as deeply as a kind word spoken in love or a magnificent song of praise. Likewise, few things have the power to hurt us as deeply as an unkind word or anonymous words of harsh rebuke, gossip, and slander. The power of “the tongue” is undeniable and considered by James, the brother of Jesus, to be one of the most powerful parts of our body. He reminds us in his letter in the NT that *“The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea...have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue, we praise God,, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.” (James 3:5-10)*

Considering the power of the tongue, it is no wonder the psalmist of old prays *“May my lips overflow with praise; teach me your decrees O Lord! May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous” (Psalms 119:171-172)* Indeed, Charles Wesley wrote the magnificent song “O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” in 1739, one year after his conversion. Generations of Methodists have had their hearts warmed by this magnificent hymn which declares: *“O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace! Gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.”*

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was suffering a bout of pleurisy in May, 1738, while he and his brother were studying under the Moravian scholar Peter Böhler in London. At the time, Wesley was plagued by extreme doubts about his faith. Taken to bed with a severe sickness on May 21, Wesley was ministered to by this group of Moravian Christians who offered testimony about their faith in Jesus and tender care. He was deeply affected by this and read from his Bible, finding himself deeply affected by the words and finally at peace with God. Shortly after, he experienced a healing and his strength began to return. He wrote of this experience in his journal and counted it also as a renewal of his broken faith. When his brother, John Wesley, had a similar experience on May 24, the two brothers met and sang a hymn Wesley had written in praise of their salvation. One year from this healing experience, Charles Wesley felt God leading him to write another hymn in commemoration of his renewal of faith. This hymn was originally entitled, 'For the anniversary day of one's conversion'. The seventh verse began, 'O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing', recalling the words of Peter Böhler who had said, 'Had I a thousand tongues I would praise God with them all.' Charles Wesley's hymn was placed first in John Wesley's “A Collection of Hymns for the People Called Methodists” published in 1780. It has appeared first in every Wesleyan Methodist hymnal from that time to the present and is still sung enthusiastically at every annual Methodist conference and in all Methodist churches.

Truly, as Charles and John Wesley knew, the power of the tongue is inconceivable when we realize that Proverbs reminds that *“The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” (Prov.15:4)* As we enter a season of Pentecost, we are also reminded that when God poured out the Holy Spirit after the ascension of Jesus, the gathered frightened Christians experienced an appearance overhead of “flames that looked like ‘tongues of fire’ and “began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave utterance”. Great miracles and healings began to occur and the early church “increased daily” in numbers. (*Acts*) Could this be partially because the baptism of the early church in the Holy Spirit brought with it a surrender of the human tongue to God thru the Holy Spirit to be used by the Lord for his purposes and not our own?

For when we are left to our own devices to control our tongues, few of us are capable of always refraining from hurtful words or an occasional choice bit of gossip. Churches, friendships, and families have been destroyed by the power of a hurtful tongue. Yet the Spirit has the power to tame and bless our tongues for the furtherance of Good News in this world and to bring blessing and encouragement to others. Or, as the Psalmist reminds us: *"LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman"* (Psalms 15:1-3)

I have no doubt that true renewal, restoration, transformation, revival, and healing will finally come in our church and families when we all remember and act upon the wisdom of the apostle Peter when he said *"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love one another as children of God, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing; because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and God's ears are attentive to their prayer."* (1 Peter 3:8-12) May you be blessed in this Pentecost season with cheerful words, a joyful tongue, and a happy heart!

