



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

Triangle ~ February 2010

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Pastor's Message - February 2010

Got your bucket of hot and buttery theater popcorn curled into one arm; in the other, a drink so large that you will be squirming in your seat by the middle of the movie; and squinting as you make your way down the darkened aisle, you search diligently for the perfect seats, find them and settle in to watch...20 minutes of tantalizing teasers of soon-to-be released movies.

Some of the previews have your heart pumping and your brain thinking, "I've got to see *that* one!" Then when you actually see the movie when it's released, you find out that the trailer you saw had all the best parts in it and the full-length movie was Dudsville. There's real disappointment in the movie and real resentment that you just sank all that money into a night out at the movies. Wish you had waited till the movie came out on DVD or Blue-ray?

In what ways might such a movie-going experience resemble everyday life in an average congregation such as ours? Ever show up for worship expecting to sing great hymns, hear awesome music, observe a meaningful children's message and hear a great sermon but leave disappointed? Ever arrive at coffee hour only to find out they've actually run out of coffee and the donut holes—even the jelly-filled ones—are all gone?

Ever get all excited about an event or a project and then when the time finally comes to do the work, the enthusiasm balloon is deflated and many who said they'd help or attend are no where to be found? AAHHHHH, such is life in the common congregation. It's nobody's fault; it's just life.

Part of my work as pastor is to encourage you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to persevere in the faith journey no matter what comes our way. Some of you recall these words from Edward Mote, 1834:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Churches are supposed to be built on the solid rock foundation of Jesus Christ; yet we worry about so many things and we try to accomplish many and various things. ***When we spread ourselves too thin, when we forget our direction or lose our purpose, we end up trying to walk in sinking sand. And that never works.***

It's God's job to move the mountains, part the seas and raise the dead; yet it seems like we keep trying to play God's position instead of the one for which God created us. I believe that just as God created each one of us for a purpose and gifted each one of us for that purpose, so too Jesus has a purpose for each one of his churches within the boundaries of Matthew 28:18-20. The issue is, many congregations want to be "all-purpose churches." This mindset just might be a misapplication of the words, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

When we try to be all-purpose churches, the purposers (also made up) end up burned out, overweight in some form and underhappy (yes, I made that word up, too)--and why wouldn't we be? We're trying to eat a mountain of popcorn from a ten-gallon bucket, drinking enough soda to fill a kiddie pool, and after all of that, perhaps arriving, once again, in Dudsville because only a handful of people showed up to enjoy our heart's hard work.

As we move into days of information gathering around finances, planning budgets and nominating people to ministries (aka committees), I remind you to be prayerful in all decisions you are called to make. Every decision has weighty consequences and affects many people and programs and projects within church walls and outside as well.

The decisions we are called to make are much, much bigger than what movie to see, whether we buy a medium popcorn or a large, and where we want to sit. Think about the fact that prayerful decisions you make can mean the difference between teasing with promises and delivering on promises. Focus on what's really important to our life together, to our faith and to our God. Together, we can build our church on the certain hope, when on Christ, the solid rock, we stand.

Blessings, Rev Donna

EVERY MEMBER CANVASS REPORT FROM THE PASTOR

In November 2005 I cast a vision of how our church might be transformed for mission in the 21st century. And as is common and as people have a right to do, some loved the idea and some hated it. Some were open and honest about their joys and concerns; some were not. Also common in congregations. Following the vision casting, we fell quickly into two years of what Every-Member-Canvass comments identified as "the turmoil." I would like to address a few more of those items here.

Response: "Feels that Reverend Donna did not step up enough to help the Church during the turmoil."

Response: "There was a trust issue with Reverend Donna during the turmoil."

Answer: I googled the definition of "turmoil" and it appeared right under an ad for ulcerative colitis, I kid you not! The definition, though, is "a state or condition of extreme confusion, agitation or commotion."

The turmoil we experienced was indeed those things; it was terrible. Everyone, I think, was injured in some way, including me. Because of the tension and turmoil, some people left, some found ways and reasons to remain, and some are even today carrying grudges. The thing about grudges is that they get heavier the longer we carry them around.

Not knowing what the commenter would call "stepping up enough," it's a bit difficult to respond specifically. What I can say to you is that I did the very best I could under extremely hostile conditions. I am so very sorry that you were caught in the middle of that confusion and agitation. I have no doubt that *everyone* involved was trying to do the honorable thing according to their beliefs and understandings of the situation.

