



# The Deaconer September 2007



## Worship Services – September

### September 2 – Communion

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 2:4-13, Luke 14:1, 7-14

**Lay Reader:** Bernice Martin

**Sermon:** *Upgrade*

**Usher:** Steve Henrikson & Jeff Sonoga

**Greeter:** Linda & Doug Stather

**Deacon of the Month:** Sue Campbell

### September 9 – Rally Day with a celebration of our Sunday School program and installation of our Director of Youth Programs

**Scripture:** Philemon 1-21

**Lay Reader:** Lois May

**Sermon:** *Payback*

**Usher:** Betty Chenausky & Bernice Martin

**Greeter:** Katrina & Mark Fleming

**Deacon of the Month:** Sue Campbell

### September 16

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Luke 15:1-10

**Lay Reader:** Marcie Miller

**Sermon:** *Global Cooling*

**Usher:** Nancy Bogar & Sue Casey

**Greeter:** Cathy Mills & Mary Williams

**Deacon of the Month:** Sue Campbell

### September 23

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Luke 16:1-13

**Lay Reader:** Mary Jane Sawyer

**Sermon:** *A new heart*

**Usher:** Anita & Charles Phillips

**Greeter:**

**Deacon of the Month:** Sue Campbell

### September 30

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Luke 16:19-31

**Lay Reader:** Lou Thomas

**Sermon:** *Chiefs and Indians*

**Usher:** Marie & David Marr

**Greeter:** Charlie Berry & Phyllis Sesia

**Deacon of the Month:** Sue Campbell

## Common Grounds Coffeehouse

Our second season begins September 14 and continues on the second Friday of each month. Doors open at 7:30, and the show starts at 8 pm and lasts about two hours. The admission price will change depending on the performer and will include our gourmet Fair Trade coffee from Equal Exchange as well tea, bottled water, and soft drinks. Delicious desserts will be available for an additional charge. If you are interested in helping out with serving, please contact Jim Melhorn at 899-2268. Acts booked so far include:

**September 14 – Zo Tobi**, a dynamic singer songwriter and talented guitarist familiar to the coffeehouse scene in the area.

**October 12 – Josh Brooks** – A talented performer who writes songs with great humor and incredible passion. Josh synthesizes country, folk, and blues into his engaging performance style.

**November 9 – Tripping Lilly** – A band on the cusp of hitting it big, Tripping Lilly is four talented musicians with a unique blend of traditional bluegrass and modern pop sensibility.

**December 14 – Matt and Shannon Heaton** – Matt appeared last season with Lissa Schneckenberger and returns with the vocal and instrumental talents of his wife Shannon. Matt and Shannon recently released a Celtic-flavored Christmas album, which they will feature at this performance

**January 11 – Josh Weinstein** – Josh's band features Jazz-inspired sounds that incorporate a range of musical styles, from pop to blues, reminiscent of Steely Dan and Norah Jones

**March 14 – O'hAnleigh** – Irish music for St. Paddy's day, with Vermont-based O'hAnleigh

The rest of our season will be announced soon – hope to see you for some great music!



### Senior Choir

It's September and that means it's time for the Senior Choir to start. Practice begins Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00<sup>pm</sup>. First performance will be Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> (practice at 9:00<sup>am</sup>). Practices continue each Wednesday and Sunday from that point on.

**Now is the time to join!!**

## **COUNTRY FAIR and FLEA MARKET** **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (8 AM to 3 PM)**

The First Congregational Church of Rindge will host their COUNTRY FAIR & FLEA MARKET on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 8 am to 3 pm. (RAIN OR SHINE)

This event is open to all. Vendors & Crafters should pre-register as spaces do fill quickly.

The Church will charge the following fees:

- \$15 for space on The Rindge Town Common & lawn area around the church
- \$20 for inside space at the Rindge Meeting House (only 5 spaces left)

Each vendor 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 lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm.

We always have a large turn out for our Fairs. This is a great way to find bargains or to empty your own garage. We will also have many Crafters to display their talents.

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!

#### **Crop Walk Coordinator/Recruiter Needed**

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

### **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

August 16, 2007

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

Following the opening prayer by Janet Goodrich, the minutes of the July meeting were approved. No changes. See August Deaconer.

**Treasurer's Report:** See written report. Marcie distributed and reviewed the monthly financial statements. It was pointed out that fuel expenses are being paid now rather than in a lump at the end of the year. Burt discussed our investments and the possibility of changes to our current portfolio. Pledges are on target.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jim reported that Christian Education is coming along. Upcoming sermons will help us to focus on our mission as a church and to look at the future. In October, we will get the results of the Lily Grant application.