Pastor Betty

May Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Frank Dinino | 15 Andrew Dunbar |
| 3 Greg Robidoux | 16 Lillian Snellman |
| 5 Danica Morris | 22 Ginny Williams |
| 7 Kendall Sullivan | 24 Nyssa Gatcombe |
| 9 Patty Venning | 28 Sarah Nerz |

May Anniversaries

- 1 Kathy and Marty Stanton
- 19 Erika and CJ Sullivan

June Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 4 John Banks | 5 Kathy Stanton |
| 29 BJ Woodward | |

June Anniversaries

- 8 Dwight and Ginny Williams
- 19 Pat and BJ Woodward
- 22 Nancy and David Belletete
Alex and Michelle Lange

Adult Fellowship

Saturday, June 5, 6:00 PM

Cook-out (eat in or out) at the home of Keith and Nancy Luscombe.
Burgers and dogs will be provided.
Homemade ice cream for dessert!
You bring the salads.
We all had a great time last year and hope you will plan to join us this year.
Watch for the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

All adults are welcome!!

United Methodist Women

May meeting of the UMW

at the home of Barbara MacInnes
Wednesday, May 19, at 7:00 PM.
Surprise program.

June meeting of the UMW

annual salad supper meeting.
Prayer and Self-Denial Special offering taken.
June 16 at the home of Phyllis Porter and Lillian Snellman at 6:00 PM.
Please note the earlier hour!

**All women of the church are welcome
at both events.**

Sponsor Our Child

Arun Hanumanthu

at the Methodist Boarding School for Boys and Girls
Andhara Pradesh, India

\$200 of the needed \$330 has been donated so far.

It's not too late if you meant to contribute but haven't got to it yet.

Checks should be made out to the church and clearly marked "Sponsor a Child"

For more information on Arun or the work of World's Children

or if you would like to sponsor your own child for \$25/month

see the rolling bulletin board in the Marion Bagley Memorial Fellowship Hall.

The World's Children website is www.worldschildren.org

A thank you note from Arun has been posted.

New Life Home

Directors George and Grace Rosado have returned from Florida after a successful liver transplant for George. Thanks be to God! The good works of the home went on while they were gone but the fund-raising did not.

There are some pamphlets about the home in the church hall.

You may also go to their website www.newlifehome.org

If you would like to contribute personally to their good works, tax deductible donations may be sent to
PO Box 148, Manchester, NH 03105

There is \$500 in our church's mission budget which will be sent this fall.

We have already sent \$500 from our special Missions Fund

An easy way to donate;

Search the web with GoodSearch.com and they will donate a penny
to New Life Home for Women and Children each time you search.

Shop at more than 600 GoodShop.com merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us,
and a percentage of each purchase will go to the home.

IT'S YARD SALE TIME!

SATURDAY, MAY 15

9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

WANTED

Jewelry, linens and such (sorry no clothes)

antiques, large furniture and high end collectibles

small furniture, toys, and knick-knacks

books and videos

SO CLEAN OUT YOUR ATTICS AND BASEMENTS (AGAIN).

ASK YOUR FAMILY, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS FOR DONATIONS.

**And of course there is
A LUNCHEON AND A BAKE SALE
because what would a Methodist function be
without food?**

**The church will be open on Tues. thru Friday.
for drop off.**

No items should be left in the church prior to Tuesday,
as the hall is used on Monday.

**Food items should arrive on Saturday morning by 8:45.
Can be left Friday evening if more convenient**

HELP NEEDED

**Item pricing Wednesday evening starting at 7:00.
Pricing and set up Thursday and Friday evenings at 7:00.
Saturday 8:30 am until cleanup is done
Contact Jim MacInnes to volunteer
if you have not already been contacted
or just show up on any of the days**

We are planning to be indoors again this year to prevent the hassle
of deciding at the last minute what do if rain is forecasted.
It also allows for a more leisurely set up without early birds.

Please bring your
**clean resellable items to the church already priced
No later than noon on Friday.
*No electronics or clothing***

Nothing should be less than 25 cents
so you may want to group small items together.

***Although it can be true that
One person's trash is another person's treasure,
some times it really is trash.***

New this year

**If you bring a large item that does not sell you will be responsible for taking it back.
We are asking people to take leftover items to their local recycling centers and swap shops
to cut down on the disposal fees of the left overs.**

Finance
As of April 25

We are at 30.8% of the year and have received 31.2% of the pledges.