If you were to study conflict in the "C" Church, you would learn that church conflicts outside of cases of misappropriations of funds and pastoral misconduct has little to do with the pastor personally, yet the church/pastor is usually the target of animosity basically because the church/pastor is the safest place (or person) for exposing one's hurts and anger and other issues. Commonly, conflicts happen sooner or later in churches, and often they take on a life of their own. Sometimes even the person (or people) who have caused a stir, do not even realize what's behind the "presenting" problem. And there's always something behind it. Everybody's confused about what's really going on!

When there's that much confusion, agitation and commotion, trust is almost non-existent. Trust is huge in our lives, personally and congregationally; spiritually and corporately. I understand that some of you may have had difficulty trusting me during those two years of unrest and tension. While I did my best to be trustworthy, there were times I am sure I disappointed you or perhaps you even felt betrayed by some words or actions. I, too, am prone to fear, mistrust and weariness, just as any human being is. Yet I can assure you I have always cared for you, ALL OF YOU, loving each one of you in Christ as I, your pastor, am called to do.

Throughout the "turmoil," I simply focused on the words, "Keep your eyes on the prize." The prize was not keeping my "job." In fact, the prize was never mine to begin with. The prize was God's; the prize was Christ's church's, the prize, you see, was *you*. Turmoil or tumult, all confusion is resolved the same way: The church whose hope is built upon the solid rock of Jesus Christ prevails.

Peace,
Rev Donna

Christian Education

It is hard to believe that our meeting this month began brainstorming and planning for the Lenten season! It feels that we just finished Advent! What a glorious season it was! As always I am so impressed with the children, their parents and the congregations' love of the Pageant! It is clear that the good news of Christ's birth was not forgotten at the FPFC! Thank you to all who helped make it happen.

The CE Committee is excited to explore and research possible curriculum for next year. We have begun the research process and will be reporting back to each other on four versions/samples. We will then choose a possible option, price it and add it to a suggested line item budget for Sunday School/Christian Education for the future budget. Sunday School classes are back in full swing again after the Christmas vacation and we continue to have fun with all of the wonderful children. You really do have great kids and I so enjoy our journey through the Bible together.

Another initiative the CE Committee would like to continue to explore is being sure that there is always coverage for "Noah's Ark" (aka the nursery) even in the summertime. Vicki Grant is usually and happily available but as a policy we like to have two people for any classroom. If you think you would be interested during the summer months (when we try to give our Sunday School teachers some well deserved R&R) in helping out in the toddler room AND you have been associated with the church for one year AND you would like to get back to your roots and play--please let me or any member of the CE Committee know and we will begin compiling a list of volunteers for this important service we would like to continue to offer our congregation family.

As always it is a pleasure and a privilege to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the CE Committee if you have any questions about what the CE Committee is working on or any hopes and wishes you might have for the program.

Fondly,
Callie Clapp

SAM Committee Update

One of the greatest joys in being a member of this Church family is the effort made by each of you to share your love with another. Thank you to all who have been contributing to the Food Pantry needs as well as the Church supply requests and for your support of Families in need during the Holidays.

The January Mission Supper benefited the SAM Scholarship Fund and we thank all who helped make the evening possible. The SAM Scholarship fund was created to provide financial assistance to members of our church family who wish to attend workshops, retreats, seminars, mission trips, camps and other types of programs or opportunities that further their Christian education. Funds are available by request through the Pastor.

This month has brought us the opportunity to serve others by helping in the relief efforts for those suffering in Haiti. We are working with Church World Service to provide kits filled with much needed items that will be sent off on Feb 9th. Kit information can be found in the Vestry or online at Churchworldservice.org. Your help will put items of need directly in the hands of others.

SAM will be exploring the subject of hunger in our area and hope to provide educational information to the congregation in the near future. *Next SAM meeting - Tue, Feb 2 at 7 PM in the Library.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Ongoing positions available - Have you ever thought about Volunteering? We may have a position for you, We are looking for help at the Yankee Thrift shop at the First Parish Federated Church on Wed. evenings from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Thursday evenings from 5:30 - 8:00 pm, or any of 3 shifts on Fridays, 10:00 am to noon, noon - 3:00, or 3:00 - 5:00 pm.

