



**Happy**

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



2009

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### **Summer Pastor's Message**

Preparing to take off for three weeks of vacation (please don't let it rain through all of July, too!), my mind is flooded with things to tell you about, remind you of, encourage you with; and as I sit before the computer, I ask myself, What do you most want to say to the congregation before vacation?

One thing would be to remind you to take care of each other. Be as loving and encouraging as possible to one another; attend worship so you can not only worship God but also see each other; make plans to participate in Vacation Bible Camp for the whole family, work at the suppers, welcome the guest preachers, ie, don't stay away because we're having a guest preacher!

Another thing I encourage you to do is to make a personal plan for spiritual growth. There are several offerings scattered throughout the fall and winter. Choose one to attend: the Lawn Chair Theology Fireside discussion will resume on July 27 at 7 pm at the campsite at Spring Hill Lodge, should we be so fortunate as to have a dry day. Julia Ouellette will offer another Bible Study in the fall at her home; attend Wednesdays' Caregiver Worship and Support and volunteer to help with care receivers, or better yet, join the Visitation and Care Team or Church Growth Task Force; there will be a new advent series, tba. I believe discussions are in the works for another Couples' Retreat Get-together. Settle on a Bible-reading plan (easily procured from the Internet); pray more often; pray with your children at meal time; be creative about your faith and let the surprises arise!

We all need to have time away; it's good for the mind, body and soul. I love vacation days, but do not think that you will be forgotten. I always think of you, hoping you're well, safe and healthy. At the end of my time off I can hardly wait to get back to church and be with you all again.

So, be very kind to yourselves. Be gentle and loving with one another. Enjoy the summer weather, should it actually arrive. My plans for time off are simple, visits to my mother, brothers, nieces and nephew in Gloucester (I hardly dare say I'm going to the beach!) And I hope to have them all up here to stay with me; and the rest? Who knows? If the weather keeps up, I'll be well read (instead of red) when I return.

May God be with you till we meet again.  
By his counsels, guide, uphold you.  
With his sheep securely fold you.  
God be with you till we meet again.

Rev Donna

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## Letter from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

For some reason I find that I have some of my best conversations of the year during the summer. Perhaps the warmer weather relaxes me just a bit or perhaps it's (slightly) slower pace of my work, but summer seems to be a good time to explore new ideas and perspectives on things with friends and family.

The Church Council had a productive, if highly organized, conversation at its June meeting. It received a report from the Church Sound Task Force indicating that a comprehensive upgrade to our sound system will cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. The Every Member Canvass Team has submitted its report, which prompted a thoughtful discussion on how best to respond to the praise and concerns transmitted in the report. This conversation will continue at the Council's July meeting. The Church Building Use Task Force reported that it has met and will meet again over the summer (since the Council meeting the Task Force has developed a working document). The Treasurer reported that the "quarterlies" (insurance bills that come four times a year) have created a cash flow problem - based on past years, we can project that our income would allow us to pay those bills between now and September 1, but the policies could be canceled in the meantime if we don't. Council authorized the Treasurer to ask the Thrift Shop team for a short-term loan, based on the belief that the church can repay the money by September.

The committee reports we received both reflect the progress of earlier conversations and generated new conversations. The Council also received a report from the Fourth Century Endowment Committee regarding a proposed process for managing and using the money received annually from the Bartlett Trust. The Deacons reported that they have received a United Way grant to be used through the Deacons' Fund for rent and heat assistance. Sharon Beckwith reported that Linda Patschke has agreed to be the principal contact for the SAM committee while Sharon is in Central America over the summer. The Trustees reported on work they coordinated to address the condition of the trees in our front "yard." The Christian Education Committee reported on its plans for Vacation Bible Camp.

With all the work going on in our church, one might think that there would be no time for good conversation. As it very often does, however, this year's church Annual Meeting has led me into a number of good conversations with other members of our church family. It's clear to me from several of these conversations that many of us are thinking carefully and deeply about how we can best balance our Church's financial needs with our need to answer to God's calling for us to work productively on local and broader missions. I am finding that my church family's enthusiasm for our shared mission causes us to have frequent, even pointed, conversations to solve problems, marvel at our progress, or reflect on our successes and shortcomings. I pray that our conversations will continue to be mutually supportive, always trusting in the integrity of one another's faith and I hope that we also will find the time to renew our energy through reflection and quiet conversation from time to time in the weeks ahead. As always, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you have questions, concerns or comments.

Charlie Putnam

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## July 2009 Letter to the Triangle

The PPRT has continued to meet regularly on the first Monday of each month. In June, we focused on preparing for the Annual Meeting and reviewing what we have done this past year. We have worked to be a support for the congregation and for Reverend Donna.

Each of us have been involved in various committees and activities at the church, which has kept us connected and aware of congregational and church issues.

