



Pastor's Message

My family, for the most part, doesn't really "get" me. I've always been different. Don't get me wrong, they love me, they're proud of my accomplishments, they enjoy my company (usually), yet they're still not quite sure what makes me "tick."

Case in point: Sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I began to feel that unrelenting tugging at my spirit—a feeling that I've had often enough to know that God is calling me or leading me into something new. I learned many years ago to follow the leading because the tugging will not stop until I obey.

With prayer and lots of thinking and listening, I discerned that God wanted me to minister in a field that is far away from my comfort zone, both literally and figuratively. You know you have discerned the right message when your thoughts and feelings connect so well that suddenly you can see the whole picture.

In other words, you "get" what God is saying to you. What I got was a calling to go to summer camp this July. It's not your typical sleep-away camp, it's not a Christian camp, and it's not a camp for rest and relaxation. The camp I have applied to attend is Camp Mak-A-Dream. Ever heard of it?

Camp Mak-A-Dream (www.campdream.org) is located 65 miles south of Missoula, Montana. It is a modern, state-of-the-art campus with a full medical team on duty 24 hours a day. The following statement describes their mission.

One week can change a lifetime.

This is the core belief at Camp Mak-A-Dream. Our mission is to provide a medically supervised, cost-free Montana experience, in an intimate community setting, for children, young adults and families affected by cancer.

When I was in Florida, I had a telephone interview with the Volunteer Coordinator. The conversation went really well and I was quite elated. I shared my excitement with my uncle and mother. My mother was kind of quiet and looked a little surprised and worried at the same time (a look she often has when I tell her about my next great idea).

My uncle wanted to know if I was going to be paid for working at the camp. I said, No. He then asked if they were going to pick up my transportation costs (it's very expensive to fly to Montana). Again, I said, No. Why was I doing this if it was going to cost me money?!?!?!?

That's what I mean when I say my family doesn't really "get" me. Though there will be several firsts on this adventure, I feel strong in my commitment to go to Montana and serve these campers. It feels awesome to be obedient to God. I will be a part of the Dream Team at the Siblings Camp July 10-16. This camp is for siblings (ages 6-14) of children who have cancer. You can guess that siblings have their own set of issues even though they do not actually have

Pastor's message continued

cancer.

For some reason that makes sense to providence, I will spend some of my time working in the kitchen preparing meals for the campers and serving them in the dining room. God does have a sense of humor, don't you know! No one needs to worry; there is a professional chef watching over the whole

production.

I hope that if you are experiencing a "tugging" in your spirit these days that you can identify where God is leading you. God needs to know that we "get" God, too. People may look at you strange and wonder what's come over you.

Do not worry about your life—what you will eat or

drink or wear...or how much it's going to cost; the Lord knows we need these things and will provide more than we can ever imagine (paraphrased, Matthew 6:25-34).

Gratefully,

Rev Donna

Youth Group Schedule for April:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, 4/3 | 4-6:30 pm, visit to a local maple syrup making operation in Rollinsford, with a pancake and fresh syrup dinner back at the Church afterwards |
| Sunday, 4/10 | 5-7 pm, Dinner and planning meeting for Pilgrim Lodge Trip and summer mission trip |
| Sunday, 4/17 | 4-7 pm, Dover Climbing Gym – rock climbing, belaying and team building instruction and fun. We will need a group of 10 to make this cost effective, please invite friends and get back to Lucy ASAP to let me know if you can attend. Cost: \$2 |
| Friday, 4/29 to Sunday, 5/1 | Pilgrim Lodge Jump Start Weekend (more details to come) |

SAVE THE DATE
2011 YARD SALE—JUNE 11
Donations Accepted Starting April 15th

AMIGOS Buckets information

AMIGOS Buckets on the way

The UCC York Association Missions Committee has been working hard over the past several months to organize the AMIGOS Program for 2011. The program provides school lunch to over 1000 children in impoverished areas of Honduras and is made possible by the hard work and generosity of the UCC congregations of the York association and their friends. Those from our association who have visited Honduras in recent years report having been struck by the enormity of the basic needs the people are facing, and the tremendous impact the school lunches have to improve nutrition, foster hope and to help keep children motivated in school. The food for the program is purchased by sponsors recruited by our churches, packed into five gallon buckets and shipped down to Honduras in the spring. Volunteers from Honduras prepare and serve the food to children at school.