Duties: Hanging clothing, working at the front desk, pricing items and putting items out for display.

Wages: Joy, Half price on any treasure you may find to purchase!

If any of these times are convenient or you would like more information please contact: Dottie Bennett @ 207-698-5939, Joanne Morgan @ 207-748-1175, or Julia Ouellette @ 207-384-0084.

Dine with Nine 2010

Have the winter blahs? Dine with Nine will cure it. The sign up sheet is on the bulleting board in the Vestry. Those who sign up to participate will be divided into groups of seven. A host couple will be designated who will arrange the first Pot Luck "meating" for the purpose of fun and fellowship. Why seven? So the groups can invite others to join them. Don't miss the good times. If you have questions, contact Julia Ouellette at 384-0084 or Joanne Morgan at 748-1175.

Yard Sale 2010

Hold the dates and remember us when you do your spring cleaning. The 2010 Yard Sale will be June 18 & 19. If you would like to help, call the Ouellettes at 384-0084.

Donations

Throughout the year, many of us make donations to support the mission and ministry of the First Parish Federated Church. Financial donations are noted by the Financial Secretary and her acknowledgment is forwarded to each of us at the end of the calendar year. Many of us also make donations of non-monetary items. If you have made a donation of a non-monetary nature and would like to have acknowledgment of that donation, please let me know and I will certify the donation and provide written acknowledgment for your use. If you have any questions concerning this, please do not hesitate to let me know. Marc Precourt, Treasurer

SKAT

SKAT stands for sewing, knitting, and talk therapy. This women's group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Janet Klebaur's house. Everyone is invited to join us at 6:30 - 7 PM, until 9ish or whenever...This month we'll meet on February 4 and February 18. Bring your projects (or not) and come join us for some lively conversation. We're hoping to see you there! Any questions? Call Janet at 384-4041.

"Walk Thru the Old Testament" March 12 & 13, 1010

A "Walk Thru the Bible" seminar is the best way I know of to introduce people to the "big picture" and overall message of the Bible. Through creative, fun, and interactive teaching, the presenter takes people through the major themes, structure and content of the Old Testament. And...the "Walk Thru the Bible" speakers have a way of doing it that helps people actually remember what they've learned!

This is a great event for Sunday School Teachers, children grades 5 and up, Confirmation Classes and church members of all ages. Please call our Church Office at 207-363-3758 if you would like registration forms. Members may mail in their registration forms to us at First Parish Congregational Church, 180 York Street, York, ME 03909 or, if you wish to collect them at your Church Office we will pick them up the week of the seminar.

Thanks for spreading the news!

Rev Linda Hirst

SAM NOTES - FEB 2010

*****Angel Food Ministries-** Food Co op

Online Order Deadline: 2/18/10 by 2:00 PM, On-Site Order Deadline: 2/17/10 by 2:00 PM. To order contact angelfoodministries.com or St .George's Episcopal Church at 207-363-7376.

Pick up Date: Sat - Feb 27, 2010 Time 8:00 AM - 10:00AM

***** Church World Service- Relief Kits**

Parts for kits requested by Jan 31st, Full kits needed back by Feb 7th.

Board of Trustees Report

HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE

The Trustees met on January 6th. Joining us were Marc Precourt, Charlie Putnam and Jim Morgan. We discussed the heating of the building. Our new boilers produce plenty of heat, but they don't seem to be reducing the amount of oil that we consume. Part of the problem is that we were heating the building at times when it wasn't being used. We used the calendars of groups that use the building and after our discussion all of the thermostats were reset to come on at times when we know that people are present. Marc will continue to monitor the oil consumption and the Trustees will continue to fine tune the system.

PLEASE let a Trustee know if you use the building during one of the times scheduled on the calendar and are uncomfortable. Without your feedback, we can't know if we're making the right changes to the system

The next step in the heating system upgrade is to create better access to heat exchange units located above the ceiling in the Great Room. These units were installed about 15 years ago and have never been serviced! Sometime in February we are going to be making a catwalk in the ceiling trusses and building some sort of platform at the service doors for the two units. We are also going to make the access panel larger. The plan is to start the project on a Thursday evening, work Friday evening-all day Saturday and clean up for Sunday. Groups are scheduled to use the room Monday - Wednesday. With any luck we'll have the majority of the work done in one weekend.