While we will not meet in July, we will be convening on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM to begin the process of initiating the annual evaluation process for Reverend Donna and the Church.

We continue to welcome feedback, questions and suggestions in order to effectively serve our church family. You can reach any one from the PPRT individually, or schedule a time to come to our meetings, or contact Reverend Donna, who welcomes your input. Continuing to improve our communication is one of our top priorities, and your input is valuable.

May everyone enjoy some relaxing and hopefully sunny summer days!

Respectfully submitted,

Dewitt Carmer, Dottie Bennett, Mike Weber, Diane Money, Clayton Estabrooke



## God's Lighthouse! A Vacation Bible Camp Experience for the Whole Family!

The Christian Education Committee is excited about this summer's Vacation Bible Camp theme: *God's Lighthouse!* More details will follow soon, but please join us for three evenings of fun in August 4, 5, and 6 while we explore God's light through songs, crafts, games and church and family fellowship! God's Light shines in us all and together we can have fun exploring this light. Each evening will include four or five intergenerational centers such as a Bible Story, crafts, recreation and snacks, music and/or worship. Please "save the dates" for this wonderful program published by Abingdon Press and based on the program *Lighthouse Kids: Shining God's Light*.

### Pennies for VBC

There is a jar in the Narthex to collect pennies to help pay for Vacation Bible Camp. It is our goal to have this program totally free for all youth who would like to attend. So please give us your two cents worth (or four or six cents, or...)

**Help Needed!!!!**

There is a need for help in the "toddler's" room during Worship over the summer months - anyone interested in volunteering? Please contact anyone on the CE Committee.

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### **A Church Family Picnic!!!!**

Come one, come all to a church family picnic at the Ouellettes' on Sunday, August 2, 2009. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate summer, sunshine, friends, family, and the presence of God in our lives.

Date: August 2

Time: 1 PM - whenever you are ready to leave

Place: Ouellettes lawn

Bring: An entree or salad to share, your own favorites to drink, and a lawn/beach chair or blanket to sit on

A special desert will be provided (we hear that the Rev has a significant birthday this July, and this will be her first Sunday back from vacation), so please mark your calenders, wear comfortable clothes, and come join in for some fun and laughter. There will be a variety of outside activities to participate in.

### **FPFC Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat: "Is That You God?"**

Join us on **Friday, September 11th - Sunday, September 13th** for a weekend of quiet reflection, Bible readings, spiritual exercises, and fellowship at the Living Waters Spiritual Retreat Center in Winslow, ME. This beautiful retreat center offers single rooms with individualized themes, peaceful grounds, and a labyrinth for walking meditation. **Cost has been reduced to \$50 per person. If you would like, additional donations will be accepted. Scholarships are also available.** Registration forms are at the back of the church. An initial deposit was due June 28<sup>th</sup>, but will be accepted up until July 5<sup>th</sup>. There are a few spots left, so please sign up now! For questions and more information, contact Diane Money (384-4465) or Mary Melanson (205-201-2492).



Please join us for a great meal and great fellowship (*and bring all your friends!!!*) to our Saturday, July 18 Turkey Dinner!! Dine from 4:30 - 6 PM on turkey and all the fixins'. Adult tickets are \$8, \$5 for children through age 12, under 2 are free. Hope to see you all there! The Yankee Thrift Shop will be open from 4 - 6 PM for anyone who would like to take advantage of this opportunity to shop!

## **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.

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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*

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

**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. Thanks so much! 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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## Thank You

Sid Stevens would like to thank everyone for the many cards he has received, and for the thoughts and prayers of the congregation. Also, thanks to Rev Donna for her visits in the hospital and at home.

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## "Yard Sale 2009"

The FPFC Yard Sale and Dot's Diner will be held on Saturday, August 1 from 8 AM - 3 PM. Items may be dropped off at the Ouellettes' barn on the corner of Rt 236 and Brattle Street. Please call Mike or Julia at 207 384-0084 or the Morgans at 748-1175 beforehand so the doors may be opened. We will need lots of help. We will be setting up the tents on Thursday evening at 4 PM and putting out the items all day on Friday and it may take all day because people have been so generous. Saturday we will be starting off with coffee and donuts at 6 AM. Please email your availability to me at [Juliaouellette@comcast.net](mailto:Juliaouellette@comcast.net). We need sales assistants, cashiers, Dot's Diner wait people, and many more; you need to just name you hours. Come and enjoy the bargains, fellowship, and wonderful food at Dot's Diner. Hope to see you all there!!!!

