



The Deaconer April 2007



Worship Services – April

April 1 – Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Lay Reader: Bernice Martin

Sermon: *Threat Level Severe*

Usher: Mark & Katrina Fleming

Greeter: Joyce & Larry Kabat

Deacon of the Month: Sue Campbell

April 5 – 6:30^{pm} - Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

We gather for a Passover meal in much the same way as Jesus and his disciples did. While we'll follow closely the Jewish traditions, we'll also explore the origin of many elements of Jesus' passion story. The Passover meal is designed to teach children the meaning of the Exodus, and our meal will be very child-friendly. All ages, singles and families are encouraged to come.

April 6 – Good Friday

The church will be open from 1:00-3:00^{pm} for prayer, meditation, and the reading of scriptures.

April 8 – Easter Sunday with Communion – no Sunday School

Scripture: John 20:1-18, John 1:1-18

Lay Reader: Lois May

Sermon: *A Light Bulb in your Easter Basket*

Usher: Joe & Una Bigelow

Greeter: Nada Foster & Mary Williams

Deacon of the Month: Sue Campbell

April 15 – Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Lay Reader: Marcie Miller

Sermon: *The Bone Boxes*

Usher: Betty Chenausky & Bernice Martin

Greeter: Lou & Martha Thomas

Deacon of the Month: Sue Campbell

April 22 – Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 9:1-20

Lay Reader: Mary Jane Sawyer

Sermon: *The Mole*

Usher: Norm & Lois May

Greeter: Cal & Nancy Sholl

Deacon of the Month: Sue Campbell

April 29 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 10:22-30

Lay Reader: Lou Thomas

Sermon: *Sheepish*

Usher: Jean Raymond & Sue Campbell

Greeter: Amy Lanza & Lisa Galante

Deacon of the Month: Sue Campbell

The editor will be away on vacation the last week of April which will delay the publication of the May Deaconer. For the purposes of planning, here are the first two weeks of May for Lay Reader, Ushers and Greeters.

May 6

Lay Reader: Craig Clark

Usher: Ethan & Michelle Perry

Greeter: Cathy Mills & Mary Jane Sawyer

May 13

Lay Reader: Martha Thomas

Usher: Alice & Frens Zwart

Greeter: Ed & Marti Gagnon

Common Grounds Coffeehouse

April 13 – We welcome singer-songwriters:

Nate Smith – Nate has been writing & singing his own songs since way back in the 60's. Originally performing in Ann Arbor, Michigan, he moved east to Massachusetts in 1970 and soon was making the rounds in Cambridge for a brief spell. Then he moved west to Fitchburg and took time off for a family.

In 1999, at the insistent urging of his wife, he began singing at the Boulder Coffeehouse in Fitchburg, ably run by Keith Penniman. Soon he was back out on the circuit, mostly in the north Worcester County area, but occasionally making a strategic venture into the Cambridge scene at Geoff Bartley's open mic, along with visits as far northwest as Keene, NH. In 2003 Nate was able to compile his first CD, Searching For Refuge, with the aid of the amazing talents of soundman Don Goguen (see his site at FolkCafe.com). It features 12 originals with 8 of them recorded LIVE. Local radio station WICN in Worcester, MA, played the 3rd cut, "Goodbye, My Sweet Marie", in their regular Saturday night program, Against the Grain, hosted by Nick DiBiasio.

Now he has a 2nd CD out, Damage Control, featuring 4 banjo tunes and 3 others accompanied by bass & drums, along with 7 other tracks. This new CD was recorded & engineered by Jeff Root at the famous Root Cellar! The 1st song, "We're Drinkin' Down Our Coffee" has been getting some airplay on Worcester's WCUW. And recently, along with singing several Dylan tunes, Nate sang 3 of his own tunes live over the air on WCUW.

Jack Kid - Jack, a Hancock, New Hampshire singer/songwriter, likes to call his original blend of acoustic music "espresso ecstasy" which happens to be the title of his second new CD release under the indie NewFolk label. Jack describes his distinctive style a brew-ha-ha of edgy urban folk, blues and ragtime performed in the intimate, private atmosphere of coffeehouses, listening rooms, and house concerts. "Independent Songwriter Web Magazine" adds, "Jack Kid is positive reinforcement in the quality of indie music that is out there today."

Others have described Jack Kid's style as "Sharply witty," and WMPG-FM Folk DJ Chris Darling remarks, "A dash of blues, some folk, awesome guitar chops, excellent writing and singing and there you have Jack Kid."

Listeners across the country have heard Jack Kid's songs over 50 stations in 30 states. He has appeared on nationally syndicated radio programs like "Rock 'n' Roots" and has been featured as a guest over many folk radio programs.

Jack's easy rapport with an audience comes from his many public performances and having been a public school teacher for twelve years. He is also the author of several published source books, creative underground zines, and his prominent role as a participant in the multi-cultural international mail art movement. If your taste for music is varied and heartfelt get ready for Jack Kid, a newfolk voice of crackerjack tunes that surprise and entertain.