Once access is improved Key HVAC can clean the heat exchangers. They will also repair, seal and insulate the ductwork to make it more efficient. Having a catwalk in the ceiling will also make it easier and safer for us to add more insulation in the ceiling.

The Trustees are going to replace the existing register covers. The covers we now have deflect air across the ceiling. We have ordered new covers which will direct the air toward the middle of the rooms. We have also ordered new return air covers which have an air filter installed in them. Putting the filters in the returns will make it much easier for us to change the filters often which will improve the quality of the air and efficiency of the heat exchangers.

2010 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Over the course of the winter, Trustees will be investigating possible grant money available to repair the steeple. We know that there is a leak that occurs during driving rain and there is also some rot to the bell structure. Our hope is that the Maine Steeples Project will help us to access the damage and make necessary repairs. As part of that project, we will also be soliciting bids to paint the steeple and East façade of the building. Brian Dowd

Photo Directory 2010

If you did not have your family photo taken by Olan Mills and would like to be included in the FPFC Photo Directory, you may submit a 4 x 6" closeup photo, preferably clear, glossy, and in color, to Julia Ouellette or Judi Connelly. The deadline to submit your photo is February 14.

Helping Earthquake Survivors in Haiti

Did you know? CWS (Church World Service) kits make a real difference in the lives of disaster survivors. Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world.

The contents of each Kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent.

The First Parish Federated Church of South Berwick Maine will be assembling Baby Care & Hygiene Kits. (See link below for instructions on how to prepare kits.)

All CWS kits should be returned to First Parish Federated Church by Sunday, February 7th. We will deliver the kits to Portland, ME for a consolidated shipment to Baltimore, MD.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

One hand towel measuring approximately
16' x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
One washcloth
Six Band-Aids
One wide-tooth comb
One nail clipper
One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
One toothbrush (in original packaging)

To assemble a Baby Kit you will need:

Six cloth diapers
Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
Two diaper pins
Two washcloths
Two gowns or sleepers
One sweater or sweatshirt
Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

For more information please visit their website:<http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer>

Thank You

Thank you so very much for the beautiful Christmas plants. They are so lovely and much appreciated.

Sincerely, Eileen Pendleton

I would like to say thank you for the poinsettia plant I received again this year. It's always such a lovely gift.

Leona Rinfret

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia I received at Christmas It brightened my holidays.

Ina Perkins

I would like to thank everyone for their support, thoughts, and prayers during the time following the passing on of my brother. The cards, emails, calls, and prayers were all appreciated. The prayer shawl has been of great comfort. I am extremely blessed to have such a caring church family.

Yours in faith,
Dottie Bennett

(In response to the gifts the members of the congregation bought for the shelters),

On behalf of the people York County Shelter Programs serves, we thank you for your generosity during the 2009 holiday season. Your kindness provided a wonderful Christmas to our shelter residents both singles and families in Alfred and the two family shelters in Sanford. Your response is overwhelming and greatly appreciated. You truly helped create the "Magic of Christmas" for our shelter folks.

Thank you!
Linda Patschke

Thank You from Our Minister of Music

I would like to thank you, the church, for your generous Christmas gift. Also, thank you all for coming out to the Cantata. This annual event has become very meaningful to Nancy and me as it seems to truly signal the arrival of the Christ Child in our hearts. All of the extra hours of rehearsal and preparation fade from memory once the first note is begun. The performance seems to be over in the blink of an eye and yet it lives in our hearts for days and weeks to follow. As I write this, I can close my eyes and put myself right back in the middle of that glorious sound. Thank you again to everyone who participated and I hope we can make it all happen again next year!

Blessings.
David

The FPFC Annual Women's Retreat

This year the Women's Retreat Committee is pleased to announce that we will be holding our annual FPFC Women's Retreat in **May** instead of September at the beautiful, oceanside Marie Joseph Retreat Center in Biddeford Poole, ME.

THEME: WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
DATES: May 21 - May 23
FEE: Deposit of \$60 DUE FEBRUARY 15
Balance of \$60 DUE MAY 4

Includes 2 nights' lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 dinner
There are some single bedrooms as well. Scholarships are available. Please see Rev. Donna for details.

