



The Deaconer August 2007



Worship Services – August

August 5 – Communion

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

Lay Reader: Janet Goodrich

Sermon: *Healthy, wealthy, and wise*

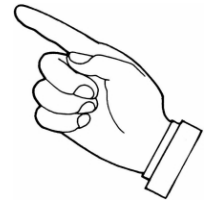
Usher: Rick & Janet Kohlmorgen

Greeter: Harry & Phyllis Groezinger

Deacon of the Month: Jean Raymond

August 12 – Outdoor worship at the Cathedral of the Pines

We will gather for a joint worship service with the **First Church in Jaffrey** and the **United Church of Jaffrey**



August 19

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-16

Lay Reader: Trudie Kalinen

Sermon: *Faith goggles*

Usher: Anita & Charles Phillips

Greeter: Stephen & Penny Chace

Deacon of the Month: Jean Raymond

August 26 – Pastor Jim will be on vacation. Members of the church will lead worship

Lay Reader: Janet Kohlmorgen

Usher:

Greeter: Burt & Janet Goodrich

Deacon of the Month: Jean Raymond



Church Council is sponsoring a Dance on August 31, 2007

END OF SUMMER DANCE

When: August 31, 2007

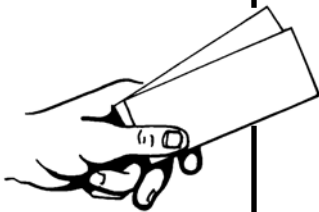
Where: Woodbound Inn

Time: 7:00-11:00 pm

DJ: Jim O'loughlin

Ticket includes- Dance, Hors d'oeuvres, and Desserts

Price \$20.00 per person



Last Chance

As it is summertime, the **Sunday School** would love some volunteers to supervise the children downstairs during service. Anyone who is interested, please see either **Amy Lanza** or **Jim Melhorn** to sign up for a Sunday. We can discuss activities and options at your convenience. You can sign up to do it by yourself, or a team option is also available! One Sunday is all we ask!!

What: Mission Ministries Bake Sale & Lunch ~ at the Rindge Woman's Club Annual Craft Fair

When: Saturday, August 11, 2007, 8 AM to 2 PM

Where: Rindge Town Common

Why: To Raise Money for the Rindge Food Pantry

Donations needed: Baked Goods - Muffins, Cookies, Pies, Cakes, Brownies etc.

Also turkey, ham, and egg sandwiches - only 1 bread loaf of each - we will also be serving hot dogs.

Please contact a committee member to let us know what you can donate.

If you will be away and would still like to donate we can take your baked good ahead of time.

We are also looking for help on the day of the fair to work at the table.

Thanks!

The Mission Ministries Team

Second Annual Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Hosted by the Men's Club.

Date: Friday August 17th

Depart at 5:00a.m. Return 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 plus \$5.00 rod rental

Boat: Sundance two of the Clipper fleet (www.clipperfleet.com).

A different and better (we hope) boat than last year.

Get your reservation in soon - the boat is filling up fast.

Call Dave 899-6430

Turkey Dinner

October 27, 2007

Put this date on your calendar NOW

(a co-coordinator is needed to help Sue Chatwin)

Welcome Baskets

The Membership Committee has Welcome Baskets available. If you have a new neighbor this would be a nice way to introduce yourself and the church to them. They may be picked up at the church or speak to any member of the committee (Susan Casey, Steve Henrikson, Lois May and Marcie Miller).

Church Council Minutes

July 19, 2007

Present: Janet Goodrich, Burt Goodrich, Pastor Jim Melhorn, Phyllis Ames, Sue Campbell, Marcie Miller, Tony D' Ambrosio, Jeanne Norwood, Steve Chace, Amy Lanza, Margaret Morabito

Following the opening prayer by Pastor Jim, the minutes of the June meeting were approved. No changes. See July Deaconer.

Treasurer's Report: See written report. Marcie distributed and reviewed the monthly financial statements. In June, committees were reimbursed from the budget as a result of the success of Pledge Plus. She reminded us that the church could save money if more members received their Deaconer by e-mail. Overall expenses were slightly higher than income.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jim reported that our August 12 service will be held at the Cathedral of the Pines.

