

First Parish Federated Church
150 Main Street
South Berwick, ME 03908



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

Triangle ~ June 2010

Office.....384-4091
Fax Line.....384-6283
Email: Rev Donna ~ revdonna@gwi.net
Joan/General Business ~ fpfc@gwi.net
Church Website ~ <http://www.fpfcm.org/>

June Pastor's Message

As May makes its way out of being and June looms at the door, I feel a sense of pressure rising. It's the time of year with all kinds of endings and beginnings, celebrations and parties, numerous other opportunities. Perhaps your calendar is starting to look like mine — showing on most any given day at least four different places you need to be, with new obligations rising up suddenly from underneath the surface just like one of those Whack-a-Moles.

Life in a fast-paced world leads me to believe that sometimes you're the hammer and sometimes you're the mole. So, you're constantly whacking or getting whacked. Not a pretty picture!

My hope for us as Christians throughout the summer is that we will all take time to rest, recover, and revive our bodies and our souls. Take the time to enjoy the gifts of God's wonderful creation and how rejuvenating it is to be out in it, breathing the fresh Maine air, playing on the sand and in the water, and camping, hiking, and playing in the woods, on the mountains, and at the shores of lakes and the Atlantic.

I plan to do many of these things as well, for I just love being outside! Outdoor activities refresh my soul way deep inside and as my spirit grows stronger, I begin to feel the creative juices flowing. After some vacation time in the summer, are you not ready to return to the routine of the other 9 months of the year with a brighter attitude and renewed energy? I know I am.

Life at the church will not be dormant at the church this summer, and you will find some surprises awaiting you if your family takes time off from church during June, July and August. During these months, however, you might see a parking lot quite empty on some afternoons during the week. I just want to let you know that I'm still on the job, but I will be doing more hours at home or in another relaxed location during the afternoons. It's awful lonely here in this big ol' building by myself!

Rest assured, however, that I will continue to be available to you at all times. My cell phone number will be recorded on our answering machine here at the office so that you may call me whenever you need to. I am always happy to speak with you. When I am away from the office, I also check my church email daily, so you really shouldn't notice a difference in my availability.

What the church may notice is a drop in our electric bill, and I know our treasurer is always happy to pay less for utilities!

I am looking forward to summer, and I hope you are too. And then one of the really nice parts of summer is when we all return and share our adventures of the past three months. It's an awesome life here in Maine, it's just the way life should be....

Peace,
Rev Donna

Christian Education Committee

Children's Sunday is soon upon us! Please don't miss this event that is put on by your children. Children's Sunday is June 13, 2010. We are asking that families bring their children to church early at 9 am on that day in order to have a quick rehearsal. Children will be playing instruments, reading scripture and sharing how they feel about our church and what they have learned in Sunday School. Don't miss it!

The Christian Education Committee is working on several projects. These include South Berwick Kid's Day on June 5 from 11-3pm. We are offering three activities to show off our beautiful Sunday School rooms. If you are interested in helping support this effort please speak with Callie Clapp. We need as many people as possible to cover the rooms and the activities being offered. We have also completed an important project regarding the Sunday School Curriculum. The committee agreed to pursue the curriculum *Faith Practices: Worship, Learning and Serving for Vital Congregations*. If you would like more information about the curriculum you can find it on the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/education>. Our most important on-going project is planning the "Changing of the Guard" for the Christian Education Committee. Callie Clapp is stepping aside as the Sunday School Coordinator, the CE Chairperson, and the CE representative to Council. So...if you are interested in any of these positions please let Callie or any of the members of the CE Committee know. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve this congregation both as the Sunday School Coordinator and the Chair of the CE Committee. The Christian Education Committee will also be looking for teachers for the 2010-2011 school year. Lucy and Charlie Putnam will be away for the fall. The Sunday School will be in need of at least a teacher for grades 6-8 and one for grades 9-12. The Committee will also be looking for youth group leaders. While there are a few who support the program Lucy and Charlie's absence leaves a mighty big hole and we need your help filling it. The Youth Groups have been such a strong program for our children. Please help us to keep it thriving and active.

Speaking of youth groups, the Senior Youth Group met and began planning meals and details for their mission trip to Washington County. They will be working with the Maine Sea Coast Mission which provides food, warmth, and clothing for those in need and provides home repair and weatherization with which our youth will be assisting. Ask our youth about their plans and maybe you can help!

Lastly, the CE Committee wants you to look forward to activities and events that the committee will be sponsoring this summer. We will plan and advertise one event in July and August to help families, friends and loved ones get together as a congregation. We will keep you posted!

Fondly, Callie Clapp
CE Chair

When I Say...

When I say that I am a Christian, I am not shouting that I am clean living,
I'm whispering I was lost, but now am found and forgiven.

