



*First Parish Federated Church  
United Church of Christ ~ United Methodist Church  
The Reverend Donna Lee Muise — Pastor  
Mr David Deardorff — Minister of Music*

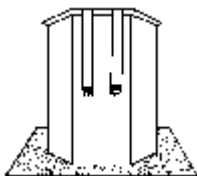
*Late August and*

**September**

**2009**

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## Pastor's Message

Turning 50 does something to a body. I don't know exactly what happened, but about a month before the big day, I began thinking about the fact that I have more time behind me than ahead of me, so I had better start planning how I was going to spend these years. (Apparently some of you were thinking the same thing and gave me a beautiful bucket instructions and beautiful gigantic white daisy petals on which to write my goals. It's a little overwhelming but ideas are starting to pass through my mind.) I have changed self-reproach attitude to a self-approach attitude. I eat better, go to bed earlier, and exercise is an intentional part of my day. I am excited about the programs and projects going on at church, and I am seeing and/or talking with my family in Gloucester more. It's all good, and I feel good, too.

One present I received for my birthday was a journal—a prompting journal. A journal of this type has prompts on each page that help you get writing. Many people who journal often have a little trouble getting started. I often do, I think because there is so much to say.

But this journal has prompts which are most helpful. There are five: Concerns for Today; something inspirational that happened today; something I noticed in nature today; something that I found exciting today; and something I hope to accomplish tomorrow. There are just a few lines for each topic, but that's really enough; it makes me focus on what is worthy of being written down.

After a few days, I found myself taking note of events and experiences during the day that would answer the prompts in my journal. Wow! Talk about being engaged with life! I began to notice everything about my day instead of just living through it.

I think my favorite prompt is the nature one. The first entry I made in this category had to do with skunks! Skunks are happily existing in our condo complex. I see them out in the yard and fields just about every night. Sometimes when I get home late from work and it is dark, I have to scan the vicinity of the mailboxes for skunks. If I see one, I wait until the next day to retrieve my mail. Some skunks are more white than black; sometimes they travel in pairs, some prefer to fly solo. My cats think they're cousins; and skunks seem to be finding lots of grubs in our lawn. They run funny and I like to watch them from the safety of my living room window.

God's world is fascinating, and we are a part of that creation. I'd like to prompt each of you to take notice of God's creation as well: What are your concerns? What inspires you today? What excites you? What did you notice in nature? What are you hoping to accomplish tomorrow? The Bible addresses all these questions. Give it a look and see what you can find—it's an awesome experience!

Rev Donna



## Letter from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

The summer seems to be flying by! By this time of the season I have a long mental list of unfinished projects and incomplete resolutions. This causes me to be all the more inspired by the work that my many faithful friends have accomplished for our church family over the summer. We've had many successful events and chances to worship together: a Yard Sale, several Church Suppers, Vacation Bible Camp, a professionally produced play and we've taken additional steps to develop a policy to guide the use of our beautiful church building.

The Council met in July and reviewed the ongoing work of the church. Our next meeting is in September, but we have conferred informally on some financial matters. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is a matter that you want me or the Council to attend to.

Charlie Putnam



September 21 will be the first gathering of the next series of Monday night Adult Bible Study and Discussion Groups. All adults from 16 to 86 are invited to the Ouellette's home on Monday nights.

We will begin a series called "Foundations" developed by Pastor Tom Halladay and Kay Warren from Saddleback Church. The series consists of four week segments discussing each of the following topics: God, the Bible, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Creation, Salvation, Sanctification and the church. We hope to discover the essential truths of Christian faith and how these truths are loved out in our relationships character, and work. In the first segment on God we will focus on getting to know him, His character and His love and in the process experience Him in a more powerful and personal way. Did I say we also laugh a lot and have great snacks?

Join us Monday night September 21 at 7 PM at Mike and Julia Ouellette's home, 1 Brattle Street, South Berwick, 384-0084.



Please join us for a great meal and great fellowship (*and bring all your friends!!!*) to our Saturday, September 19 Turkey Dinner!! Dine from 4 - 6 PM (***please note the earlier start time of 4 PM***) on turkey with all the fixins, stuffing, veggies, homemade biscuits, homemade desserts. Adult tickets are \$8, \$5 for children through age 12, under 2 are free. Hope to see you all there!



### **School Supplies for Daisy's Children Needed!!!**

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**The Women' Retreat Service Project** will be making teacher book bags for **Daisy's Children** and organizing and preparing for shipping school supplies for the children. Below is a list of items needed. Anyone who would like to donate items are encouraged to do so from **July until September 10th**. A box will be available to collect these supplies at the entrance to the church. Diane Money

**Items to donate: Pencils, erasers, hand pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, crayons, markers (thick & thin), rulers, pens, and kids' scissors, and the zippered pouches to store supplies.**

Thanks so much for your help.