Old Business:

- **Dance:** We discussed and voted to hold an end-of-summer dance on Friday, August 31, at the Woodbound Inn. This new fund raiser is being organized by Janet Kohlmorgen. Tickets are \$20.
- Marcie reported that a free will offering was made to the Kohlmorgens for their generosity in the use of the Woodbound Inn for the church retreat.

New Business:

- **Turkey Supper:** October 27. Needs a co-host with Sue Chatwin.
- **Craft Fair:** September 8. Jane Hannon has it planned, but is in need of a coordinator.
- **Safe Church Policy:** to be discussed at the August meeting.
- **Youth Director:** We nominated Steve Chace for this new position. Discussion included the need to write a hiring contract, which will be done by Christian Ed. and the Trustees. The Council then voted and approved Steve. He discussed plans, which will include monthly meetings, safe and fun activities for our youth, and coordinated activities with other churches in our region. Congratulations, Steve!

- **Organist:** See written report. Marcie reviewed the expenses analysis for the organist position this year, including expenses for fill-in organists for the rest of the year. Tony discussed the search team who will proceed with finding and hiring a new organist/choir director. We will need to address the budget when we are ready to hire someone.

Committee Reports:

- **Deacons:** See written report. Sue reported that there will not be communion on August 12. Jean Raymond is replacing Sandy Harding as cards and flowers person. Thanks for your work, Sandy, and thanks for taking over, Jean!
- **Trustees:** See written report. Burt reported that the Men's Club made \$400 from their roast beef sandwich sales at the 4th of July family day. They will do it again next year. He also reported that the town received a grant to do a preliminary site study for the proposed senior housing. Our contribution helped to show a strong grass roots effort behind this project.
- **Christian Education:** Amy followed up on discussion of the Youth Director position and pointed out that Christian Ed. would be working closely with Steve. They will meet on August 12 to discuss the upcoming school year, distribution of students, and also Rally Day.
- **Membership and Evangelism:** See written report. Marcie reported that they are trying to identify things to do to raise awareness of our church beyond the use of welcome baskets.
- **Mission Ministries:** See written report.
- **Music:** See written report. Tony reported that the budget had been increased. See also New Business discussion about organist. Thanks, Bob Popple, for being our organist over the past few years and good luck with your future endeavors!
- **LVA/EC:** Sue mentioned that they would like more members.
- **Men's Club:** Burt reported that the Swamp Bats baseball night in Keene was fun, and he highly recommended it to all. The fishing trip will be on August 17 and it is for everyone. Dave Marr is in charge.

- **LCHIP Day:** See written report. Burt reported that on July 29 (10am to 5pm), our church building, the Rindge Meeting House, will be visited by the public because of its historical significance. LCHIP Day is a state-wide event that showcases certain landmarks. Tours will be conducted both at the church and at the Historical Society building.

Closing Prayer: Steve Chace closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting: August 16

*In God we trust,
Margaret Morabito, Council Clerk*

Diaconate July 12, 2007

The Deacon's met on July 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the vestry. Those in attendance were Sue Chatwin, Sue Campbell, Phyllis Ames, Phyllis Groezinger, Jean Raymond, Sandy Harding and Donna Docekal (a guest). Rev. Jim Melhorn was at Camp Horton with the high school students for the week. Sue Chatwin opened with prayer.

The June minutes were accepted with one correction - Jean Raymond was in attendance. Deacon for August will be Jean Raymond. Deacons assisting in Communion will be Sandy Harding, Phyllis Groezinger and Barbara Wells.

Pastor's Report – given by Sue Chatwin.

- Rev. Jim Melhorn will not be here on Sunday, August 26 – Sue Chatwin has offered to lead the service.
- August 12th service will be at the Cathedral of the Pines. No Communion will be served. Communion will be on August 5th.

Standard Reports

- **Cards and Flowers** – Thinking of you cards were sent to Peg Brummer, Marge St. Pierre, Alice Zwart, Mary Alice D'Ambrosio; Congratulation card was sent to Sue Campbell (new Granddaughter); and Encouragement card to Jon Cormier.
- **Council Report** – Pledge Plus was successful and some of the 2007 Budget has been restored to the committees. May Breakfast made a profit.
- Budget – money has been spent.

