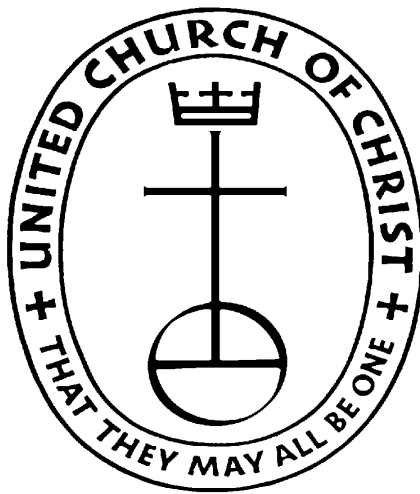


Rindge UCC Deaconer

July, 2009



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Worship Schedule for July 2009

JULY 5

Ushers: Martin and Bernice Ferwarda

Greeters: Sue Chatwin and Nada Foster

Lay Reader: Betty Chenausky

JULY 12

Ushers: Stephen and Penny Chace

Greeters: Joyce and Larry Kabat

Lay Reader: Tony D'Ambrosio

JULY 19

Ushers: Sue Campbell and Maura Keegan

Greeters: Nan and Call Sholl

Lay Reader: Bernice Ferwerda

JULY 26

Ushers: Doug and Linda Stather

Greeters: Anita and Charles Phillips

Lay Reader: Burt Goodrich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>July Birthdays</u>	<u>Day</u>
Mary Alice D'Ambrosio	2
Victoria Flatgard	8
Paul Sesia	8
Joshua Warner	8
Merideth Yaceshyn	8
George Crowe	10
Jane May	10
Lois May	10
Shannon Crowe	14
Amy Lanza	15
Ryan Wunschel	17
Kenneth Harding	19
Norman May	19
Brian Yaceshyn	19
Tristan Bolduc	21
Tina Sesia	21
Steven Henrikson	25
Kerry Yaceshyn	25
Evelyn Bond	27
Lorri Bond	28
Susana Pettus	28
Blake Skelton	28
Micaela Crowe	29

Wedding Anniversaries

Doug and Linda Stather July 14

Scheduled Meetings and Events

Wed. July 1	Hymn Sing @ 10:00 am Interim Search Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Mon. July 6	Bible Study @ 9:00 am LVA/EC @ 7:00 pm
Wed. July 8	Hymn Sing @ 10:00 am Interim Search Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Mon. July 13	Bible Study @ 9:00 am LVA/EC @ 7:00 pm
Tues. July 14	Trustees Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Wed. July 15	Hymn Sing @ 10:00 am Interim Search Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Mon. July 20	Bible Study @ 9:00 am LVA/EC @ 7:00 pm
Wed. July 23	Hymn Sing @ 10:00 am Interim Search Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Sat. July 25	Roast Beef Supper – Seating @ 5:00 & 6:30 pm
Mon. July 27	Bible Study @ 9:00 am LVA/EC @ 7:00 pm
Wed. July 30	Hymn Sing @ 10:00 am Interim Search Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm

The 2009 Roast Beef Suppers will be held on July 25, and Aug. 29. As usual we will have seatings at 5:00p.m. and 6:30p.m. with peeling and setup on the Friday before. Since our work force seems to decrease every year we urge everyone to keep those times available to help out. Last year we sold out every supper and hope to do so again this year.

Beginnings

As you know the church's Membership and Evangelism committee has sponsored the Beginnings – An Introduction to Christian Faith program over the last few months. After running it once last fall, we offered the series to folks outside the church family and were delighted to welcome five “outsiders” who quickly became friends. In fact you know two of them well as the Beginnings program brought Jan and Barry Thompson into our church family.

On June 4th we successfully concluded our second offering of the program with a highly emotional and meaningful final celebration. After a delightful pot luck supper and wrap-up video, everyone participated in a candle light ceremony where we shared personal faith stories. Before we finished, Bernice Ferwerda played her guitar and we all sang the song “I’ll Fly Away” as a tribute to Jim. It was a wonderful, but sad, evening as we mourned the loss of our leader and ended our program time together.

Overall the series consisted of twelve sessions including a simple meal, a fun activity, a video/DVD presentation followed by a small group discussion. According to participants, “Beginnings” received high marks as a very enjoyable, meaningful and spiritual program. Everyone felt the videos were deeply moving, and the activities fun but relevant. The small group discussions brought further clarity to the topics as participants shared their perspectives, past experiences, thoughts and feelings which greatly enriched the program for all.