Jane Fallon - Take a cattle rancher's daughter from the West Coast of the US, add university degrees in literature and music, transplant her to New England and you'll end up with a singer/songwriter with a unique musical voice.

Raised on Traditional Country, Appalachian folk, and Gospel music, and trained in classical and jazz, Jane has sung everything from Barbara Allen to Ain't Misbehavin and to La Boheme and back again.

Jane's own songs cover a wide variety of topics with a contemporary flair that incorporates those influences of folk, pop, swing, and country. Her literary background and ear for the music of words leaves her lyrics tight and well constructed with hooks and rhyme and memorable, melodic choruses.

The combination of East and West and a mix of cultural experiences guarantees lyrics and subject matter that might range from a tribute to her cowboy-hatted Dad to an anthem for women affected by the Aids epidemic in Africa.

A clever sense of word play and a humorous take on the world view often results in parodies of well-known tunes involving such things as cell-phones or computers; she also enjoys probing the more ludicrous side of human nature with original compositions exploring a myriad of topics ranging from the environment to internet shopping.

TOWN – WIDE YARD / GARAGE SALE

MAY 5th, 2007 (8 AM to 3 PM)

The First Congregational Church in Rindge will host a town-wide yard / garage sale on May 5th, 2007 from 8 AM to 3 PM. (RAIN OR SHINE)

This event is open to all town residents. Sellers must pre-register and addresses will be put onto an up-dated map of Rindge.

The Church will charge a fee of \$10 (10) dollars and will mark town maps with the location of all sellers. The Church will also have paid advertisements for this event in several newspapers so that we may attract shoppers from outside the Rindge area.

Sellers will be responsible for displaying, marking and selling their own goods. All monies received will remain with the seller.

Maps will be available to all buyers & bargain hunters, (FREE), beginning at 7 AM on May 5th at the Church. Coffee & donuts will also be sold at this time.

“House” Prizes will be found at 3 locations on the map. When shoppers pick-up their map they may buy tickets. These tickets will be dropped into contains where the prizes are found and a drawing will be held at 3 PM at each of the prize locations.

This is a great way for all townspeople to get a handle on their unwanted “stuff” before the summer begins. During these long, dark, cold and icy days, as you clean a closet, cabinet, the basement or garage, just set items aside & you will be ready for the sale.

For this to be a successful event, we will need a few volunteers – especially on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jane Hannon at 899-5789.

Minutes for Annual Meeting March 4, 2007

Roll call by Janet Goodrich, Church Council Clerk for 2006, commenced at 11:30am. Thirty-one were present for roll call, which exceeded the minimum of 28 needed for a quorum. Favorite Bible passages were spoken by various members. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Jim. The meeting was called to order by Janet Kohlmorgen, Church Council Moderator for 2006.

There were six articles for consideration and all were approved, as follows:

Article I - To hear and act upon all reports of Officers and Committees.

Moved by Burt Goodrich. Seconded by Jane Hannon. No discussion. Article I was approved.

Article II - To choose all necessary Officers and Committee Members for their delegated teams.

Moved by Sue Campbell. Seconded by Tony D'Ambrosio. No discussion. Article II was approved. After approval of Article II, we changed command. Former Council Moderator, Janet Kohlmorgen, retired and the new 2007 Council Moderator, Janet Goodrich, resumed the meeting.

Article III - To adopt the budget for the Fiscal Year 2007

Information was presented by Burt Goodrich regarding the 2007 budget. The proposed 2007 budget is a bare-bones "balanced" budget. Deep cuts on some committees were needed in order to balance the budget. Article III was moved by Jane Hannon. Seconded by Carleen Eicher. Discussion followed regarding the calendar year of the budget. It now runs from March to March. Article III was then approved.

Article IV - To act upon the revision of the endowment policy as proposed by the Trustees and approved by the Council on March 16, 2006.

Information was presented by Burt Goodrich regarding the Endowment Policy. The Endowment Policy processes the receiving of gifts and subsequent distribution. Interest from the Endowment Fund pays for various church

operations and ministries. The Board of Trustees is making plans for ways to increase the Fund. For more details, see the 2006 Annual Report. Article IV was moved by Tony D'Ambrosio. Seconded by Sue Campbell. No discussion. Article IV was approved.

Article V - To act upon a wording change to the Constitution, Article 4, Section 3e, to eliminate the Membership database responsibility from the Clerk as it is duplicated under the Membership Committee responsibilities, Article 11, Section B.

Moved by Burt Goodrich. Seconded by Norman May. No discussion. Article V was approved.

Article VI - To act upon other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Two items were presented:

1. Sue Campbell (in the words of Sue Chatwin) presented the "Salt of the Earth Award" to Peg Brummer. Peg was in attendance and received the award. She provided a summary of some of her activities associated with the church over the past 70 years. Congratulations, Peg!
2. Jane Hannon discussed the Town Yard Sale coming up on May 5, the proceeds of which will help the budget and those committees which received budget cuts this year.