- **Nominating Committee** – They are still looking for Deacons.
- **Pulpit Supply** – Sue Chatwin will lead the service on August 26th.
- **Coffee Hour** – Sue Chatwin reports that people are not signing up. The decision was made that we would provide only coffee on juice on those Sundays
- **Ushers/Greeters** – List was completed and is being sent out. Thank you, Penny Chace.
- **Acolyte Schedule** – Brian loves doing it as well as Megan.

Old Business – Policy and Procedures Binder- No changes for the Deacons.

New Business – Sandy Harding has stepped down from doing the Cards and Flowers. Jean Raymond will take that job over. Thank you Sandy for all you have done with the Cards and Flowers.

The meeting was close at 8:00 p.m. with prayer by Sue Campbell.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Campbell*

Trustees Minutes July 10, 2007

The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm with Burt Goodrich, Norman May, Frens Zwart, Marcie Miller, Cynthia Childs, Jane Hannon, Dave Marr, Larry Kabat and Nancy Bogar present.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were accepted as presented.

Stewardship: Pledge Plus has been very successful and the additional funds have been disbursed to various committees and expenses.

Grounds and Buildings: No updates.

Fund Raising Activities: Men's Club Supper in June was a huge success. A new activity was started in July when the "Roast Beef on the Bun" was sold at the Family Day on the Common. Burt thanked Dave Marr and all the people helping him for a great day and a wonderful new event in the life of the Church.

New Business:

1. **Council Request** – Council requested the Trustees to give the Kohlmorgens a small token of our appreciation for all their contributions in making the annual Church retreat such a success.
2. **Town Senior Housing** – The Church sent \$100 to the town to help obtain a grant of \$12,000 for a Preliminary Site Study. The grant came in and the study will go forward for Senior Housing.
3. **Youth Director** - Jim would like to get this going. He has spoken with the original committee members who spearheaded this request, and he has spoken to a parishioner who might be interested in the position.
4. **Oil Contract** – Motion was made and accepted that we lock in price with Allen and Mathewson for 2000 gallons for the Parsonage. Another motion was made and accepted to have Parsonage furnace serviced by the end of September. Marcie will set this up with A&M.

Jane ended the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 7:00 pm.

*Respectively submitted,
Nancy Bogar, Secretary*

Mission Ministries Team July 8, 2007

The Mission Ministries Team met Sunday July 8th at 11:30am. In attendance were Laura Henrikson, Una Bigelow and Marie Marr.

The focus of the meeting was to discuss the previous day's ice cream sales at the Rindge Family Festival. Due to generous support, we were able to donate just over \$400 to Habitat for Humanity's local project in Alstead.

Discussion also centered on how we could improve our publicity, request a better location and fine-tune the quantities for purchase.

Una will mail a thank you to Kimball's for their donation for 1 tub of ice cream, cups, spoons and napkins and Marie will send a thank you to the newspaper.

Due to the upcoming Craft Fair on August 11th, we will move up our next meeting to July 25th at 6pm. Proceeds from the bake sale and lunch at the Craft Fair will be donated to the Rindge Food Pantry.

Laura closed the meeting with a devotional moment.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Marr*

Christian Education Committee July 9, 2007

The CE Committee met on July 9th, 2007 at 11:30 am. Present were: Amy Lanza, Lisa Galante, Carleen Eicher, Steve Chace and Jeff Sonnega.

Amy Lanza and Rev. Jim Melhorn met on July 3rd to discuss some items as Rev. Jim was going to be with the young adults at Horton Center at the time of the CE meeting.

Old Business:

Adult Education – Rev. Jim has reported that Monday morning bible study is going very well. There are about 8-10 attendees each week and everyone seems to be enjoying the discussions. It was discussed that we would like to get some new, fresh ideas to get more congregational involvement. More events similar to our retreat where we can gather together, share our faith and learn more about each other.

Celebration of Discipline – Rev. Jim also reported that this discussion group was going very well also. Still an average of 8-10 attendees each month and everyone seems to enjoy the discussions of the book and how it relates to their lives.

Summer Sunday school – It was discussed that we still need more volunteers for helping out with our Sunday school program for the summer. Amy has purchased "bible related" crafts and has worksheets, puzzles and several books as resources to use. We have coverage through July 22nd, but after that, we still need more volunteers. Everyone on the committee will check their calendars and also talk with others to make sure we have every Sunday covered until regular Sunday school commences in September.