A total of \$22,339 has been received toward the budget.
As of April 19, we had already spent \$22,630 of our budgeted expenses.
Luckily we had some carry over from previous years
but that is in danger of being used up this year.

Chicken and Biscuit supper - \$589
Roast Beef Supper - \$965.50

Fanny Crosby

If you missed the presentation
in March you can still
experience it on
VHS tape or DVD disk.

See Arnie Johnson to borrow
either format.

Dates to Remember

Chicken and Biscuit Supper – September 25
Roast Beef Supper – October 16
Holiday Stroll – November 20

Special Church Conference

A special church conference was held on April 28, presided over by District Superintendent, Rev. John Blackadar. It was called to act on two items.

The first was to see if the church would affirm Arnie Johnson for certified candidacy for local pastor status. Arnie was affirmed unanimously by the 23 people in attendance.

The second order of business was whether or not to sell the parsonage on Nichols Rd. This was a motion brought by the trustees. Pastor Betty has purchased her own home and will be leaving the parsonage, **but not the church**, in May. As the UM Discipline does not require churches to provide housing for their pastors, the Trustees felt that selling the parsonage and not having to provide further up-keep and deal with renters was a logical move. The selling of the parsonage was approved 19 to 3 with 1 abstention. There are a still couple of steps in the UM process before it can be put on the market but expect to see it in real estate brochures in June.

Directory Additions and Changes

Please add:

Deane Dehotman
33 Woods Crossing Rd
Rindge, NH 03461
Phone – 899-6755

Please change address for

Alex and Michelle Lange to
67 Old Stoddard Rd
Nelson, NH 03457-5600

E-Mail changes

Arnie Johnson	to	arniej.nh@gmail.com
Mary Johnson	to	revdmarybeej@gmail.com
Shannon Dunning Morris	to	sdunning1@gmail.com

Happy Birthday, Church!

Celebrated 50 days after Passover, Pentecost (also called Feast of Weeks or Shavuot) was one of three festivals that occurred in Israel each year. During the festival, the Israelites would give thanks and present offerings for the new grain of the summer wheat harvest. After spending 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection, Jesus instructs his disciples “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Act 1:4-5). Ten days later, Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, along with Jesus’ disciples. Acts 2:1-4 tells us what happened next: “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”. As Jesus had promised, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to those assembled, allowing the apostles to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that those present spoke. As a result, thousands of people were converted and baptized that day. This is why we celebrate Pentecost as the birth of the Christian Church.

Please join us and help us celebrate on Sunday, May 23rd.

Please wear red if you have any.

New Hampshire District Day
with
Bishop Peter Weaver

**Installation service for new
District Superintendent,
Rev. David Abbot**

September 11, 2010
Franklin UMC
Franklin, NH

Peace with Justice Sunday
Special Offering
May 30, 2009

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. The Peace with Justice Sunday offering gives The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for peace and justice at home and around the world. The day witnesses to God’s demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world.

News From Nan

Our missionary in Nicaragua

The women with whom we work struggle to have more abundant lives, free from violence and submission. They want to develop themselves, they want to be leaders, but in this patriarchal culture it is not easy. So for these women it is so exciting when they really focus on the resurrection and the fact that Jesus chose to appear first to a woman. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the risen Christ. Apparently she tried to embrace him: (John 20:17) Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet returned to God". Jesus then commissioned her to proclaim his resurrection: "Go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am returning to my God and your God.'" (20:18) Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" and she told them that he had said these things to her. Mary Magdalene was the first to preach the good news of resurrection. This is very encouraging, empowering and liberating news for women.