Moved by Burt Goodrich. Seconded by Tony D'Ambrosio. No discussion. Article VI was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

*Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Morabito, Clerk*

All Committee Meeting March 15, 2007

There was no regular Council meeting in March. Instead, there was an All Committee meeting where members of the various committees met to set a meeting date, elect a chairperson, secretary and council representative.

The following information was collected.

Diaconate

Meeting Day/Time – 2nd Thursday – 7:00^{pm}

Chair - Sue Chatwin
Secretary - Barbara Wells
Council Rep - Sue Campbell

Trustees

Meeting Day/Time – 2nd Tuesday – 7:00^{pm}

Chair - Burt Goodrich
Secretary - Nancy Bogar
Council Rep - Burt Goodrich

Christian Education

Meeting Day/Time – 2nd Sunday – 11:30^{am}

Chair - Amy Lanza
Secretary - Lisa Galante
Council Rep - Jennifer Skelton

Membership

Meeting Day/Time – 4th Thursday – 7:00^{pm}

Chair - Lois May
Secretary - Steve Henrikson
Council Rep – Marcie Miller

Mission Ministries

Meeting Day/Time – 2nd Sunday – 11:30^{am}

Chair - Laura Henrikson
Secretary - Marie Marr
Council Rep –

Music

Meeting Day/Time –

Chair - MaryLu Mathis
Secretary - Jean Raymond
Council Rep – Tony D’Ambrosio

Pastoral Relations

Meeting Day/Time – Quarterly

Chair - Janet Kohlmorgen
Secretary - Janet Goodrich
Council Rep – Phyllis Ames

Publicity

Council Rep – Trudie Kalinen

Delegates

Council Rep – Jeanne Norwood

Nominations

Chair - Sue Campbell
Secretary - Jeanne Norwood
Council Rep – Sue Campbell

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Goodrich, Clerk*

Diaconate March 22, 2007

The Deacons met on March 22nd at 7 p.m.. Those in attendance were Sue Chatwin, Sue Campbell, Sandy Harding and Rev. Jim Melhorn. Sue Chatwin opened with prayer. Sue Campbell will be the Deacon of the month for April. Assisting her with Communion will be Sandy Harding, Jean Raymond, and Barbara Wells.

Standard Reports

- **Cards and Flowers** – Get Well cards were sent to Alice Zwart, Joyce Kabat, Michele Cormier, Mary Alice D’Ambrosio, Lauren Kabat and Peg Brummer. Thinking of you cards were sent to Lydia Hatch, Laura Shirley, Barbara Rive, Alice Zwart, Gladys Gorts, Eileen and George Abbey, Jean Benson, Joyce Kabat, Steve Chace and David and Lisa Galante. Encouragement Cards were sent to Michele Cormier, Agnes Melhorn, Grace Davis, Phyllis Ames, and Alice Zwart. Marcie Miller will have surgery on March 29th.
- **Coffee Hour** – All is going well. No birthday cake this month.
- **Council Report** – All Committee night was well attended. No Council Meeting this month.
- **Nominating Committee** – No report.
- **Budget** – No report.
- **Pastor’s Report** –
 1. **Palm Sunday** – April 1st
 2. **Maundy Thursday** – April 5th - 6:30p.m.
 3. **Good Friday** – Church will be open from 1-3p.m.
 4. **Easter Sunday** – April 8th - Communion will be served at this service.

Unfinished Business

- The Plaques have been picked up from “Engrave It” - They will be put up by Easter hopefully.

New Business

1. Barbara will get the flowers for the Cross for Easter. Marie Marr is taking orders for the Easter flowers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Campbell, Acting Secretary*

Mission Ministries Team

March 15, 2007

The Mission Ministries Team held its March Meeting, March 15, at 7:15pm following the All Church Council Committees Meeting. Attending were Laura Henrikson and Marie Marr.

Laura agreed to be Chairman of the committee for 2007 and Marie will be Secretary. Una Bigelow will be asked to be Council Representative.

Laura reviewed the correspondence. Included was a thank you letter from MATS for the donation from the Chili Supper. Also we received an update from Partners from Haiti and a thank you for our Christmas gift. Several appeal letters were read and tabled until a later date.

OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) collection will take place this week. A story about OGHS will be read during the church service.

It was decided we would continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30am.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Marr*

Christian Education Committee

March 10, 2006

In attendance were: Jim Melhorn, Jeff Sonnega, Steve Chace, Carleen Eicher, Amy Lanza and Lisa Galante

Sunday school classes: We talked about the size of the classes, the age range and grade of the students. The material for the younger classes (K-3) seems to be too young to hold their attention, particularly Nick, who is in second grade. The material for the 7th grade plus class is also not holding the attention of those children. Amy Lanza is going to research different material, specifically the offerings from Faith Alive and Cokesbury to see if there is something the kids may find more interesting. She will order some samples for all to review.