When I say that I am a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride,
I'm saying that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say that I am a Christian, I am not trying to be strong,
I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

When I say I am a Christian I'm not bragging of success,
I'm admitting that I've failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say I am a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say I am a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain,
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon his name.

When I say I am a Christian, I am not holier than Thou.
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

The Holy Spirit speaks through broken people to a broken world, using language every
broken heart can hear and understand.

Because we know what it is like to be broken by hatred, we can speak of the healing love
of Christ's sacrifice.

Because we know what it is like to be broken by despair, we can speak of the healing
hope of Christ's forgiveness.

Because we know what it is like to be broken by doubt, we can speak of the healing faith
in Christ's promises.

Because we know what it is like to be broken by illness, we can speak of the healing
wholeness of Christ's resurrection.

"The Broken English of Pentecost"
--Leonard Sweet

From the Board of Trustees

CURRENT PROJECTS

HEATING: Over the course of the winter we've continued to make improvements on the new heating system. Recently the Trustees improved access to the air handlers, which are located above the Great Room. While building a cat-walk we discovered that much of the ductwork has collapsed and needs to be replaced. Later this month these units will be serviced for the first time since they were installed over 10 years ago. The ductwork will also be assessed and we will receive an estimate to repair/replace. We anticipate that this work will all be done with money already ear-marked to repair the heating system from the Fourth Century Fund.

TREE REMOVAL: There appear to be two trees that have died and need to be removed. If anyone can recommend an insured contractor, please give their name to a trustee.

SHED REMOVAL: You may have noticed that the old shed is gone. Thank you Henry Miller, for taking care of this.

2010 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

We are starting to solicit bids from steeplejacks to repair the leaks, reinforce the bell housing and paint the steeple. Some money may be available for this project through a Maine Steeples Grant. Anyone interested in helping to write the grant proposal is welcome to help.

We are also going looking for bids to paint the exterior of the church. We may break this into a multi-year process with half of the building being painted one year and the remaining elevations painted the following year.

Another improvement we are considering, which may have grant money available to supplement our own investment, is to replace many of the existing ceiling lights with more efficient fluorescent units. This has already been done in the Vestry. Efficiency Maine provides refunds for such improvements and we would also save on our monthly electric bill.

A side benefit of the improved Great Room attic access is that we can now easily add much needed insulation. Currently the State of Maine offers tax breaks for these types of improvements. We will continue to look for ways to fund this project with other monies, but even if we use Fourth Century funds, the church will benefit from lowered heating costs.

The final capital improvement that we are considering is to install a separate hot water source for the bathrooms and shower. Currently our domestic hot water comes from an electric hot water tank located in the kitchen. During the winter power outage it was discovered that this unit could not provide sufficient hot water for showers.

TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The Trustees meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in room 101. Our next meeting is June 2nd- anyone interested is welcome to join us. You may also voice any concerns you have about the physical structure of our building by speaking with a trustee or leaving a note in their mailbox outside Rev Donna's office. Brian Dowd, Board of Trustees Chairperson

SOUL - ROCKING CELEBRATION ON JUNE 6 - CONCERT and SILENT AUCTION

Join the Rock My Soul Quintet and full Choir & Band for a soul-rocking celebration of Gospel, Blues, and Rock 'n' Roll Music at Spring Hill, on Pond Road in South Berwick, Maine, on Sunday, June 6!

A VIP reception with light hors d'oeuvres and full bar will start at 4 pm, followed at 5 pm by a CONCERT, complete with lots of new songs and special surprise musical guests! A SILENT AUCTION and 50/50 RAFFLE will run throughout the event.

With its unique brand of rousing, authentic, raise-the-rafters gospel music, Rock My Soul has performed to packed houses throughout New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine. The group has been featured on WMUR-TV's *NH Chronicle*, WCSH TV's *207*, and MPBN. Last year, one of Rock My Soul's songs was featured in a PBS documentary entitled *Freedom Songs: Music of the Civil Rights Movement*.

Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. Tickets for the concert only are \$15; children 12 and under admitted free. Tickets for the reception and concert are \$25 each or \$40 per couple. All may be purchased online at www.dfgp.org, or at Bull Moose Records, or by calling 207-450-8016.

Proceeds from the concert will go toward the Gospel Music Project's mission of providing music at mental health centers, hospices, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and all venues which support those in need, and to its mission of educating audiences about the rich cultural history of gospel music.

Rock My Soul is part of The Gospel Music Project, a nonprofit, arts and cultural organization, dedicated to raising awareness of and educating audiences about American gospel music and its positive impact on our society. In performing the songs and describing the history behind them, the GMP hopes to lift hearts, open minds, and bring people closer together to understand the meaning of peace, equality, respect, unity, and justice.