New Business:

Youth Director Position – The Trustees Pledge Plus program has been such a success that our budget for a Youth Director is back in place. We have one candidate to nominate at the Church Council Meeting in July. Amy Lanza will attend and discuss. This position will work very closely with the CE committee to provide outings and events for the youth of our church.

Upcoming school year – We discussed teachers for next year. We have had several new people interested in teaching Sunday school for the upcoming year. We are planning to address many topics in our next meeting regarding class breakdowns, a nursery program for the littler children as well as curriculums and programs for all.

We ended our meeting on a very positive note. We had great conversation, wonderful and creative ideas and felt like we accomplished a great deal in the short time we sat. We are thankful for our children and the opportunity to serve on such an important committee. Our next meeting will be Sunday, August 12th at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lanza

Membership and Evangelism Committee June 20, 2007

The Membership and Evangelism Committee met on Wednesday June 20, 2007 at 7:00^{pm} in the Vestry. Those in attendance were Susan Casey, Steve Henrikson, Lois May and Marcie Miller. Jim opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the May 23, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

- Church Council – Marcie handed out copies of the last council meeting.
- Welcome Baskets – No baskets delivered. Will put a notice in the Deaconer.
- Membership Database – 2 address changes, 1 e-mail update.
- Web Site – Ongoing. Discussed the possibility of adding a counter to the web site.

Unfinished Business

- New Member Class – Will try in the fall.

New Business

- Survey – We will be thinking about questions we can add to the Sunday bulletin as a survey.
- Bio's – Exploring adding bio on various folks in the church to be put in the Deaconer.
- Policies & Procedures – Council would like us to review our Policies & Procedures. We have three;
 - New Member Process
 - Membership Database
 - Welcome Baskets

The meeting closed at 8:45^{pm}. Our next meeting will be Wednesday July 25, 2007 at 7:00^{am} in the vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Henrikson

Music Committee Meeting July 2, 2007

Attending: Jean Raymond, Mary Lu Mathis, Tony D'Ambrosio

Minutes:

As of June 24th Bob Pople resigned as our organist for personal reasons. June Parker, Connie Ward & Dick Boutwell will be substitutes through the summer.

A team is being formed by Tony to search for a new organist.

Annual Organ Concert is October 21st at 3:00 with Robin Dinda.

Music committee budget has been increased to \$2,831.00

Jean R. Raymond

The Twenty and the One

A well-worn One dollar bill and a similarly distressed Twenty dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The Twenty dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the county. "I've had a pretty good life," the Twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean." "Wow!" said the One dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the Twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The One dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Catholic Church ..."

The Twenty dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

Year Round Opportunity for Knitters/Crocheters

I am pleased to announce that I will be collecting hand knitted & crocheted items throughout the year! I have been active for the past year with an organization called Warmer Winters and now officially have my own chapter here in Winchendon. The main chapter is located in Leominster, MA. They give warm items to: BWRI (Battered Women's Resources, Inc.), MOC Head-start, Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality, to name a few. The plan for my chapter is to give items to the Monadnock region as well as the Gardner/Winchendon area. I am in the process of looking for homeless shelters, etc. in our area. If anyone has any suggestions or questions, please call me at 978-297-3404. Items that I collect include: hats, mittens, scarves, socks, sweaters, & afghans.

Submitted by Penny Chace

Country Fair & Flea Market

September 8, 2007 (8:00^{AM} to 3:00^{PM})

The Country Fair will be held on September 8th from 8:00-3:00

This is always a fun day with many great bargains. We did postpone this event from July.

This event is open to all. Sellers should pre-register.

The Church will charge the following fees:

- \$15 for space on The Rindge Town Common
- \$20 for inside space at the Rindge Meeting House (space very limited)

Each seller will be responsible for providing their own tables and displaying, marking and selling their own goods.

Coffee & donuts will be available in the morning and a light lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm.

We always have a great turn out for our Fairs and this is a great way to find great bargains or to empty your own garage.

For more information, or to register, call (603) 899-5789.