Jeff Sonnega mentioned that he will need a fill in for his class (Grade 7+) while he is on vacation. Steve Chace thinks that such it is such a small class, they can probably join his class during that period. In fact, we also discussed maybe changing the classes a bit; K-2nd, 3rd-5th and 6th

plus. This will also be discussed when reviewing samples.

The Church Retreat at Woodbound Inn is scheduled for May 2007. The CE committee will be putting together a Children's program to run alongside the Adult program. Reverend Melhorn suggested putting together a rather large craft project, along with some smaller ones. Also, some fun games the kids can play and some outdoor activities such as relay races. It sounds like the kids will be having a great time.

The Horton Center Camp registration is coming up. The week for the Junior High will be July 22-28th, and the Senior High will be July 8-14th.

We will also be putting together an end of the year program for the children to perform for the Church. It will probably take place sometime in May. More details to follow.

Submitted by Lisa Galante

Membership and Evangelism Committee

February 22, 2007

The Membership and Evangelism Committee met on Wednesday February 22nd at 7:00^{pm} in the Vestry. Those in attendance were Susan Casey, Steve Henrikson, Lois May and Marcie Miller. Lois opened with a prayer.

Church Council – Minutes were handed out by Marcie. All committees are asked to provide special dates that need to be reserved on the Town/Church calendar.

Welcome Baskets – 6 baskets are ready for distribution. Lois obtained more supplies. A welcome letter is needed.

Membership Database – Marcie indicated that there has been 1 addition, 13 updates and 27 status changes (mostly from the Deacon's review of the membership list). We have 108 members and 8 associate members. Marcie provided labels for the Collector and an updated membership list for the Clerk.

Web Site – Tony continues to work on the web site. Would like to invite Tony to a meeting for general discussion and updates.

Unfinished Business

Attendance – Marcie has data back to 1978.

New Member Class – Had a general discussion regarding potential new members.

Biographies – Susan will complete next month.

New Business

Name Tags – Discussed the cost of various types of name tags. We'll continue with disposable ones for now but will look at other options.

Ready, Set, Grow – Marcie took a CD from the UCC called Ready, Set, Grow to report back to the committee.

The meeting closed at 8:10^{pm}. Our next meeting will be Thursday March 22, 2007 at 7:00^{pm}.

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Henrikson, Secretary*

Men's Club Meeting March 25, 2007

Thanks to Ed, Dave and Charlie for a great breakfast. Dave began the meeting by sharing a thank you letter from Lauren Kabat.

Tony gave the Treasurer's report citing expenses, income from the Valentine's dinner and current balance.

The Roast Beef Dinners have been scheduled for 6/30, 7/28 and 8/25. After a discussion of incentives it was decided that the town wide mailing would include an entry coupon for a drawing for a free dinner.

2007 Activities

- Boy Scout Breakfast. A report on Scout activities including an Eagle Scout project involving building a hiking trail and installing a picnic table setting area at the edge of Grassy Pond at the Cathedral of the Pines was given by Richard Keegan and several other scouts.
- Valentine's Dinner. Norm reported that it was very successful. We need to thank the Kohlmorgens for their generous support.
- Mother's Day Breakfast. Scheduled for May 13. Tony will lead, Norm will do announcements and Ed will help with the food preparation. Needs to be put in the Ledger/Transcript.
- Deep Sea Fishing is planned for Aug. 17. Open to all. Cost is \$50 per person plus \$5 for pole rental. See Dave to sign up.

- The Meeting Hall is booked so the community Thanksgiving Dinner item was discontinued.

2007 Fund Raisers

- Car Wash with Scouts. Dave will follow up with Maura/Richard Keegan concerning feasibility and timing.
- July 4th Booth. Discussed having a booth to sell roast beef sandwiches. Tony will check with Rec. Committee for permission. We also discussed a deep sea fishing trip raffle as part of the booth fundraising.

Next meeting will be April 29.

Submitted by Charlie Eicher

What a wonderful way to explain it

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

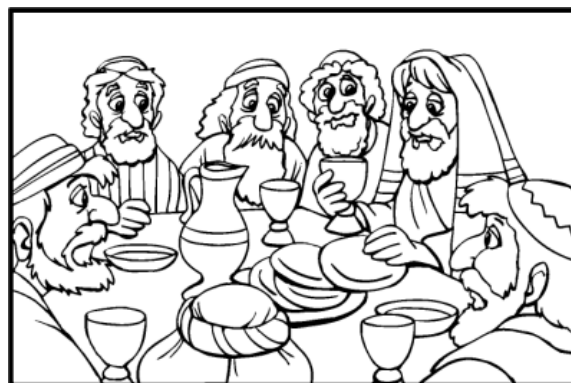
Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



Easter Flower Form

Again this year, an opportunity is available to place **Memorial Flowers** in the church on Easter Sunday. Marie Marr will be accepting orders for Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. For your convenience, please use the order form below and return it to Marie in an envelope or call her at 899- 6430.