As in recent years, our church will again be collecting buckets of food for the AMIGOS school lunch program in Honduras. The program is hoping to continue to supply 1000 buckets of food to Honduras. An enormous task, but possible if we all work together.

This year the collection program will take place during April, with the food due back by early May. The AMIGOS program brochures and shopping lists are now available and will be distributed electronically and during Sunday worship in the coming weeks.

The buckets will be available after church each Sunday or from the Church Office during the week.

This year our church is striving to fill 100 buckets of food for the program. To do this we will need your help:

- Fill one or more buckets yourself
- Ask friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc. to fill buckets or to work together to do so.
- Recruit families, classrooms, scout troops, service groups, etc. to fill buckets
- Make a cash donation and let the Youth Group do your shopping for you

The cost of providing a bucket of food for a child during the program is about \$60.00, which includes a \$12.00 donation to cover the cost of the bucket and shipping and handling to Honduras.

For more information, to become a sponsor or to arrange a speaker about the program, contact Lucy Putnam.

TENEBRAE

What is Tenebrae (pronounced ten-eh-bray) ? Tenebrae is the Latin word for *shadows*. In the church, it is a service of lessons (readings from scripture) accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights (candles). This service is a dramatic portrayal of the desertion of Christ by the disciples. The readings are taken from all four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

After each one of the twelve gospel readings, one candle is extinguished and the reader leaves the table. As the service progresses, there is less and less light, fewer and fewer people. When the Tenebrae candles are all extinguished, the Christ candle is the only light in the dark sanctuary. Then, even the Christ candle is removed as we symbolically move into the time of waiting between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

Tenebrae is a moving and helpful way of taking us to the depths of Crucifixion so that on Easter morning, the joy of the Resurrection is just as moving and dramatic an experience as Good Friday.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES at First Parish Federated Church

April 17	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday, Sanctuary
April 21	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Seder, Vestry
April 22	7 :30 PM	Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
April 24	5:15 AM	Easter Sunrise Service at Spring Hill Lodge
April 24	10:00 AM	Easter Worship Service, Sanctuary

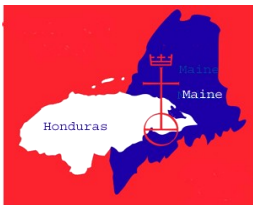
SEDER

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

On Maundy Thursday, April 21, we will commemorate the Passover celebration of the Israelites departure from Egypt. At the Last Supper, the Lord reminded his disciples with the Passover meal.

We will remember that event with a Seder meal in the Vestry at 7:00 pm as we prepare ourselves for Good Friday.

We wish this to be a family event and encourage you all to participate. Children are especially encouraged to attend.



YORK ASSOCIATION

MISSION TRIP ~ SUMMER 2011

Victoria, Honduras ~ **July 19-28, 2011**

PROPOSED PROJECT:

To build partnerships and connections between our churches by working with our Honduran brothers and sisters to repair storm damage to local church buildings.

We are looking for persons of all ages, skills and abilities.

Everyone has something to offer!

COST: Approximately \$1,200 per person

APPLICATIONS are available through your pastor; or contact:

Bruce Burnham (207)602-8191 (cell) or apucc@roadrunner.com

Mike Pedersen (207)676-2639 or mpederse@maine.rr.com

Dick Cadmus (207)985-6788 or rcadmus@maine.rr.com

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY
April 15, 2011**

What is Islam? Part I

A basic introduction prepared by the Middle East and Europe Office of Common Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

With widespread attention being focused on the Middle East, we hope this resource will provide a helpful general introduction to the religion of Islam and its adherents.