Please join us for a weekend of relaxation, renewal and fun, as we get away from the responsibilities and pulls of our lives and explore the lives of spiritual, courageous, wise women from the Bible. The Retreat provides opportunities for new insights, prayer and reflection, and bonding with others, as well as a Mission Project where we can share our gifts and talents with others. Registration forms and further information will be available both in the entrance of the church and downstairs. For questions, please feel free to contact either Mary Melanson, Diane Money, or Maura Cawley.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Money

A Birthday Party! Everyone is invited!

- When:** Sunday, March 21 immediately following worship
Where: Church Vestry
For: Everyone - all ages
Why: To celebrate everyone!
Gifts: Please bring a "gift" to help restock our kitchen. This can be a wrapped gift or a cash donation.

Find the table celebrating your birthday month - donate your gift at that table - and then enjoy a delicious homemade cake in your honor.

Items Needed for the Kitchen:

- White tablecloths, oblong size 120" in length, round size 60" or larger
 - Aprons
 - Potholders
 - Dish Soap - for dishwasher or regular
 - Pump hand soap
 - Lysol Spray or other counter cleaners
 - Clorox or other wipes
 - Brillo or SOS pads
 - Sponges
 - Measuring Cups
 - Kitchen Timer (need 2)
 - Insulated Coffee/Tea Carafes
 - Water Pitchers
 - Booster Seats
 - High Chair
- Tea Bags

Gently used items are fine. Monetary donations will be used to purchase some of the more expensive items. We also would like to purchase a quantity of plain white mugs to use at suppers instead of using foam or paper cups. If every adult could spare \$1.00 toward this project, we could realize this dream. Look for "donation cups" and help us to be a little more green.

We hope to see everyone at the Party!

Jan Klebaur

Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

Do you love me?...Feed my Sheep. John 21:15-17

In his last moments with his disciples, three times, Jesus passionately repeated his instructions to them: If you love me, take care of the people I so deeply love. Live your love for me by actively tending these for whom I have sacrificed everything.

We are called to show our love by doing the following: give food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, health care to the sick; welcome the refugee and the stranger (Matthew 25:34-40), share strength and refuge with the fearful (Psalm 28:8-9), rescue those in danger (Ezekiel 34:10), and bring justice to the oppressed (Ezekiel 34:16).

When we share the resources we have, lives change.

A Home Away From Home

Ialakot, Pakistan, a "tent city" is home and host to hundreds of earthquake survivors. Living there has its difficulties but is better than having no place to live. Supported by Church World Service, Action by Churches Together International and gifts from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, this camp provides food, clean water, health clinics and educational opportunities. Nearly all the people who are waiting in the tent city are eager to return to their homes one day.

Excerpt from the OGHHS Planning and Resource Guide of the United Church of Christ

Remembering the Lives of Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb

Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb, Christian ministers with The United Methodist Church's mission and humanitarian organization, the General Board of Global Ministries, died of injuries received in the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Good friends, they were trapped with four other people, who survived, for 55 hours in the ruins of the Hotel Montana. Dixon headed the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Rabb worked with mission volunteers. They were in Haiti in an effort to improve health services in the very poor country.

Memorial Blog

Read the Memorial Blog for Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb, including a reflection from [Thomas Kemper](#), Global Ministries General Secretary-Elect at: <http://media.gb-gm-umc.org/tribute-blog/>

Hundreds of tributes have arrived. Add yours here by emailing condolences to Beth Buchanan at bbuchanan@gb-gm-umc.org, who will be collecting these messages to be posted to this memorial blog.

Funeral Service for Sam Dixon to be webcast

The funeral service for Rev. Sam Dixon of UMCOR will be webcast live tomorrow (Jan. 22, 2010) at 10 am EST. <http://esumc.org/Worship/SundayService.aspx>

More information about the services for both Sam and Clint, condolences, and memorial gifts are available on the [Memorial Blog](#).

Every Member Canvass

Friends, as most of you will remember, the Every Member Canvass (EMC) Team gathered information from their visits and produced a list of responses which was presented to the Church Council and the Church as a whole. The Church Council reviewed the responses and assigned those which required action to the appropriate committee/person to review and inform the congregation on action to be taken, if any. Below are those areas which were assigned to the Treasurer to review and respond to.

We should not have stopped the returnables program - it was a good source of income. Agreed. We did not take action to stop the program; we were unable to find anyone who was willing to expend the time and energy to run this very labor-intensive program. If someone steps forward and is willing to run the program, the Council will evaluate the program at that time.