- Yes, I would like to order _____ plants to be used in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday
- I am enclosing cash / check (\$10 per plant)
- I will bring a plant(s)

This plant is given () in loving memory of: _____

() in honor of: _____

() (your choice) _____

Signed: _____

Phone: _____

- I wish my plant(s) to **Be Delivered** to friends or members of our church family.
- I will **Pick Up** my plant(s) after the Service on Easter Sunday

Please Return this form to: **Marie Marr**
134 Birch Drive
Rindge, NH 03461

Do you like to garden? Enjoy seeing beautiful flowers? How about having them looking their best for visitors from around the country. Well, I have a deal for anyone who meets all those wishes. The Friends of the Cathedral Gardens are looking for volunteers to help with our gardens this year. Doesn't matter how long you could help. A couple of hours a week, a day here and there, whatever time you would have would be helpful. We will be having an **orientation on April 14, 2007 at 11:00 AM** followed by a luncheon, so please come to see what we are all about. We have also scheduled a **GARDEN PARTY for August 5, 2007**. It will be a luncheon, garden tours of the grounds, container competition and plant sale. Watch for more details. Also, if gardening isn't your thing on the same day we are looking for guides and gift shop volunteers for the season. **For more info ask Sue Chatwin or Marie Marr.**

The Swap Shop at the Rindge Recycle Center is in desperate need of volunteers.

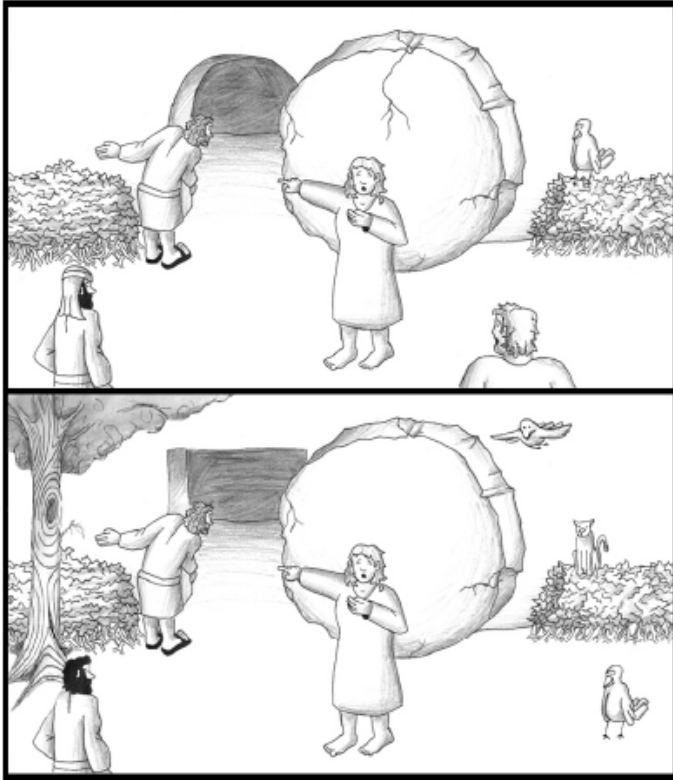
If help is not found, the center may close. They are looking for people to work for 2 (or more) hours to help cover the following schedule:

Tuesday & Thursday (10-4) - Friday (1-4) - Saturday (8-3)

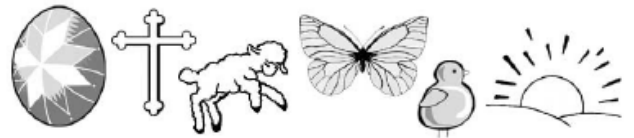
If you could work any of these hours, please contact Carol Donovan at the Rindge Town Office – 899-5181 (ext 108)