Please note that 2009/2010 Friends of the Gospel Music Project will receive free invitations to the reception and concert. If you'd like to become a member, please visit www.dfgp.org/membership/becomeamember.htm or call Dawn Boyer at 207-450-8016.

You're Invited to Tea!

The Women of the Eliot Congregational Church cordially invite the women of Kittery and Eliot to a Fellowship Tea Wednesday, June 2 at 1:00 PM. Marvelous Madcap Marcia will be presenting a recipe for fun and frivolity. Once again they are asking everyone attending to bring items for the "Support Our Troops" Care Packages. Some items they particularly need include beef jerky, chapsticks, bug wipes and baby wipes in pouches. A more detailed list of items is available in our church parlor. Please RSVP by May 31 to the Eliot Congregational Church at 439-1105 or by calling Jane Spinney at 439-2790.

Everything I Needed to Know in Life I Learned From a Jigsaw Puzzle

- Don't force a fit. If something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
- When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you revisit it.
- Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
- Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
- When one spot stops working, move to another. Be sure to come back later (see above).
- The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook.
- Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
- Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
- Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
- Take time to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
- Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.

"This Week's Laugh" taken from a "Preaching Daily" publication.

Yard Sale 2010

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 19 from 8 AM - 3 PM for the fabulous FPFC Yard Sale and D & M Diner. The barn is open and we are now accepting donations, so clean your attics, closets, and garages, If you need heavy or bulky items picked up, call Mike's Trucking at 384-0084. We will be looking for volunteers to price items (you'll get a preview of what's available) and men to put up tents Thursday evening, June 17 and sellers Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19. If you have any hours available, please let Julia or Mike Ouellette know (384-0084). Don't forget to tell your friends about this event!!

Lectionary Readings for June

June 6 1 Kings 17:8-16, 17-24, Ps 146 or 1 Kings
17:17-24, Ps 30, Gal 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

June 13 1 Kings 21:1-10, 11-14, 15-21a, Ps 32, Gal
2:15-21, Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20 1 Kings 19:1-4, 5-7, 8-15a, Ps 42 and 43
or Isa 65:1-9, Ps 22:19-28, Gal 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 27 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Ps 77:1-2, 11-20 Or 1
Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Ps 16, Gal 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

She who is without sin...



"Well, I could have cast the first stone...."

Church Calendar - June 2010

- Tue, June 1** Church Council, 7 PM
- Wed, June 2** Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 PM in Room 101
SAM Committee meeting, 7 PM in the Library
Choir practice, 7 PM in the Great Room (last practice until the fall)
- Thu, June 3** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM; Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
- Fri, June 4** Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
Abustan Rehearsal Dinner, 5 PM
- Sat, June 5** South Berwick Kid's Day, 11 AM - 3 PM
Abustan Renewal
- Sun, June 6** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship/Anniversary/Communion Sunday, 10 AM; Sunday School
Luncheon & Financial Team Meeting after Worship
- Mon, June 7** PPRT, 6:30PM in Rev Donna's office
Deadline for Annual Reports to the Office
- Tue, June 8** Church Council meeting, 7 PM
- Wed, June 9** Board of Deacons meeting, 6:30 PM
- Thu, June 10** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM; Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
Fireside Chat, 7 PM
- Fri, June 11** Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Fri, June 11 - Sun, June 13**
Maine Conference Annual Meeting
- Sat, June 12** Church Supper, 4 - 6 PM in the Vestry
- Sun, June 13** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship/Children's Sunday & Baptism, 10 AM
Annual Report available to congregation
- Thu, June 17** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM; Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
Fireside Chat, 7 PM
- Fri, June 18** Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sat, June 19** *Annual Yard Sale & Dot's Diner at the Ouellette's, 1 Brattle Street, South Berwick, 8 AM - 3 PM*
- Sun, June 20** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship, 10 AM; Darren Morgan Preaching
- Thu, June 24** Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM; Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
Fireside Chat, 7 PM
- Fri, June 25** Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM
- Sat, June 26** Strawberry Festival
- Sun, June 27** Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room
Worship, 10 AM
Annual Meeting after Worship

Outside Groups Calendar - June 2010

- Tue, June 1** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Fri, June 4** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Sun, June 6** South Berwick Youth Soccer League, 7 PM
- Mon, June 7** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, June 8** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Fri, June 11** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Mon, June 14** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, June 15** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Fri, June 18** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Mon, June 21** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, June 22** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room
- Thu, June 24** St George's Berwick Group, 5:30 - 7:30 PM in the Vestry
- Fri, June 25** W.I.C. Program, 8 AM - 4 PM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in Room 101
- Mon, June 28** Al-Anon, 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 101
AA, 7 PM in the Vestry
- Tue, June 29** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM in the Great Room