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### **Need a Ride to a Medical Appointment?**

The South Berwick Volunteer Network can help! Call 384-3311 and leave a message before noon 48 hours before your appointment; a volunteer driver will contact you and make arrangements to pick you up and take you to your appointment.

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### **Hospice of York**

Hospice of York is looking for new volunteers...men and women alike! Have you been thinking this is the kind of meaningful, "give-back" kind of volunteerism that you would like to do? Have you seen the benefits of having Hospice serve your family or friends & think you would like to see if you can do that? Are you simply thinking this is something that would benefit your own life in whatever way...personal or professional?

Do call me & let us explore this wonderful opportunity open to you. Completing our 12-week course does not commit you or us to anything, but you need to do so if you think you want to become a volunteer. I would love to talk with you about whatever your interest may be.

Training Class starts Monday, September 14 at Pelkey's Funeral Home, Rt 1 Bypass, Kittery, ME, from 6:30 - 9 PM. The cost is \$30.00 and pre-registration is necessary. Call Dee at 207 363-7000 to sign up or if you need more information.



## 24 Ways Children's Ministry Benefits the Church

1. **It helps the church to pass on the faith.** In every period of church history, this has been a struggle. Children's ministry can help the church be intentional about telling the next generation.
2. **It helps bring in new families to the church.** It is becoming more difficult to identify and reach 20-somethings who are prospects for evangelism.
3. **It allows the church body to use their talents and spiritual gifts.** Releasing the ministry potential of lay people is often a key for church growth.
4. **It helps train future church leaders.** We should expect kids who grow up in our ministries to become leaders in the church and in the world.
5. **It provides accidental learning for ministry volunteers.** Sometimes our grown-ups learn as much as the kids.
6. **It raises community awareness of the church through special events.** Our Turkey Suppers have developed quite a following.
7. **It helps big church go smoothly.** Quality childcare is essential to allow parents to participate fully in the church worship service. While our ministry is much more than childcare, this is a clear benefit to the church.
8. **It helps build a strong youth ministry.** We could expect children who grew up in our ministry to become leaders in the student ministry.
9. **Having children present helps the pastor to keep the Gospel simple.** Your preacher will benefit from preaching to kids. It forces them to rethink their vocabulary and provide adequate explanation of spiritual concepts.
10. **Having children present brings joy to the whole congregation.** Kids are a blessing from the Lord, and their company will liven up any fellowship.
11. **Having children present reminds the congregation that all people were made in God's image.** The innocence and creativity of kids reminds us all that humankind was created to be holy and happy.
12. **Having children present gives adults some real life examples of childlike faith.**
13. **Having children present helps the church learn to accommodate different music styles.** Many times the church will accommodate a special child-friendly song. This is one step toward diversity in musical styles.
14. **Having children present gives a sense of excitement and hope about the future.** Few things point us to the future like being around children.
15. **It brings joy for the church to see children grow through the years.** Everyone loves to see the little ones growing up. Children's ministry helps that happen when we keep the kids in front of the congregation.

16. **It provides senior adults with the opportunity to be spiritual-grandparents.** There are great blessings for everyone when the elderly spend time with the young.
17. **It provides ways for churches to cooperate with one another.**
18. **Volunteers benefit from additional fellowship among one another.** Working together on a ministry program helps people make lasting friendships.
19. **Volunteers receive formal training and additional pastoral oversight.** The training sessions you provide can be a great form of continuing Christian education for adults.
20. **It provides a context for women to use their teaching gifts and leadership.** In many denominations, the position of senior pastor is limited to qualified men approved by the church. But everyone can agree that God gifts and uses women to teach in a variety of other settings, especially children's ministry.
21. **It allows artistic people to share their talents.** Children's ministry crafts is one area that can greatly benefit from these abilities.
22. **It allows musically gifted people to share their talents.** It takes a great deal of patience and charisma to lead children to worship God through music.
23. **It allows talented cooks to share their gifts.** Don't forget that baking and cooking are valuable talents that God can use for ministry.
24. **It helps reform families and the church.** When a church is struggling to recover its theological and spiritual heritage, often the education department can take a leading role.

**Imagine Another World is possible**  
**2009 Neighbors in Need ~ Justice and Witness Ministries**

Sue Kupner, coordinator of Urban Mission Experience/St Louis, a program for youth in grades 6-12, says she is "touched by the youth that come to work with us and the transformation that occurs for some as they experience how God's love and grace touches lives."