Children's Corner

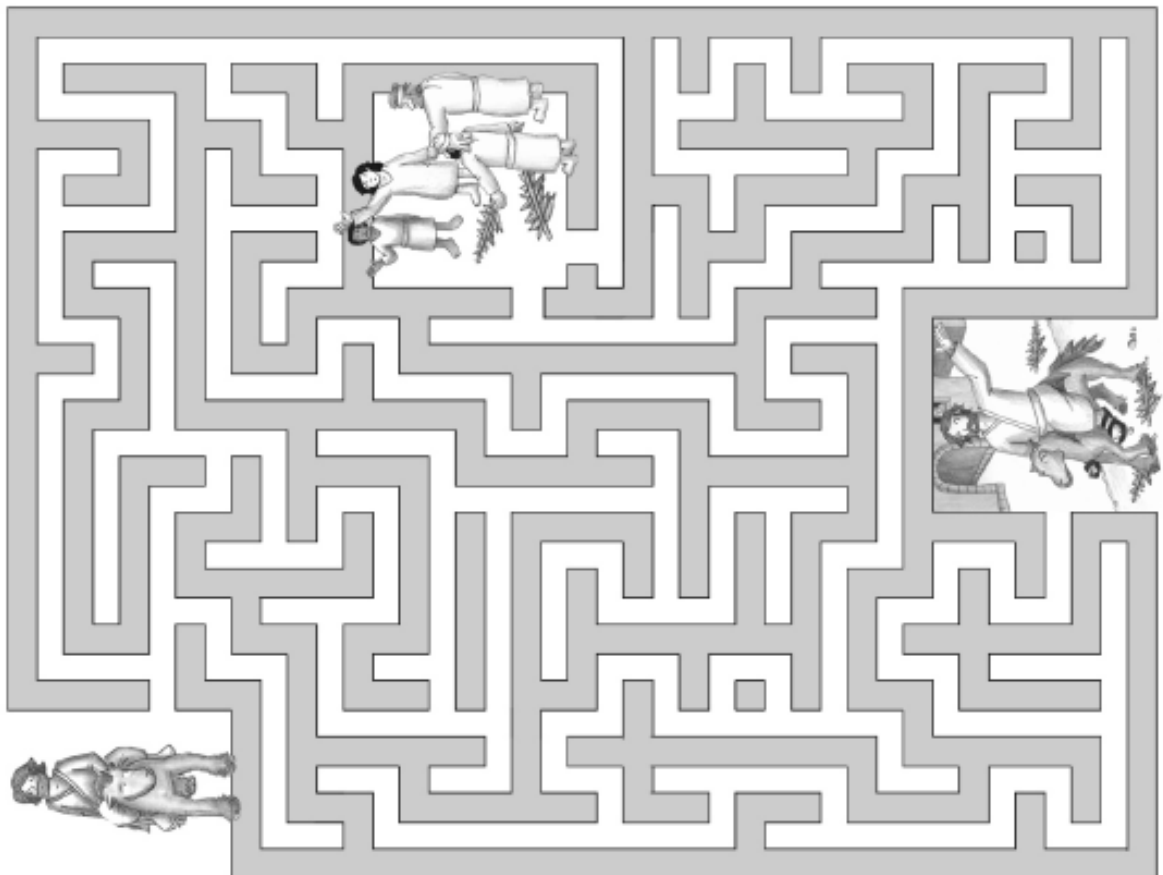
Jesus died on the cross on Friday.
 Early Sunday morning Mary Magdalene came to his tomb.
 She saw that the stone had been rolled away.
 So she ran and told Peter and John.
Find 7 differences between these pictures.



On Easter evening, the disciples gathered behind closed doors, for fear of the Jewish leaders.
 Suddenly Jesus was there with them!
Find each of the objects below in the picture.



Help Jesus reach Jerusalem.





The First Congregational Church and Society
(United Church of Christ)

PO Box 451, Rindge, NH 03461



“PLEDGE PLUS 2007”

Spring 2007

Dear Church Members and Friends,

As you probably already know, the members of our church passed a balanced budget for 2007. That is good news, and demonstrates the Trustees commitment to be good stewards of your gifts and the gifts given to us in the past through our endowment. But the bad news is that we were required to make deep cuts in several program areas to achieve this. We will simply not have the money available to do our vital ministry, even at the level of last year's spending. This is not a sign of the growing, vibrant church we are.

This is not a time to wring our hands in worry, but to roll up our sleeves in determination. Together, we can embrace this challenge. The Trustees are embarking on a long-term financial plan to improve the financial health of our Church right now and into the future. We believe that the best way to accomplish this as an on-going process for this year and future years is to increase our annual pledges.

Our goal in this first year (2007) is to increase pledges an additional 20%. This will allow us to restore cuts made to all committee budgets this year and to fund the position of Youth Director. Over the next five years, we have set a goal of increasing our annual pledges to 65% of the annual budget. Therefore, to accomplish the overall mission of our Church and to grow our Christian programs and services, we are asking every member of our church family to:

- Make a 2007 pledge, if you have not already done so
- Consider increasing your existing 2007 pledge
- Return your pledge card to the Church by April 30

We are a Church that works very hard to embrace Christ's mission. We are a Church with great potential for continued growth and service to our Church family, community, and world. With your help now, we can move from a "bare bones" 2007 budget to one that lets us do the important Christian work that we all feel is necessary.

This first year effort will get our budget back on track and do wonders. With God's guidance, we can do this. Every member of our church family can help us achieve this dream.

Thank you for your support.

The Board of Trustees,

Burt Goodrich - Chairperson, Joe Bigelow, Nancy Bogar, Cynthia Childs, Ed Gagnon, Jane Hannon, Larry Kabat, Rick Kohlmorgen, Dave Marr, Norman May, Marcie Miller, Frens Zwart, Jim Melhorn - Pastor

News and announcements from the NH Conference

NESC Regional Ecumenical Stewardship Event – Two Choices!

“Equipping Lay Leaders for Stewardship” with Bruce Rockwell and “A Primer for Clergy Persons” with Annette Mott (two separate workshops) will be offered at the Congregational Church, UCC, 21 Front Street, Exeter, NH on Saturday, April 14 from 9 am to noon. Cost is \$20 per person or \$50 for three persons from the same church. All registered laity and clergy will receive a free copy of “Ask, Thank, Tell” by Charles Lane. For complete details and registration information, please view the online event flyer on the NH Conference website at www.nhcucc.org/NESC_2007_workshops.doc or contact Rev. Dave Williams at 603-875-0363, or by email at dwilliams@nhcucc.org.