### Old Business:

- **End-Of-Summer Dance:** no updates. Janet Kohlmorgen is in charge.
- **Craft Fair:** September 8. Jane Hannon has been preparing excellently for it.
- **Turkey Dinner:** October 27. Sue Chatwin would like a helper.

### New Business:

- Periodic membership updates will be provided to Marcie by Clerk
- Pastor Jim distributed the Safe Church Policy handout and discussed major points. The policy is in draft form for each committee to study. Feedback is requested, and then the Council will discuss and vote. This is a working item for September.

### Committee Reports:

- **Deacons:** See written report. Sue reported that we had two new part-time helpers for the Deacons; Donna Docekal and Anita Phillips. Tony D'Ambrosio also volunteered as a helper. We appreciate your support of the Deacons! More Deacons are needed.
- **Trustees:** See written report. Burt reported that the budget is on schedule. Pledge cards

will be sent out in October. In November, they will start building the budget for 2008. They are discussing a Stewardship Sunday in September or October with a luncheon afterwards to present a budget overview to the congregation.

- **Christian Education:** Amy reported that the committee will hold their first meeting on August 19. At the next Council meeting, she will follow up with details.
- **Membership and Evangelism:** See written report. Marcie reported that they are working on their policies and procedures; they will do an attendance report at the end of the year; and they are discussing ways to be more proactive in getting new members.
- **Mission Ministries:** Una reported that the bake sale was a success. They made \$425 for the Food Pantry. They need more members. Sue Campbell provided an update on the Food Pantry: things are looking better.
- **Music:** Tony reported that Mary Lu Mathis is managing the music program during the search for a new Music Director. Mary Jane Sawyer will be directing the choir during rehearsals, while Mary Lu plays the piano. Thank you both for stepping up! Tony discussed the search process for finding our new Music Director and shared some of their search strategies. This led to a discussion of the Web site, during which Tony and Pastor Jim discussed the value of the Web as a promotional tool.
- **LVA/EC:** Sue told us about the lunch and fun time they had at Anita Phillips' house. They went for rides on a party boat. They are continuing their preparations for the Snowflake Fair. The LVA welcomes new members. Even if you are not working on a project of your own, you can come anytime and help with current projects.
- **Men's Club:** Burt reported that 24 people had signed up for the August 17 fishing trip.

**Sharing Moment:** Tony shared a moment of gratitude for healthcare providers.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Next Meeting:** September 20, 2007

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

**Diaconate**  
**August 9, 2007**

The Deacons met on August 9, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the vestry. Those in attendance were Sue Chatwin, Phyllis Groezinger, Jean Raymond, Phyllis Ames, Barbara Wells and Rev. Jim Melhorn. Sue Chatwin opened with prayer.

Sue Campbell will be the Deacon of the Month for September. Assisting her with communion will be Donna Docekal, Phyllis Ames and Barbara Wells.

**Pastor's Report**

- Our church will join with the First Church and the United Church of Jaffrey for a service at the Cathedral of the Pines on August 12<sup>th</sup>. No offering will be taken during the service but collection baskets in the back will be identified as to which church. Our church will donate any cash collected to the Cathedral.

**Standard Reports**

- **Cards and Flowers** – Jean Raymond sent a sympathy card to Laura Henrikson, thinking of you cards to Don Smith, Victoria Flatgard, Luella Racicot, MaryLu Mathis and Laura Shirley, and get well cards to James Chenausky and Janet Goodrich.
- **Pulpit Supply** – Sue Chatwin will preach on August 26<sup>th</sup> in the absence of the pastor.
- **Coffee Hour** – Sue Chatwin reported that she served only juice and coffee when no one had signed up to host coffee hour and had no complaints. She emphasized that refreshments should be simple, not elaborate.
- **Ushers/Greeters** – Steve Henrikson sent out lists of ushers and greeters to church members with their names in red to indicate when they were scheduled to serve. The Deacons think that this will be a great help in insuring that people mark their calendars and remember to come early on those days.

The meeting closed at 7:45 P.M. with prayer by Jim Melhorn. Barbara Wells will close with prayer at the next meeting which will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the vestry.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Barbara Wells, Secretary**

**Trustees Minutes**  
**August 14, 2007**

The meeting came to order at 7:05 pm with Burt Goodrich, Norman May, Frens Zwart, Marcie Miller, Cynthia Childs, Jane Hannon, Dave Marr, and Nancy Bogar present.

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

**A.G. Edwards Account:** Because of the fluctuation in the stock market, two motions were made and accepted. The first motion was not to do anything with the Homebanc stocks and the second motion was to sell Thornberg Mortgage stocks and put the money into our Money Market Account.

**Stewardship:** Frens is getting ready to send out letters and pledge cards for fiscal year 2008. He will mail out the packets the beginning of October and will be asking to have cards returned by the end of October.