Violence Against Women in San Francisco Libre: A Recent Story, March 2010

The grandfather physically punished the three-year-old granddaughter in an impoverished village of San Francisco Libre. The girl's young mother confronted her father-in-law with words in defense of her daughter. The father-in-law took a machete and chased after the daughter-in-law, threatening to kill her. The daughter-in-law ran screaming for help outside the little home. The father-in-law continued after her with machete in hand. The young woman's husband, son of the violent father, came to his wife's defense with another machete in hand, confronting his own father. He was able to keep his wife safe and no one got hurt physically. Never the less the violent father told his wife, son and the whole family to leave, threatening to kill them all, including his own wife. The wife and daughter-in-law of the violent man came to Women and Community looking for help.

Read the rest of the story on the rolling bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

The Laity Corner

Arnie Johnson, Lay Leader

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt 28:18-20 NKJV)

Today as churches struggle to fill their pews and meet mounting financial obligations, we seem to be in a season of reflection as to what the church should really be all about. Churches that still are growing, statistics show, are churches that are meeting the real needs of their community and are viewed as an open, welcoming, safe place where newcomers are truly loved, accepted, and cared about. Unless the heart of Christian ministry truly becomes Christ's ministry of outreaching love through all of us, congregations may cease to exist in many struggling churches.

Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by the whole community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude, devotion, witness, service, celebration and sacrificial discipleship. The UMC Book of Discipline states clearly what we all, as Laity in the body of Christ, are called to do and be when it states in ¶126, *The Ministry of the Laity* – "The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment to Christ's outreaching love. Lay Members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active

advocates of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the Gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ, and the UMC will fulfill its mission.” We all are Christ’s disciples and volunteers to do what He has commanded us to do. Each of us has a “call” within the church whether it is missions, music, evangelism, outreach, etc. We are also here to fulfill the “mission” of Christ within the world. ¶120 *The Mission* – “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.” So, we as disciples are here to make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

We must continue then to strive to be an even more effective, loving, and Committed Community of Christians who believe in the NT model of the early Church and welcome the gifts of all believers granted by the Holy Spirit in our worship and Christian community as we grow into the Body of Christ. The Book of Discipline reminds us that in ¶125, “All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servant hood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. The forms of this ministry are diverse in locale, in interest, and in denominational accent, yet always catholic in spirit and outreach. ¶129 *Faithful Ministry* - The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world. ¶130 *The Unity of Ministry in Christ* - There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God’s grace in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.”

But, there are also those among us who God has called, set apart, and gifted as pastors (or "shepherds" in the Hebrew) who have been specially commissioned to ordained or licensed ministry. Our own Pastor is one of those who have felt a deeper call and sacrificed much to care for and train all God's people to become ministers. Or as Jeremiah 14:15 says: “*And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*” For it is the Ordained or Licensed Pastors of the UMC that have a unique fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service thus serving local churches in shepherding ministries of Christ’s love and justice within the context of their pastoral appointment. (¶340)

Can commissioned clergy do it all by themselves? Of course not! We all, as Christ’s disciples, must do whatever we can to support their pastoral ministry to and for us. But we all must pitch in to help complete the entire mission Christ has given to His church in these difficult days. Yes, we have qualified Lay Speakers and others who can assist in church services. However, only ordained or licensed pastors can perform sacraments such as marriage, consecrating the communion sacraments, etc. But there is one area that is mentioned that we all can certainly assist the Pastor with. ¶340.2a (4) in the UMC Discipline says we ALL are, “To visit in the homes of the church and the community, especially among the sick, aged, imprisoned, and others in need.” I am very proud to be part of our Pastor’s ministry to Rivermead and to also be a member of the dedicated PUMC/WRUMC Pastoral Care Team of 12 people that assists our Pastor with pastoral care needs and visitations.

All of our Laity should be proud of what each one of us has done, can do, and will do, to support our Church and the people in our communities. While we are helping others and creatively spreading the Good News, we are also following the great commission that has been given to each one of us as the disciples of Jesus Christ. For He has said to ALL of us that we are to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”