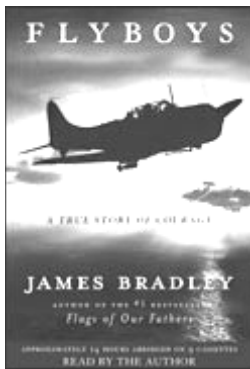
Crop Walk

Tom Gundlach, coordinator for Crop Walk, wrote that he had met with the good folks at Advent Lutheran Church in Rindge to begin planning for this year's 30th annual walk. They are very excited about serving as host church. For your calendars.....The Walk is on Saturday October 20th at 8.30 AM. The recruiters' meeting is at Advent Lutheran Church on Tuesday September 11th at 7 PM. The new CWS director from Ludlow will speak at the meeting and is looking forward to meet everybody. His name is Rev. Bert Marshall. Even said he'll bring his guitar!

Our Rindge Congregational Church needs a new recruiter as I am stepping down. It only involves one meeting in September and after that, recruiting a few people until the Walk on October 20th. This is for a real good cause and the food pantries in this area benefit from this too! So come on down to the meeting on September 11th at 7 PM at Rindge Advent Lutheran Church and become the new recruiter for the Rindge Congregational Church!

Sincerely, Alice Zwart

An Invitation to our next Book Talk *Flyboys: A True Story of Courage*



Please join us on **August 21 at 7:00 PM** for what is certain to be a thought-provoking evening. Phyllis Ames has invited readers of our next selection to her home for fellowship and a discussion of **Flyboys: A True Story of Courage** by James Bradley. Our town library has loaned us nine copies of the book. If you are interested in participating, would like to borrow a copy, or need transportation, please let Janet Goodrich know. jgoodrich@ptcnh.net or 899-5780

Following is a summary of a totally unknown true story of courage during World War II:

Over the remote Pacific island of Chichi Jima, nine American flyers — Navy and Marine airmen sent to bomb Japanese communications towers there — were shot down. A U.S. Navy submarine miraculously rescued one of those nine. The others were captured by Japanese soldiers on Chichi Jima and held prisoner. Then they disappeared.

When the war was over, the American government, along with the Japanese, covered up everything that had happened on Chichi Jima. The records of a top-secret military tribunal were sealed, the lives of the eight Flyboys were erased, and the parents, brothers, sisters, and sweethearts they left behind were left to wonder. *Flyboys* reveal for the first time ever the extraordinary story of those men. Bradley's quest for the truth leads him to discover a mystery that dated back far before World War II — back 150 years, to America's westward expansion and Japan's first confrontation with the western world.

With no easy moralizing, Bradley presents history in all its savage complexity, including the Japanese warrior mentality that fostered inhuman brutality and the U.S. military strategy that justified attacks on millions of civilians. And, after almost sixty years of mystery, Bradley finally reveals the fate of the eight American Flyboys, all of whom would ultimately face a moment and a decision that few of us can even imagine.

Flyboys is a story of war and horror but also of friendship and honor. It is about how we die, and how we live — including the tale of the Flyboy who escaped capture, a young Navy pilot named George H. W. Bush, who would one day become president of the United States. A masterpiece of historical narrative, *Flyboys* will change forever our understanding of the Pacific war and the very things we fight for.

See Next Page for Discussion Guide

Flyboys Discussion Guide

1. Where do you see heroism in this book?
2. Were the airmen able to maintain integrity in the face of battle?
3. What are some everyday ways you can become a hero? What hurdles stand between you and living this way? How can you draw strength from God to live with heroic integrity?
4. What position do people typically assume Christians take in regards to war? What position do you take? How did you arrive at that position? Did this book cause you to rethink your position?
5. Does the Bible have a hard rule for every war? If it does, what is it? If not, how does a person discern the proper response?
6. Why does God allow such horrific wars and injustices to go on throughout history?
7. What did the Japanese and American soldiers have in common?
8. How has this book changed or enhanced your view of the events it portrays? Did the book seem adequately researched?
9. How well does the author convey the era in which the events take place? Did the author provide enough information for you to understand the relevance of these events in a larger historical context?
10. What did you learn about the time period in which the book is set that you did not previously know?
11. Discuss the author's use of language and writing style. Does the book read like a collection of facts or more like a well-written, engaging narrative?
12. What did you find to be the most interesting events in this book? What, if anything, surprised you?
13. What impact did the events in this book have on the course of history?
14. Did this book inspire you to want to do more research on the subject and time period discussed? What have you learned?