**Grounds and Buildings:** A new picture has been donated by Sylvia Kaarto and has been hung in the front hall. The kitchen stove has been cleaned and the pilot lights adjusted. The roast beef dinners have been going well, and the Trustees would like to thank Charlie Eicher for providing a cover for the meat cutter.

**Finance Committee:** Burt would like to set up an "Information Meeting" for the whole congregation sometime in September or early October to go over what our plans are for the future and to let everyone know how our Pledge Plus 2007 campaign went and what our plans are for the future.

Burt ended the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, at 7:00 pm.

*Respectively submitted,*  
**Nancy Bogar, Secretary**

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**Christian Education Committee**  
**August 19, 2007**

The CE Committee met on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 11:30 am. Present were: Amy Lanza, Jim Melhorn, Lisa Galante, Carleen Eicher, Steve Chace and Jeff Sonnega.

The meeting started with a prayer by Rev. Jim.

### **Old Business:**

**Adult Education** – Morning bible study and Celebration of Discipline are still going on and are well attended. Working on a fall program with more details to come later. Book club seems to be well attended and enjoyed.

**Summer Sunday school** – Wrapping up with just two Sundays left. Someone is still needed for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday if anyone is interested!!

Thanks to all who have volunteered and have helped out with teaching.

### **New Business:**

**Youth Director Position** – We are pleased to announce that Stephen Chace has accepted the position of Youth Director and will work very closely with the CE committee to head up our youth group.

**Upcoming school year** – Rally Day will be September 9<sup>th</sup>. Letters will go out to teachers to include class list and ask about curriculum needs. We discussed the class breakdowns and teachers and are excited for a new school year!

➤ **Nursery needs** – It was discussed that Amy will go through the nursery to make sure all toys are age appropriate and populate with new toys as needed. As we are getting new people with younger children, it was discussed that a program may be helpful to keep the attention of the youngsters and make it a more structured time. Two caregivers will be in attendance each Sunday to make it easier and more enjoyable for all involved.

We ended our meeting with a sharing moment and a prayer by Stephen Chace. Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 at 11:30 am.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lanza*

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### **Membership and Evangelism Committee July 25, 2007**

The Membership and Evangelism Committee met on Wednesday July 25, 2007 at 7:00<sup>pm</sup> in the Vestry. Those in attendance were Steve Henrikson, Lois May and Marcie Miller.

Minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

- **Church Council** – Marcie indicated that co-coordinators were needed for the Turkey Supper and September Fair. Men's Club fishing trip on August 17, service at the Cathedral of the Pine with the two Jaffrey UCC churches and a dance on August 31 at Woodbound. Stephen Chace has been selected as the Youth Director.
- **Welcome Baskets** – No baskets delivered. Will put a notice in the Deaconer and bulletins.
- **Membership Database** – 12 changes – mostly wedding anniversaries. 2 additions. Marcie ran a report for the Christian Education Committee – children.
- **Web Site** – Ongoing. Discussed the possibility of adding a counter to the web site.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **New Member Class** – Will try in the fall.
- **Bio's** – No change.
- **Name Tags** – Marcie picked up a few – will use on August 5<sup>th</sup> for Name Tag Sunday.
- **Survey** – We did the first one – received 5 back. Will try again in the fall.
- **104 Ways to Grow a Church** – No activity.

### **New Business**

- **Policies & Procedures** – Council would like us to review our Policies & Procedures. We have three;
  - New Member Process
  - Membership Database
  - Welcome Baskets
- **Attendance** – Marcie will create an attendance report in January/February.

The meeting closed at 7:55<sup>pm</sup>. Our next meeting will be Wednesday August 22, 2007 at 7:00<sup>pm</sup> in the vestry.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Henrikson*

**The Mission Team** thanks everyone who donated items and supplies for our Food/Bake Sale at the Rindge Woman's Club's Annual Craft Fair on August 11. We also thank all our customers who purchased food and/or made monetary donations. The proceeds of \$425.25 were presented to the Rindge Food Pantry.

## School Supplies

This is a letter received from Phyllis Groezingers grandson Lee Turcotte who is in the military stationed overseas in the Middle East. This letter was sent in response to school supplies Phyl collected at church that were sent to Lee.

Grammy,

Please be sure to thank your church for all the school supplies they have collected and sent since I've been here. Every new village I visit seems to have another school building full of children, and there are certainly plenty of places to hand out materials, either directly to the kids or to the school principals to distribute as they like.