A recent experience that touched Sue's heart involved a 7<sup>th</sup> grader named Josh. "Josh was part of a middle school group from a St Louis suburb," says Sue. "The group worked in food pantries, a low-income day care center, and a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. The kids also took part in a walk through downtown St Louis that depicts, in a small way, the path a homeless person would need to travel to have their basic human needs met.

"After walking 'The Trail,' Josh wanted to talk about how he felt. He said that after this experience he would not view people in the same way. When noticing a person walking around with a backpack, he would not assume they were a student, and when noticing someone carrying a suitcase he would not assume they were a traveler. With tears in his eyes he said very softly, 'They could be homeless and need our help.' Josh's message brought tears to my eyes. It meant that he 'got' what we hope the youth coming to our program will understand."

As a 2008 recipient of a Neighbors in Need grant, Urban Mission Experience/St Louis' goal is to try to open the eyes of young people to things that go on in their city: issues of poverty, hunger, oppression and discrimination. Your gift to this special UCC offering provides significant help toward that goal. Thank you!



## **New England's Women's UCC Celebration VIII, Together Building Bridges**

...a time to break down and a time to build up...will take place in Burlington, Vermont. Circle the dates on your calendar now...March 12, 13, and 14, 2010, Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center.

A bit about the costs for you to attend.

**Registration:** \$90.00 until December 31, 2009, then \$100.00 (FPFC will stay 2 nights)

**Hotels:** Range from \$95.00 plus 10% tax to \$109.00 plus 10% tax. Rooms can accommodate up to 4 women; some have breakfast included.

**Meals:** Friday Evening Welcome Buffet, \$16.50, 3 Cheese Lasagna.

**Saturday Lunch:** With speaker Ann Craig, "The Straight Bridge to Equality: Coming Out as a Gay, Transgendered, Friendly Denomination," \$19.50, Soup & Chef's Salad.

**Saturday Dinner:** With speaker Reverend Carolyn Young, "Building Cross Cultural Bridges," \$24.50, choice of Pasta or Fish.

**Sunday Breakfast:** With speaker Reverend Linda Jaramillo, "Immigration: Bridging the Divide," \$14.00, Quiche, Fruit, Pastry.

**All of the above meals have limited seating. Pre-register early!** If you miss a seat at the Saturday lunch, plan to pre-register for a Box Lunch, \$17.00 & sit in on a Forum about "**Daughters of Abraham**" with Reverends Mary Luti and Ann Minton or a Forum about how the **New England Conferences do Partnerships with other countries, moderated by Susan Sanders** of the National UCC Staff. Box lunches will also be available for pickup (pre-registration required) after the closing on Sunday around noon. You'll be able to start for home & not have to search for a place to stop for lunch. Add it up—not very expensive for all you get! Bring your friends to share your room! Make it a "girls weekend away!" Plan to give a gift to your female pastor for Christmas of a registration package or ask your family for that gift for you! Contact your local women's group or your Association for scholarship assistance.

New to Celebration VIII is Connections, the intergenerational participatory workshop that Val Tutson, Whendi Cook & Da Vita McCallister will host, for women ages 14 and older. We want to encourage all Youth Group leaders to bring girls from their churches. Housing for such groups will be offered in local churches, so register early! Bring your daughter (age 14 and up) and your granddaughter.

This is a 3-day event for all the women in your life, your mother, your aunt, your friend, women of all ages. The women from FPFC will be making plans to attend and we want YOU to join us. We will carpool up together and can share rooms as desired. Speak to Rev Donna, Cheryl Estabrooke, or Jan Klebaur about this wonderful opportunity. Start saving so you can come. We will talk this fall at Mug 'N Muffin about ideas to raise some money to help defray costs. We invite ALL women of the church - young, not so young, and those in between. It's hard to believe that 59 women volunteers from all of the New England UCC Conferences have been working for two years planning this event (which is only held once every 4 years) filled with exciting programs, enthusiastic speakers, spirit-filled worship, thought-provoking workshops, delightful displays, and so much more.