BELIEFS

Islam and Muslim
are related to
Salaam, the Arabic
word for Peace.
The typical Arabic
greeting is
“Salaam alaikoum,”
“Peace to you.”

Islam is regarded as one of the three central Abrahamic faiths along with Judaism and Christianity. Islam’s followers are Muslims, or those who “submit” to God’s will. Islam is a universal religion that teaches that God is merciful and compassionate, and that promises the faithful worldly peace and equality and entrance to a sublime eternity.

The Quran is the sacred book of Islam, and is believed to be a collection of the direct “recitations” of Allah, or God, as received by the prophet Muhammad (c. 570-632 AD). Muslims do not regard Muhammad as divine with God, but as the last in a line of prophets. In fact, the most fundamental Muslim belief is that there is no other god besides God and no division within the divine Godhead. The Christian Trinity therefore remains problematic for many Muslims. Recognizing them as sacred, the Quran bears some overlap to the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, yet differs on certain facts: one in particular is the blessing and role given to

Ishmael rather than Isaac in Islamic tradition. And while Muslims view the Old Testament prophets and Jesus as true prophets, they believe that the revelation Muhammad received perfects the Abrahamic prophetic tradition. Accordingly, Muslims hold the life and teachings of the prophet Muhammad in highest esteem and believe faith requires discipleship to his example. Even so, it is a mistake to regard Muslims as ‘Muhammadans’ in the same sense that Christians believe faith is mediated and accessible only through Jesus Christ. Islam and Muslim are related to Salaam, the Arabic word for Peace. The typical Arabic greeting is “Salaam alaikoum,” “Peace to you.”

The life and teachings of Muhammad and the story of early Islam are revealed in the Hadith, which are collections of sayings about the Prophet that have been handed down through generations by skilled and trusted oral historians. These chains of religious transmission vary however, and thus have been

disputed frequently among different schools of Islamic law and theology. While generally in agreement about the Quran, various sects of Islam diverge largely over the authenticity or interpretation of each other's Hadith.

Two main groups of Muslims are the Sunnis, or those who believe they follow the more Orthodox "path" laid out by Muhammad's teachings, and the Shi'is (often Shi'ites), or that "party" which believes 'Ali (Muhammad's cousin) was the rightful successor to Muhammad's mantle of leadership. As Islam spread across time, culture, and diverse lands, many different schools of interpretation and practice developed both within and outside of these

larger groups, similar to Christian denominationalism. One major expression of Muslim faith that intersects many schools of belief and practice is Sufism, or Islamic mysticism. Like Christian or Jewish mystics, Sufis place greater emphasis on the inward experience of God and on individual acts of spiritual discipline.

Next month this series will continue with the topic of Muslim practices.

Hannah's Closet



Attention: Do you like to knit or crochet (or wish you could)? Hannah's Closet (located in the former coat closet at the right-side entrance to the Sanctuary), is in need of prayer shawls. We have added patterns for prayer shawls in this Triangle to knit or crochet which you can try out. (pgs. 8 & 9)

If you do not knit or crochet then we have listed how many skeins of yarn we would need to complete a project. You could pick up some yarn and leave in the office, and that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have started a shawl or two and would like someone to complete the project for you, then bring those in also.

I have been told that people like to finish projects.

The name Hannah's Closet got its origin from the story of Hannah and her son Samuel. You can find the story in I Samuel 1-2, specifically **1 Samuel 2:18-20**

Crochet Wide Scarf

Finished Size: 18"x72" (45.5 cm x 183 cm)

MATERIALS

Bulky Lion Brand® Homespun •

4 skeins

Crochet hook, size K (6.5 mm) or size needed for gauge

GAUGE: 5 V-Sts and 7 rows—5 1/2" (14 cm)

Gauge Swatch: 6" w x 5 1/2" h (15.25 cm x 14 cm)

Ch 21.