Finances will always be a problem. Agreed, but I would use the word "challenge." As each of us does with our own personal finances, we make decisions on what we can do financially and what we cannot. We prayerfully consider all information in recommending a budget to the Church and we do all we can to live within that budget. We do what we can with what we have.

Memorial money was not spent as wisely as it could have been. The expenditure of any Church resources is studied carefully before decisions are made. While it is unknown which memorial money this comments refers to, this is the policy for all expenditures. To ensure that we have the best management of our memorial funds, the Fourth Century Endowment Fund Committee was formed a few years ago. They oversee the investment and expenditure of funds in the various endowments of the First Parish Federated Church. Any questions concerning any of our endowment funds and their utilization should be directed to any member of that committee.

Update financials in the bulletin. This suggestion was evaluated and it was determined that it would be better to provide monthly updates on our finances through the Triangle and to expand that monthly report to include more information to better inform everyone. If there are any questions or suggestions on how we can do this better, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Church needs to live within its means. Agreed. The Financial Team works very hard in putting together a budget recommendation for the Council, which is then modified as appropriate and sent forward to the Church at the Annual Meeting. Once a budget is voted, the Financial Team receives regular reports and meets at least monthly to evaluate how the finances of the Church are matching up to the budget and then make recommendations to the Council on what action to be taken, if any.

Need to resume mailing Triangle. Agreed. This was corrected several months ago. Everyone who wishes to receive the Triangle receives it either by e-mail or mail. If you know of someone who does not receive the Triangle and wishes to, please let Joan in the Church Office know.

Auction should be explored again. Done, and in the current budget. Please know that an Auction is a major undertaking and requires the hard work and dedication of many to make happen. The Church voted this as part of the budget and therefore the Church needs to support the effort. Over the next several weeks there will be requests to help with the Auction. Please be receptive and help as much as you can. The success of the Auction depends greatly on your support.

I thank you for the opportunity to address some of your concerns. If you have any questions concerning any of these responses, or any other aspect of the finances of our Church, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Shalom, Marc N. Precourt, Treasurer

Visitation and Care Team (VCT)

The VCT met after worship on Sunday, January 17th. During our meeting we updated Reverend Donna regarding the Team's activity and discussed some new ideas which have developed over the past couple of months. We now have a draft of an informational card which will be put in the pews, as well as other rooms in the church where people gather. This will let people know how the Team began and what it is about. This should be done sometime in February. We have also created a form, again to be placed in the pews, which can be filled out during worship with the name(s) of people who could use a visit, phone call or a card or note. The form can then be placed in the collection plate or in the VCT basket which is across from Reverend Donna's office. For a few weeks the form will be included in the bulletin. We are in hopes that this will be a convenient way for people to let us know who is in need of some special attention so we can continue to provide Pastoral care and support to our congregation and the community.

I continue to do the Sunday Prayer Journal, with final approval by Reverend Donna. Please feel free to contact Reverend Donna (384-4091 or revdonna@gwi.net) or me (384-4457 or estabrke@gmail.com) if you have someone who should be placed on the Prayer Journal. Also, please remember that there is a basket of cards for birthdays, get well, sympathy, and other occasions located near the VCT display in the Vestry. If you hear about someone during Prayers of the People and would like to send a card or note, feel free to look through the cards in the basket and see if there is one you could use. We hope to explore more ideas during our next meeting which will be at 11:45 AM on Sunday, February 21st. Cheryl Estabrooke

Senior Youth Group Schedule Winter/Spring 2010

February

- Sat 2/6 Overnight at the Church 5 PM to Sunday morning
- Sat 2/13 Make Valentine's Day Cookies to sell as a fundraiser for Haiti
- Sun 2/13 Regular Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- Sat 2/27 See Sarah Putnam in "The King and I" at Berwick Academy

March

- Sun 3/7 Youth Group Exchange with another UCC youth group
- Sun 3/14 No Youth Group, BA vacation
- Sun 3/21 Regular Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- Sat 3/27 Dinner fundraiser

April

- Sat 4/2 See Emily Beaudette in "Aida" at Marshwood High School
- Sun 4/11 Regular Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- Sun 4/18 No Youth Group ME Vacation Week
- Fri 4/23 PL Jump Start Weekend Friday - Sunday