A RINDGE TRADITION FOR 47 YEARS

Roast Beef Suppers at the Meeting House

Since 1960, sponsored by the Men's Club, Rindge Congregational Church

**Only
\$10**

Children under
12, only \$5

The Best Meal In Town
All you can eat and
real strawberry shortcake too!

**Only
\$10**

Children under
12, only \$5

Always 2 seatings: 5:00pm & 6:30pm

Put these 3 Saturdays in your calendar NOW: June 30, July 28 & **Aug 25**

Early reservations requested (although walk-ins are welcome)

To reserve, for one or for many, call: In June call 603-899-5789
In July & August call 603-899-6823

+++ LUCKY CHANCE RAFFLE +++

TO WIN A FREE DINNER
FILL OUT AND BRING
THIS CARD WITH YOU

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

(NO PURCHASE NECESSARY)

Church Retreat – May 2007 – What Does God Do?

One of the many neat exercises that we worked through during the May retreat was one called “What does God do?” During this activity our retreat leader, Nancy Wood-Lyczak, read two different creation stories from the Bible. The first creation story is from Genesis chapter 1 with a paragraph or two from chapter 2. The second creation story is told in the remainder of Genesis chapter 2. Depending on what bible you're reading, the stories may be separated by a white space break in the text. See what you think by reading each passage. Can you identify other words to describe the emotion or feelings that each passage evokes?

While both stories appear to be discussing the same events, they are very different in tone, perspective and power. The retreat attendees identified various adjectives to describe each version.

- What kind of power is expressed in your image of creation story as expressed Genesis Chapter 1?
 - Organizer
 - Majestic
 - Good
 - Creator
 - Connected
 - Summer Block Buster
 - 6 O'clock News
 - Majestic
 - Sensitive to needs
 - Optimistic
 - Incomprehensible
 - Big
 - Powerful
 - OMNI: Omnipresent, Omnificent, etc.

- What kind of power is expressed in your image of creation story as expressed Genesis Chapter 2?
 - Intimate
 - Personal
 - Loving
 - Hands on

If you would like to discuss this exercise, talk to one of the retreat participants, Marcie Miller or Jim Melhorn.

We'll continue to publish notes and findings in future Deacons. Stay tuned for additional insights from our May, 2007 retreat!

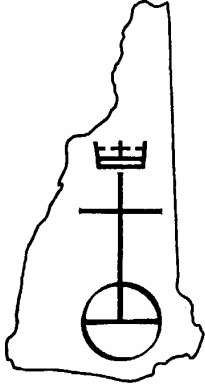
DEACONS NEEDED

We are aware that you as a congregation see the same Deacon's faces over and over again. Did you ever wonder why? Our committee can have 12 members, and we only have 6, at the moment. **WE NEED MORE!**

We meet once a month, 2nd Thursday, and make a commitment to be a Deacon of the month twice a year - if we had 12 Deacons, we would only have to be a Deacon of the month once a year. We have other duties which each of us share - like flowers cards, coffee hour, pulpit supply, Council Rep, etc. We are serious regarding our worship responsibility, but share with each other and laugh often.

Please think about joining the Deacons. You can speak to any one of us - Barbara Wells, Jean Raymond, Sandy Harding, Phyllis Groezinger, Sue Chatwin, Sue Campbell and Phyllis Ames, or one of us on the Nominating Committee.

Thank you - Sue Campbell, Alice Zwart, Jeanne Norwood



NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275-3711

1.603.225.6647 (Concord Area & Out of State)
1.888.642.8229 (Toll-Free in New Hampshire)

1.603.225.2345 (FAX)
nhcucc@nhcucc.org

July 12, 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the NH Conference United Church of Christ,

As you know, on June 15, 2007, the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, at its annual meeting, voted overwhelmingly in favor of "A Resolution of Christian Witness in Support of Ending the U.S. War in Iraq and Opposing Future U.S. 'Pre-emptive' Wars."