Work same as Scarf for 7 rows.

Finish off.

SCARF FIRST HALF

Ch 51, place marker in third ch from hook to mark st placement.

Row 1 (Right side): (Dc, ch 2, dc) in sixth ch from hook. * skip next 2 chs, (dc, ch 2, dc) in next ch; repeat from * across to last 3 chs, skip next 2 chs, dc in last ch: 32 sts and 15 ch-2 sps.

Note: Loop a short piece of yarn around any stitch to mark Row 1 as right side.

Row 2: Ch 3 (counts as first dc, now and throughout). turn; (dc, ch 2, dc) in each ch-2 sp across to last dc. skip last dc. dc in next ch: 32 dc and 15 ch-2 sps.

Row 3: Ch 3. turn; (dc, ch 2, dc) in each ch-2 sp across to last 2 dc. skip next dc, dc in last dc.

Repeat Row 3 until piece measures approximately 36" (91.5 cm) from beginning ch.

SECOND HALF

With right side facing and working in free loops of beginning ch (*Fig. 7, page 40*), join yarn with slip st in first ch; ch 3. skip next 2 chs,

* (dc, ch 2, dc) in next ch, skip next 2 chs; repeat from * across to marked ch, dc in marked ch: 32 dc and 15 ch-2 sps.

Repeat Row 3 of First Half until Second Half measures approximately 36" (91.5 cm) from beginning ch [Shawl should measure a total of 72" (183 cm)].

Finish off.

Knit Triangular Shawl

Finished Size: 65" wide x 33" deep
(165 cm x 84 cm)

MATERIALS

Lion Brand® Homespun

3 skeins

29" (73.5 cm) Circular knitting needle, size 13 (9 mm) or size needed for gauge **GAUGE:** In Garter Stitch.

10 sts and 16 rows = 4" (10 cm)

Gauge Swatch: 4" (10 cm) square Cast on 10 sts.

Knit 16 rows.

Bind off all sts in **knit**.

SHAWL

Cast on one st.

Row 1: Knit into the front and into the back of st, 2 sts.

Row 2: Increase, K1: 3 st.

Rows 3-6: Increase, knit across 7 sts.

Row 7: K3. YO. knit across: 8 sts.

Repeat Row 7 until piece measures approximately 32" (81.5 cm) from cast on edge, ending with an even number of stitches.

Next Row: K3. YO. * K2 tog YO; repeat from * across to last 3 sts. K3.

Next 4 Rows: Increase, knit across.

Bind Off Row: K2 tog. * K1. pass second st on right needle over first st; repeat from * across to last 2 sts. K2 tog. pass second st on right needle over first st and finish off.

Design by John Feddersen, Jr.

Knit Wide Shawl

Finished Size: 18" x 72" (45.5 cm x 183 cm)

MATERIALS

Lion Brand Homespun

4 skeins

Straight knitting needles, size 10 (6 mm) or size needed for gauge

GAUGE: In pattern, 14 sts—4 1/4" (10.75 cm): 18 rows = 3 1/3" (8.25 cm)

Gauge Swatch: 6 1/4" w x 4" h (16 cm x 10 cm)

Cast on 20 sts.

Work same as scarf for 22 rows.

Bind off all sts in **purl**.

SCARF

Cast on 58 sts.

Row 1-4: Purl across

Row 5: (Right side): P3. * YO, K2 tog: repeat from * across to last 3 sts, P3.

Row 6: Purl across

Row 7: P3, (K2 tog, YO) across to last 3 sts, P3.

Rows 8-10: Purl across

Row 11: P3, (YO, K2 tog) across to last 3 sts, P3

Repeat Rows 6-11 for pattern until Scarf measures approximately 71" (180.5 cm) from cast on edge, ending by working Row 7.

Last 4 Rows: Purl across

Bind off all sts in **purl**.