Thanks to all,  
Julia Ouellette

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## "An Evening of One Acts"

FPFC will launch an exciting new theatrical enterprise this summer. Under the guidance of David Deardorff, our Music Minister, we will produce 3 One Act plays on **Saturday, August 8 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary**. The titles of the plays are "To Search and to Love", "An Act of Worship", and "The Alabaster Jar", all three written by Frederick Saur. These are thought-provoking plays with humor and are inspirational. This production will act as a fundraiser for the church's General Fund. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Please come and encourage your friends to come as well. This could put a dent in the General Fund deficit. The cast for this is set except for two parts which will be cast from a **general audition call on Thursday evening July 9 at 7 PM at the church**. Everyone who fits the character descriptions below are welcome to come and read for the parts. Characters needed are: One Male: Fatherly, authoritative, should appear to be 50 to 60ish years old; One Female: Teenager, 14-17ish, spirited. I am on vacation for the next two weeks, but if anyone has any questions, I can be reached on my cell phone (603-969-1229). Thanks. David

## From the Board of Trustees

All parishioners are cordially invited to attend our next Work Day on **Saturday, July 11 from 9 AM**

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- - **12 Noon**. Please consider coming to lend a hand. Remember...many hands make light work. The next

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– Trustees meeting will be held on the *2nd Thursday of the month, July 9th at 6:30 PM.*

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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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#### **Church Calendar ~ July 2009**

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<b>Sat, July 4</b>	<b>Happy Independence Day!</b>
<b>Sun, July 5</b>	<b>Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room Worship/Communion, 10 AM</b>
<b>Mon, July 6 – Sun, July 26</b>	<b>Reverend Donna on vacation</b>
<b>Thur, July 9</b>	<b>Thrift Shop open, 5:30 – 8 PM South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 – 7:30 PM Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 PM Auditions for "An Evening of One Acts" Church Production, 7 PM</b>
<b>Fri, July 10</b>	<b>Church Office closed Thrift Shop open, 10 AM – 5 PM</b>
<b>Sun, July 12</b>	<b>Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room Worship, 10 AM, the Reverend Joanne Stoughton preaching</b>
<b>Tue, July 14</b>	<b>Church Council, 7 PM</b>
<b>Thur, July 16</b>	<b>Thrift Shop open, 5:30 – 8 PM South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 – 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Fri, July 17</b>	<b>Church Office closed Thrift Shop open, 10 AM – 5 PM South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 – 11:30 AM</b>
<b>Sat, July 18</b>	<b>Turkey Church Supper, 4:30 – 6 PM</b>
<b>Sun, July 19</b>	<b>Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room Worship, 10 AM, Marc Precourt preaching</b>
<b>Thur, July 23</b>	<b>Thrift Shop open, 5:30 – 8 PM South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 – 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Fri, July 24</b>	<b>Church Office closed Thrift Shop open, 10 AM – 5 PM</b>
<b>Sun, July 26</b>	<b>Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room Worship, 10 AM, Lucy &amp; Charlie Putnam preaching</b>
<b>Mon, July 27</b>	<b>Reverend Donna back from vacation</b>

Thur, July 30 **Wedding Rehearsal, 5 PM**  
**Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM**

Fri, July 31 **Church Office closed**  
**Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**Hunter/Rowen Wedding, 4:30 PM**

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**Some August Events**

Sat, Aug 1 **Annual Yard Sale at the Ouellettes, 8 AM - 3 PM**

Mon, Aug 3 **PPRT, 6:30 PM in Rev Donna's office**

Tue, Aug 4 - Thur, Aug 6  
**God's Lighthouse! A Vacation Bible Camp Experience for the Whole Family,  
6 - 7:30 PM in the Vestry**

Sat, Aug 8 **Church Production of 3 One Act Plays, 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

Sat, Aug 15 **First Annual Honduran Rooster Run, North Berwick. 5K Family/Walk Run.  
Children's route. More details to follow. *Could use several volunteers for along the  
race route.* Contact Tim French at 651-0322 to volunteer Keep checking website  
for details and registration info. **(All proceeds benefit Daisy's Children.)****

**Outside Groups Calendar ~ July 2009**

Fri, July 3 **W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101**  
**AA, 7 PM, Room 101**

Sun, July 5 **South Berwick Youth Soccer meeting, 6 - 7 PM in Room 201**

Mon, July 6 **AI-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101**  
**AA, 7 PM in the Vestry**

Tue, July 7 **"Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room**

Fri, July 10 **W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101**  
**AA, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101**

Mon, July 13 **AI-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101**  
**AA, 7 PM in the Vestry**

Tue, July 14 **"Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room**

Fri, June 17 **W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101**  
**AA, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101**

Mon, July 20 **AI-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101**  
**AA, 7 PM in the Vestry**

Tue, July 21 **"Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room**

Fri, July 24 **W.I.C. Program, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101**

AA, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101

**Mon, July 27** **Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101**  
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry

**Tues, July 28** **"Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room**

**Thur, July 30** **St George's Episcopal Group, 5:30 PM in the Vestry**

**Fri, July 31** **AA, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101**

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