Two days ago we did an assessment of a site where the locals want us to help build a new school. Right now they have four or five tents set up, which is the extent of the current school. Places like that are where it's the easiest to see the impact of basic supplies like pens and paper, because it's so apparent how little else they have. At the same time, it's amazing to see a bunch of little desks and a blackboard overflowing from underneath a small tent, because it makes it so obvious that everyone around here understands how important education is. Don't worry about sending too much...between the sites like that and the regular school buildings that are scattered all over this valley, there's plenty of demand for basic materials.

Again, thank you for everything you have sent. It has all gotten used, and > it all makes a difference in the lives > of the children around here.

Love,  
Lee

### 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

### 10 Things You Never Hear in Church

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!





## STEWARDSHIP 2008

Sunday October 14

*"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ  
and stewards of the mysteries of God." I Corinthians 4:1*

Members and friends of the First Congregational Church and Society of Rindge support the mission and ministry of this church in a variety of ways, including giving of their time, talent and treasure.

In 2007 our Church embarked on an ambitious and very important Long Term Financial Plan. The overall goal is to become financially sound within five years. In this first year, your support has been very strong and we have been able to restore 2007 Budget cuts and to fund the position of Youth Director.

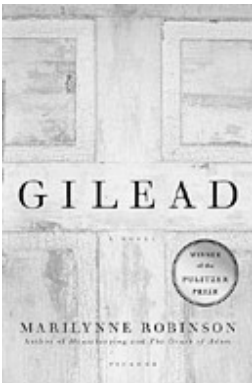
We are now planning for 2008 with continued optimism and with realistic goals. As we develop the FY 2008 Budget, we ask all members and friends to continue their significant commitment to our Church for next year. With your generous help, the Long Term Financial Plan goal to increase pledges by 15% can be achieved.

We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday on October 14. After our church service, a light lunch will be served and information will be provided about our current church budget and our Long Term Financial Plan. We encourage all members and friends to participate in this discussion.

Yours in Service,

Burton Goodrich, Chairman

Board of Trustees: Joe Bigelow, Nancy Bogar, Cynthia Childs, Ed Gagnon, Jane Hannon, Larry Kabat, Rick Kohlmorgen, David Marr, Norman May, Marcie Miller, Frens Zwart, Jim Melhorn - Pastor



### BOOK TALK Selection for Mid-November

Do you like to read, discuss, and socialize? If so, please consider joining other folks in our church in mid-November as we focus on **Gilead**, 2005 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, by **Marilynne Robinson**. Thanks to the efforts of our town library, copies will be available for loan each Sunday during coffee hour.

A brief summary follows:

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. Ames is the son of an Iowan preacher and the grandson of a minister who, as a young man in Maine, saw a vision of Christ bound in chains and came west to Kansas to fight for abolition: He "preached men into the Civil War," then, at age fifty, became a chaplain in the Union Army, losing his right eye in battle. Reverend Ames writes to his son about the tension between his father--an ardent pacifist--and his grandfather, whose pistol and bloody shirts, concealed in an army blanket, may be relics from the fight between the abolitionists and those settlers who wanted to vote Kansas into the union as a slave state. And he tells a story of the sacred bonds between fathers and sons, which are tested in his tender and strained relationship with his namesake, John Ames Boughton, his best friend's wayward son.

This is also the tale of another remarkable vision--not a corporeal vision of God but the vision of life as a wondrously strange creation. It tells how wisdom was forged in Ames's soul during his solitary life, and how history lives through generations, pervasively present even when betrayed and forgotten.

## What's your religious Literacy IQ?

The United States is a deeply religious nation, yet many Americans – even the most devout – are shockingly ignorant about religion. Can you:

- Name the four gospels?
- Name a sacred text of Hinduism?
- Name the holy book of Islam?
- Name the Ten Commandments (without looking)?
- Name the four Noble Truths of Buddhism?

If you can't you're not alone.

Join us on a whirlwind tour of the world's major religions, guaranteed to enlighten and expand your mind. We'll increase our religious literacy during five one hour sessions immediately following coffee hour, beginning October 21.

**More details will follow in next month's Deaconer**

- Name the four gospels?  
*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
- Name a sacred text of Hinduism?  
*Can include the Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, Puranas, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Yoga Suttas, Laws of Manu, Karma Sutra*
- Name the holy book of Islam?  
*Qur'an*
- Name the Ten Commandments (without looking)?
  1. I the Lord am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage.
  2. You shall have no other gods before me.
  3. You shall not make yourself a graven image.
  4. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
  5. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
  6. Honor your father and mother.
  7. You shall not kill/murder.
  8. You shall not commit adultery.
  9. You shall not steal.
  10. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
  11. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
  12. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
- Name the four Noble Truths of Buddhism?
  1. Life is suffering.
  2. Suffering has an origin.
  3. Suffering can be overcome (nirvana)
  4. The path to overcoming suffering is the Noble Eightfold Plan.