FRINGE

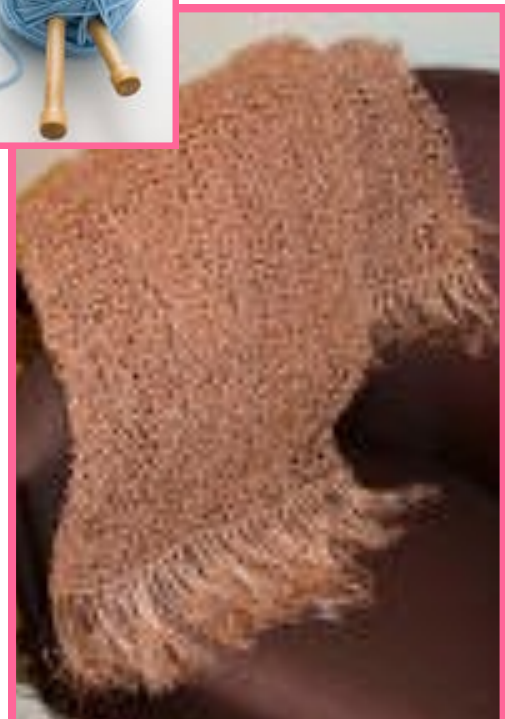
Cut a piece of cardboard 6" (15 cm) wide and 8" (20.5 cm) long. Wind the yarn **loosely** and **evenly** around the cardboard lengthwise until the card is filled, then cut across one end; repeat as needed.

Step 1: Hold together 8 strands of yarn; fold in half. With **wrong** side facing and using a crochet hook, draw the loose ends through the folded end; draw the knot up **tightly**. Repeat spacing as desired.

Step 2: Divide each group in half and knot together with half of next group

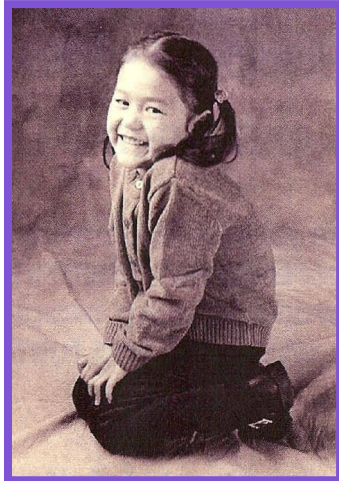
Step 3: Separate each group in same manner and knot again.

Step 4: Lay Scarf flat on a hard surface and trim the ends.



Become an Adult Mentor in the Marshwood Schools

Join the **H.A.W.K.** (Helpers Assisting Wonderful Kids) Program



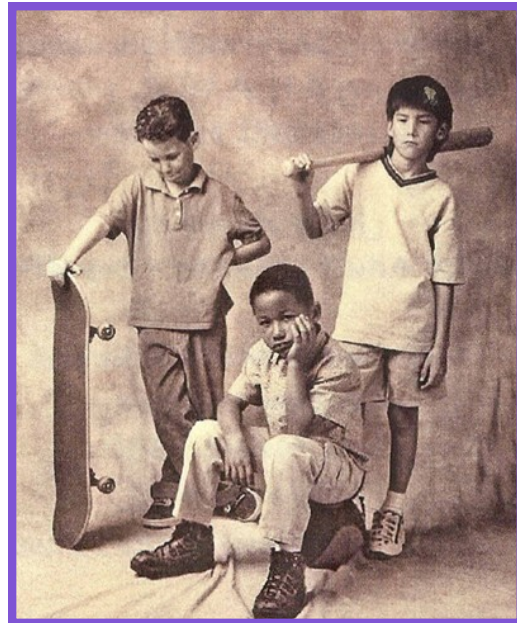
For more information about becoming a
H.A.W.K. Mentor

Please call or write:

Julie Hundley
District Adult Volunteer Coordinator

Marshwood Middle School
626 Dow Highway
Eliot, Maine 03903
(207) 439-1399
Email: jhundley@msad35.net

***"We are going to be successful because
we're Americans.
We are going to be successful because
we believe we live in the greatest place
on the face of the earth.
We believe there is nothing we can't do
if we apply ourselves to it, and we have
nothing more important to do as we
enter the 21st century
than to save our children. "***



H.A.W.K. (continued)

A mentor is an individual who spends quality time with a student.