Registration forms will be available around Labor Day. Posters will go to all of our church reps and to all churches. Look for them in September, too. Visit the website [uccwomenscelebration.org](http://uccwomenscelebration.org) for more information & to register online or contact the Coordinator, Susan Waldron at 860-923-2887 or [swaldron01@snet.net](mailto:swaldron01@snet.net). Plan now to be a part of this important happening...**Build your own bridge or strengthen the bridge of another. See you in Burlington in March 2010!**

### **A Sample of Testimonies**

"There was NO way I could give up a whole weekend.....a 37 year old wife and mother with a full time job and many commitments within the church. How could I give up this time? With some coaxing by church friends, I joined a carpool of women from my church. The ride from Maine flew by as we shared stories and got to know each other better. From the moment I walked into the registration area I could feel the amazing spirit and energy. Nearly one thousand women, all there to grow and learn and worship. The weekend was filled with shining moments, useful information, inspiring messages. I returned to my family, job, and church renewed in spirit and with a better sense of the wider UCC community....." Marsha Sheehan, First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Saco ME

"Around the time I graduated from college, my mother and I began the tradition of an annual mother-daughter retreat. Mom invited me to Celebration VII (2006). What impressed me most was the planning that had to have gone into the weekend; our every want and need was anticipated and taken care of, from quiet time to discussion to snacking to supporting the global community. And the music! Singing with over 900 other women is a moving experience; I was in tears more than once throughout the weekend. There was time to take walks, time to meet and chat with other participants, and time for just the two of us to talk and share. It was a powerful, strengthening three days. In the doldrums of a gray cold winter, our experience at Celebration VII made me feel alive and new...." Liz Reed-Swale, Rocky Hill

*"....You are neither too old nor too young to experience the Holy Spirit moving among the women at these Celebrations....." Joan Morton, Westbrook ME*

Church Calendar ~ Late August 2009

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- Wed, Aug 19** Board of Deacons meeting, 7 PM at the Church
- Thur, Aug 20** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 21** Church Office closed  
Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sun, Aug 23** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
Worship, 10 AM
- Mon, Aug 24 & Mon, Aug 31**  
Lawn Chair Theology, 7 PM at the Church
- Thur, Aug 27** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 28** Church Office closed  
Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Sun, Aug 30** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
Worship, 10 AM
- Mon, Aug 31** Lawn Chair Theology, 7 PM (*last session*) at the Church

Church Calendar ~ September 2009

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- Thur, Sept 3** Christian Education Committee, 6:30 PM  
Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sept 4** Church Office closed  
Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sun, Sept 6** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
Worship/Communion, 10 AM
- Mon, Sept 7** *Office Closed to Observe Labor Day*  
PPRT, 6:30 PM in Rev Donna's office
- Tue, Sept 8** Church Council, 7 PM
- Wed, Sept 9** Board of Deacons meeting, 7 PM
- Thur, Sept 10** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM  
Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 PM
- Fri, Sept 11** Church Office closed  
Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM

- Fri, Sept 11 - Sun, Sept 13**  
*Women's Retreat at the Living Waters Spiritual Center in Winslow, ME*
- Sat, Sept 12** Haskell Wedding
- Sun, Sept 13** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
 "Welcome Back" Sunday for families and children/Worship, 10 AM
- Thur, Sept 17** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
 South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sept 18** Church Office closed  
 Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM  
 South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sat, Sept 19** Church Supper (Turkey), 4 - 6 PM in the Vestry  
 Letourneau Wedding
- Sun, Sept 20** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
 Rally Sunday/Worship, 10 AM  
*Sunday School classes begin*
- Mon, Sept 21** Adult Bible Study Group, 7 PM at the Ouellettes home
- Thur, Sept 14** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM  
 South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sept 25** Church Office closed  
 Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Sat, Sept 26** Smith/Martin Wedding
- Sun, Sept 27** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room  
 Worship/New Members Day, 10 AM
- Mon, Sept 28** Adult Bible Study Group, 7 PM at the Ouellettes home
- Outside Groups Calendar ~ Late August 2009
- Tue, Aug 18** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Fri, Aug 21** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
 AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Aug 24** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
 AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Aug 25** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, Aug 26** Fuel Assistance, 9 AM - 3 PM in Room 101
- Fri, Aug 28** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
 AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Aug 31** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
 AA, 7 PM in the Vestry

Outside Groups Calendar ~ September 2009

- Tue, Sept 1** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Fri, Sept 4** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Sept 7** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Sept 8** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, Sept 9** Fuel Assistance, 9 AM - 3 PM in Room 101
- Fri, Sept 11** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Sept 14** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
Community Chorus Resumes Practice, 6 PM in the Great Room  
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Sept 15** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Fri, Sept 18** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Sept 21** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
Community Chorus, 6 PM in the Great Room  
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Sept 22** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, Sept 23** Fuel Assistance, 9 AM - 3 PM in Room 101
- Thur, Sept 24** St George's Episcopal Group, 5:30 PM in the Vestry
- Fri, Sept 25** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
AA, 7 PM, Room 101
- Mon, Sept 28** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101  
Community Chorus, 6 PM in the Great Room  
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Sept 29** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room