We on the Peace With Justice Task Force are inspired that our Conference has raised its collective voice for peace in this significant way. While many churches have been quiet regarding the U.S. war in Iraq, the United Church of Christ in New Hampshire is now speaking out in opposition to the war with a strong and clear voice. Our resolution has been sent to our New Hampshire representatives in the U.S. Congress, the majority and minority leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, the President, Presidential candidates, and the media. (To view this resolution in its entirety, go to www.nhcucc.org and click "Annual Meeting 2007 page" and then click "2007 Amended Resolutions.")

I am writing to encourage NH UCC members and churches to add strength to this resolution and to make our collective voice even more pronounced by actively engaging in nonviolent resistance to the U.S. military occupation of Iraq by means of advocacy, protest, and electoral action. Our resolution is a good first step; but ongoing, sustained efforts are needed to bring about the kind of change that will end the U.S. war in Iraq and put our nation back on a path toward peaceful engagement with the world.

I am also writing to encourage NH UCC members and churches to further educate themselves in the theology and practice of nonviolence as a faithful solution to resolving conflicts. Jesus showed us that nonviolence is not just a periphery philosophy but is *the* imperative of the gospel and *the* mandate of the Christian faith. If we hope to harvest a world of peace and nonviolence, we must sow the seeds of peace and nonviolence, beginning with ourselves.

The Peace With Justice Task Force wants to assist churches and members of our NH Conference UCC in engaging in nonviolent resistance to the U.S. military occupation of Iraq and in educating themselves in the theology and practice of nonviolence. We will publicize opportunities for both as they become available, but we will also respond to any churches or individuals requesting support in these endeavors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the addresses listed below if the Task Force can be of service to you or your church as you seek to join your voice and spirit with that of the wider NH Conference in proclaiming "NO" to war.

In the Peace of Christ,

The Rev. Gordon L. Crouch

Chair of the Peace With Justice Task Force of the NH Conference UCC, on behalf of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

Contact Information:

The Rev. Gordon L. Crouch
First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, UCC
1548 Hopkinton Rd
Hopkinton, NH 03229
603-746-4235; revgordon@mcttelecom.com

August - Church Calendar

Sunday - August 5, 2007

- 10:00^{am} Sunday Service - Sanctuary

Monday - August 5, 2007

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

Thursday - August 9, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} Deacons – Vestry

Saturday - August 11, 2007

- 8:00^{am} Mission Ministries Bake Sale & Lunch ~ at the Rindge Woman's Club Annual Craft Fair

Sunday - August 12, 2007

- 10:00^{am} Sunday Service – Cathedral of the Pines
- 11:30^{am} Mission Ministries Team – Vestry
- 11:30^{am} Music Committee – Vestry
- 11:30^{am} Christian Ed. Committee – Vestry

Monday - August 13, 2007

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

Tuesday - August 14, 2007

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

Thursday - August 16, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} Council – Vestry
- September Deaconer inputs due

Friday - August 17, 2007

- Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Sunday - August 19, 2007

- 10:00^{am} Sunday Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} Fellowship - Town Hall

Monday - August 20, 2007

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

Tuesday - August 21, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} Flyboys Book Talk – Ames Home

Wednesday - August 22, 2007

- 7:00^{pm} Membership Committee - Vestry

Saturday - August 25, 2007

- 5:00^{pm} Roast Beef Supper - Town Hall
- 6:30^{pm} Roast Beef Supper - Town Hall

Sunday - August 26, 2007

- 10:00^{am} Sunday Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00^{am} Fellowship - Town Hall

Monday - August 27, 2007

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

Friday - August 31, 2007

- 7:00^{am} End of Summer Dance - Woodbound

August Birthdays

August 1 – Dennis Casey
August 3 – Charles Phillips
August 5 – Matthew Dauphinais
August 5 – Jane Hannon
August 6 – Mary Williams
August 9 – Janet Umlauf
August 14 – Lauren Kabat
August 15 – Tony D'Ambrosio
August 17 – Andrea Popp
August 21 – Margaret Brummer
August 21 – Jesslyn Thomas
August 22 – Susan Campbell
August 24 – George Abbey
August 25 – Richard Keegan Jr.
August 25 – Emily Melhorn
August 26 – Zach Galante
August 28 – Richard Docekal
August 29 – Nicholas Lanza

August Anniversaries

August 24 – Bernice & Marty Ferwerda