A mentor acts as a positive adult role model, a caring friend and a good listener in order to help their student make a successful transition toward adulthood.

What do you need to be a Mentor?

Are you a retiree, parent, professional, or community member who would like to share some of your time with a student?

Are you someone that would like to provide a positive role model for a student to enhance his/her chances for academic, personal, and career success?

If so, then we would like to invite you to become a mentor in our Marshwood Schools.

The goal of the mentor program is to build student's self-esteem, Inspire their hopes and dreams, and help Increase academic achievement.

Were you lucky enough to have that special adult in your life who inspired you; who believed in you; who you looked up to?

Now YOU could be the one to inspire a young person!

We would like you to work with the youth in our community. There is nothing like individual one-on-one attention to help a student achieve academic goals and set high aspirations for

themselves. Whether the students needs be social, emotional or educational, your support, caring, and time can make a difference in a child's life and school experience. Mentoring can also make a difference in your life - a very positive and rewarding difference.

What will we provide you?

We will provide you with an orientation session, school tour, training and guidelines on how to be a successful mentor.

You don't have to be specially trained to be a mentor

YOU JUST NEED TO CARE!

Please join us in an educational partnership. Mentoring Marshwood's young people can be an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

**Join the
"H.A.W.K."
Mentoring
Program**

April Calendar

To see our Church calendar in full detail please follow the link:

<http://www.fpcme.org/calendar.htm>

Supper Schedule

Date	Event	Proceeds benefit
4/16/11	Monthly Supper	Conference
5/21/11	Monthly Supper	SAM
6/11/11	Monthly Supper	General Fund
6/24/11	Strawberry Festival	General Fund
7/16/11	Monthly Supper	Conference
8/20/11	Monthly Supper	General Fund

Women's Retreat

FPFC Annual Women's Retreat. Please join us at Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford Poole,

Maine on Friday,

May 13 through Sunday, May 15, 2011.

Join us for an ocean-side weekend of relaxation, renewal and fun as we get away from the responsibilities and pulls of our lives and take time to

“Restore Our Souls.” Total cost is \$125.00 that includes 2 nights' lodging (single rooms), 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 dinner

A deposit of \$65 is due now

Balance of \$60 is due April 26, 2011

Registration forms can be obtained in the office or by contacting Mary Melanson at (207) 703-3392.



Returnable bottles \$\$\$

From the generous donations of returnable bottles we were able to purchase 3 new tables for the Vestry. Thank you so very much for helping us meet our goal.

We will continue to collect bottles & cans the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday). You can get your bags from us on any Sunday or in the Church office.

Again, thank you for your support!

Joanne Morgan & Mike Ouellette





FPFC

First Parish Federated Church
150 Main St.
South Berwick, ME 03908

Phone: 207.384.4091

Fax: 207.384.6283

Email: fpfc@gwi.net

*"Whoever you are and wherever
you are on life's journey, you are
always welcome here."*

www.fpfcme.org

Note of Thanks:

Mary and Dave, Peary and Harland, Dulcy, and Rev. Donna—
Thank you for all your help, the wonderful food, and your many kindnesses during my illness in the winter.

May God bless you all. With sincere appreciation,

Dave Mayo

Once more we send our thanks for another lovely plant! It seems as though this poinsettia is prettier than anything we've ever received. We do enjoy having live, blooming plants around to cheer us.

We do appreciate your kindness and offer our warm thanks,

Harley & Carolyn

Thank you to all who helped make the Soup Kitchen Supper at the Salvation Army in Portsmouth so very successful. A very rewarding experience for us all. Also a big thank you to all who baked the yummy apple pies. The people really enjoyed them.