NESC Regional Ecumenical Stewardship Event - “Ask, Thank, Tell”

“Ask, Thank, Tell” will be a Saturday morning devoted to exploring year-round stewardship, led by Andy Gustafson and using Charles R. Lane’s book, Ask, Thank, Tell. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 9 to 11:30 AM at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 39 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI. Cost is \$20 per person or \$50 for three persons from the same church and includes a free copy of the spotlight book, Ask, Thank, Tell for each registered participant. For complete details and registration information, please view the online event flyer on the NH Conference website at www.nhcucc.org/Ask_Thank_Tell.doc, or contact Rev. Dave Williams at 603-875-0363, or by email at dwilliams@nhcucc.org.

“Digging Deeper into Annual Stewardship Education”

For stewardship leaders in local churches, here is a new opportunity to tackle some of the challenges of increasing financial resources for your annual programs, mission and ministry. On Saturday, May 31 from 6:30 to 9 pm, the Hampstead Congregational Church’s Stewardship Committee and the NH Conference, UCC Stewardship Development Team will co-sponsor a consultation of stewardship committee members and pastors dealing with such issues as engaging new and fringe members into the stewardship life of the church; talking about money in a language of faith; connecting stewardship with spirituality; and telling the story of our churches’ mission and encouraging generosity. Participants are invited to register at the Hampstead Church Office (603-329-6985) no later than Friday, May 25, and bring a “sack supper” for the gathering time of 6:30 pm. Beverages and desserts will be provided, and there is no cost. For complete details, please view the online event flyer on the NH Conference website at www.nhcucc.org/stew201_hamp07.doc, or contact Rev. Dave Williams at 603-875-0363, or by email at dwilliams@nhcucc.org.

NH Women’s Fellowship Spring Forum

The annual Spring Forum for NH UCC women will be held on Wednesday, April 18. This year the Spring Forum will be held at the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC in North Conway. The Rev. Karen Maleri, Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Care at Havenwood-Heritage Heights, will present a program on “The Sandwich Generation – Dependence vs. Independence.”

Registration begins at 9:30 am and the program will conclude at about 3 pm. Registration fee is \$8 and includes lunch. Registration fee may be sent to Dot Pitman, 12 Maple Knoll Drive, Hollis, NH 03049. Please be sure to include your name, address and church when you register.

Fair Trade Coffee House

Look out “American Idol!” Move over “Dancing with the Stars!” It is now time for the Second Annual New Hampshire Conference Fair Trade Coffee House during the 2007 Annual Meeting. On Friday, June 15 at 8:30 pm we’ll gather to drink delicious fair trade coffee and teas. Please consider singing, dancing, playing an instrument, telling jokes or yodeling. Contact Nancy Wood-Lyczak at 603-239-4465, or by email at revnwl@verizon.net to get into the act.

We hope that everyone, entertainers and audience alike, will join us. We had a great time last year and hope this year will be even more engaging and fun.

Save the Date...Annual Meeting 2007...Friday & Saturday, June 15 & 16

The NH Conference's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 15 – 16 at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, NH. This year's keynote speaker, Rev. Martha Grace "Gay" Reese, will present "Raising the Bushel Basket: Discovering Dynamic and Vital Ministries" based on Matthew 5:14-16. You are encouraged to purchase and read Rev. Reese's book, *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* before Annual Meeting. The book may be purchased through Chalice Press (1-800-366-3383), by visiting www.amazon.com, or by borrowing a copy from the NH Conference Center (limited copies available). A new resolution process is underway! Save the date, Sunday, May 20 from 3 – 5 pm, at the NH Conference Center, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH, for the Resolution Hearings! New guidelines may be reviewed on the Annual Meeting page of the NH Conference website at www.nhcucc.org. The AMPC (Annual Meeting Planning Committee) is currently seeking on-site volunteers to assist with logistics, registration, hospitality, technical and other supports. Come lend a helping hand and be a part of what goes on "behind the scenes" at the next Annual meeting!

Youth and Adult Advisors...Save the Date...General Synod...June 22-26

Join the "50 4 50" Campaign: a grass roots movement of 1,000 youth at General Synod with 50 youth and young adults from every conference of the Church for 50 years of service to attend the "1000 Strong" 26th General Synod, June 22 -26, 2007 in Hartford, CT. A youth program is being planned to overlap Synod, so come for a day or for all five days to this exciting, once-in-a-lifetime party! Stay tuned to the Youth Ministry page of the NH Conference website (www.nhcucc.org) for details!