May

- Sun 5/2 Regular Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- Sat 5/9 Coffee House Fundraiser
- Sun 5/16 Regular Meeting
- Sat 5/22 Boston Field Trip
- Sun 5/30 No Youth Group Memorial Day Weekend

June End of the year party and Mission Trip - **Dates TBD**

Church Calendar - February 2010

- Mon, Feb 1** PPRT, 6:30 PM in Rev Donna's office
Adult Bible Study, 7 PM at Julia's
- Tue, Feb 2** **SAM meeting**, 7 PM in the Library
- Wed, Feb 3** **Board of Trustees meeting**, 6:30 PM in Room 101
Choir practice, 7 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, Feb 4** **Thrift Shop open**, 5:30 - 8 PM; **Community Food Pantry open**, 6 - 7:30 PM
SKAT, 6:30 - 9 PM at Jan Klebaun's, 24 Ross Street
- Wed, Feb 4-5** **Rev Donna at Andover-Newton @ Woodbury Leadership Conference**
- Fri, Feb 5** **Office closed; Thrift Shop open**, 10 AM - 5 PM
Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sun, Feb 7** **Before Worship, Prayer**, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship/Communion Sunday, 10 AM; Sunday School
2nd Annual Couples Retreat meeting, after Worship in the Shorey Room
- Mon, Feb 8** **Adult Bible Study**, 7 PM at Julia's
- Tue, Feb 9** **Church Council**, 7 PM
- Wed, Feb 10** **Choir practice**, 7 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, Feb 11** **Thrift Shop open**, 5:30 - 8 PM; **Community Food Pantry open**, 6 - 7:30 PM
Board of Deacons meeting, 6 PM
- Fri, Feb 12** **Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open**, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Sun, Feb 14** **Before Worship, Prayer**, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship, 10 AM; **No Sunday School classes today**
- Mon, Feb 15** **Church Office closed to observe Presidents' Day**
No Adult Bible Study tonight
CE Committee meeting, 6:30 PM
- Wed, Feb 17** **Ash Wednesday Service**, 7 PM
Choir practice, 7 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, Feb 18** **Thrift Shop open**, 5:30 - 8 PM; **Community Food Pantry open**, 6 - 7:30 PM
SKAT, 6:30 - 9 PM at Jan Klebaun's, 24 Ross Street
- Fri, Feb 19** **Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open**, 10 AM - 5 PM
Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sat, Feb 20** **Church Supper**, 4 - 6 PM in the Vestry
- Sun, Feb 21** **Before Worship, Prayer**, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship, 10 AM; Sunday School classes
Matthew MacNown Booksigning, Danar
VCT, 11:45 AM
- Mon, Feb 22** **Adult Bible Study**, 7 PM at Julia's (last meeting)
- Wed, Feb 24** **Choir practice**, 7 PM in the Great Room
- Wed, Feb 24 - March 3**
Rev Donna on vacation
- Thur, Feb 25** **Thrift Shop open**, 5:30 - 8 PM; **Community Food Pantry open**, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Feb 26** **Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open**, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Sun, Feb 28** **Before Worship, Prayer**, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship, 10 AM; Sunday School classes
Community Chorus Snow Date Rehearsal, 1 - 4 PM in the Great Room

Outside Groups Calendar - February 2010

- Mon, Feb 1** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
Community Chorus practice, 6 - 10 PM in the Great Room
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Feb 2** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Wed, Feb 3** Fuel Assistance, 9 AM - 3 PM in Room 101
- Fri, Feb 5** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Sun, Feb 7** South Berwick Youth Soccer League, 7 PM
- Mon, Feb 8** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
Community Chorus practice, 6 - 10 PM in the Great Room
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Feb 9** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, Feb 11** Daisy Girl Scouts, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Fri, Feb 12** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Mon, Feb 15** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
Community Chorus practice, 6 - 10 PM in the Great Room
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Feb 16** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Wed, Feb 17** Fuel Assistance, 9 AM - 3 PM in Room 101
- Fri, Feb 19** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Mon, Feb 22** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
Community Chorus practice, 6 - 10 PM in the Great Room
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, Feb 23** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, Feb 25** Daisy Girl Scouts, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
St George's Berwick Group, 5:30 - 7:30 PM in the Vestry
- Fri, Feb 26** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Sun, Feb 28** Community Chorus Snow Date Rehearsal, 1 - 4 PM in the Great Room