Save the Date! New England Association of United Church Educators Annual Conference on Christian Education

"Catch the Faith – Pass It On!" will take place May 8 – 10, 2007 at Craigville Conference Center, Craigville, Massachusetts, with keynote speakers and worship leaders from The Youth and Family Institute (www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org), Rev. Dr. Dick Hardel and Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson. The Conference will feature informative workshops, a bookstore, inspiring worship and networking opportunities, and is within walking distance of the conference center's private beach. Registration forms and/or additional information may be obtained by contacting Nancy Murdock, NEAUCE Chair, at 603-432-2313, or by email at portia96@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar for Marcus Borg's Visit to the Congregational Church, UCC of Middlebury, Vermont!

World-renowned Jesus scholar and highly sought-after lecturer, Marcus Borg, with his clear and organized speaking style and warm, friendly personality, feeds the mind and soul. Please mark your calendar for Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 21 for a weekend of inspiration and affirmation. Another announcement will be sent in the spring with details such as times and locations, tickets, bed and breakfast opportunities in homes of our congregation, and information on other lodging in the Middlebury area.

IRS now Demands Receipts for Even Small Church Donations

"The next time you toss bills into the church collection plate, you might want to ask the usher for a receipt. New federal rules for the 2007 tax year – which took effect January 1 – forbid tax deductions for charitable donations unless the taxpayer can substantiate the donation through receipts or official financial records. The rules, enforced by the IRS, require that people claiming charitable donations back up those deduction claims with canceled checks, records from banks, credit card companies or credit unions, or written notices from the charity or not-for-profit institution. In the past, the IRS has allowed personal notes, diaries or bank registers as sufficient proof that a person actually placed those \$5, \$10 or \$20 bills in the basket each week of the year. Congress approved the new guidelines in August as an add-on to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which deals mostly with pension and retirement savings. President Bush signed them into law. The new rules cover monetary donations to all charitable institutions, not just religious ones. The changes shouldn't affect the giving habits of people who already use church-provided envelopes, write checks or donate over the Internet. They can still receive records from the church, bank or credit card company..." – Reprinted from *The Christian Century* magazine (<http://www.christiancentury.org/article.lasso?id=2970>)

April - Church Calendar

Sunday – April 1, 2007

- 9:00^{am} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 10:00^{am} **Sunday Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} **Fellowship** - Town Hall

Monday - April 2, 2007

- 9:30^{am} **Bible Study** - Vestry
- 7:00^{pm} **LVA/EC** – Vestry

Wednesday - April 4, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Thursday - April 5, 2007

- 6:30^{pm} **Maundy Thursday Seder Meal**

Friday - April 6, 2007

- 1:00^{pm}-3:00^{pm} **Good Friday** – Church Open

Sunday - April 8, 2007 – Easter Sunday

- 9:00^{am} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 10:00^{am} **Sunday Service** - Sanctuary

Monday - April 9, 2007

- 9:30^{am} **Bible Study** - Vestry
- 7:00^{pm} **LVA/EC** – Vestry

Tuesday - April 10, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Trustees / Buildings & Grounds / Stewardship** - Vestry

Wednesday - April 11, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Thursday - April 12, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Deacons** – Vestry

Friday - April 13, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Common Grounds Coffeehouse** - Nate Smith, Jack Kid, Jane Fallon

Saturday - April 14, 2007

- 10:00^{am} **Mission Ministries Team**

Sunday - April 15, 2007

- 9:00^{am} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 10:00^{am} **Sunday Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} **Fellowship** - Town Hall
- 11:30^{am} **Membership Committee** – Vestry
- 11:30^{am} **Music Committee** – Vestry

Monday - April 16, 2007

- 9:30^{am} **Bible Study** – Vestry
- 7:00^{pm} **LVA/EC** – Vestry

Wednesday - April 18, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Thursday - April 19, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Council** - Vestry

Friday - April 20, 2007

- **All Committee Reports Due for May Deaconer**

Sunday - April 22, 2007

- 9:00^{am} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 10:00^{am} **Sunday Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} **Fellowship** - Town Hall

Monday - April 23, 2007

- 9:30^{am} **Bible Study** - Vestry
- 7:00^{pm} **LVA/EC** - Vestry

Tuesday - April 27, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Celebration of Discipline**

Wednesday - April 28, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** – Sanctuary

Sunday - April 29, 2007

- 9:00^{am} **Senior Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary
- 10:00^{am} **Sunday Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} **Fellowship** - Town Hall
- 11:00^{am} **Mission Team Coffee Sale** – Town Hall

Monday - April 23, 2007

- 9:30^{am} **Bible Study** - Vestry
- 7:00^{pm} **LVA/EC** - Vestry

April Birthdays

- April 6 – David Bogar
- April 7 – Luella Racicot
- April 9 – Michael Skowronek
- April 11 – Phyllis Ames
- April 13 – Michele Cormier
- April 14 – Jessica Perry
- April 15 – Bernice Ferwerda
- April 17 – John O'Day
- April 24 – Martin Ferwerda
- April 26 – Anita Phillips
- April 27 – Alice Zwart
- April 30 – Robert Childs

**Church Retreat - "Talking Faith"
May 18 and 19, 2007**