And what can you say about a church group that loves to cook? All of the meals were wonderful with a variety of different entrees, interesting salads and fabulous desserts. Over the course of the program we ate vegetarian chili, turkey chili, a variety of soups, vegetable and meat lasagna, various types of stromboli, tacos, a baked potato bar, bean and meat baked beans, a salad bar... well, you get the idea...no one went hungry! And the salads, homemade breads and desserts...delicious! Special thanks to Mary Lu Mathis who provided us with a number of yummy desserts!

The committee will be evaluating if or when to offer this program again or investigate the potential for additional, more in-depth programs that follow a similar format. Please speak to a member of the committee if you have any questions or are interested in attending “Beginnings” or would like to see other potential series offered. Committee members include Susan Casey, Steve Henrikson, Janet Kohlmorgen and Marcie Miller.

Our thanks again to all who participated or supported the program...you made it memorable and very successful!

Deaconer Distribution: Mail, Pick-up or E-mail

We currently distribute the Deaconer in three different ways: by US Mail, in printed format to be picked up at the church and e-mail. Our goal is to provide it to you in the most cost-effective way. However, we know that many don't or can't use email due to the lack of high speed internet available here in town. In any case, if you would like to receive the Deaconer differently than you do today, please let us know by leaving a note in the Membership Committee's church mailbox or emailing your information to Marcie Miller at QuiltMM@gmail.com.

COUNTRY FAIR and FLEA MARKET

July 18, 2009 (8 AM to 2 PM)

The First Congregational Church of Rindge will host their COUNTRY FAIR & FLEA MARKET on July 18th, 2009 from 8 am to 2 pm. (RAIN OR SHINE)

This is an annual event and always attracts a large crowd. We have many summer people in the area to add to our enthusiastic local population. This is a great way to find bargains or to empty your own garage. We will also have many Crafters to display their unique talents.

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

The Church will charge the following fees:

\$15 for a 15' x 15' space on the lawn and grounds of The Rindge Meeting House.

\$20 for inside space at the Rindge Meeting House (only a few spaces left)

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

A wonderful selection of sandwiches, hot dogs and beverages will be available for lunch in the Meeting House. Coffee and donuts will get you off to a great start and we will have a variety of home-baked items to satisfy your sweet tooth.

We will have a Basket Raffle with many interesting baskets available. Rada knives, a Bake Table and many craft items will also be available. This is the "local Flea Market" that everyone needs to attend. We will have the "shoppers" and they will all be looking for that "something special". We will advertise for this event to insure a great crowd.

The Music Committee will have a Flee Market and are looking for items that are still in great condition.

The church is still looking for people to donate a basket for the raffle or to offer some wonderful "goodies" for the Bake Table. We also still need a few volunteers.

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

Interim Search Committee

By Douglas Stather

The Church has appointed a committee to complete the task of searching for and hiring an interim pastor. The Committee consists of the following seven members and the group(s) they represent:

Susan Campbell – Deacons
Ellen Gadegaard – Trustees & Music
Lisa Galante – Christian Education
Marcie Miller – Trustees, Treasurer, Membership
Jean Raymond – Deacons, Sexton, Sunday School
Mary Jane Sawyer – LVA/EC
Doug Stather – Deacons

We held our first meeting on Wednesday, June 10 and accomplished the following:

- Identified our operating rules
- Established leadership positions, which are
 - Marcie – Chair
 - Susan – Primary contact person with NH Conference
 - Ellen – Scribe
 - Doug – Spokesperson
 - Mary Jane – Committee Historian

Completed the Conference's "Request for Interim Leadership" form

We have agreed to meet every Wednesday evening with other meetings scheduled as needed. It is our commitment to you to complete this task as thoroughly and expeditiously as possible. The general timeline we agreed upon is to try to have an interim pastor in place by September 1. By the time you read this, we should have received resumes and begun our task of reviewing them. We may even have begun the interview process. Once the Committee has chosen a candidate, our recommendation will be forwarded to Church Council for its endorsement. Unlike a settled (permanent) pastor, the interim pastor is not voted on by the congregation.

The Conference outlines five tasks that an interim pastor will lead the congregation through:

- a. Coming to terms with the congregation's history;
 - b. Discovering a new identity;
 - c. Allowing needed leadership change;
 - d. Renewing denominational linkages; and
 - e. Committing to new directions in ministry.
- (Loren B. Mead, Critical Moments of Ministry: A Change of Pastors)

A little explanation about these points is necessary. Every congregation has a certain history, not all of which has been creative and useful. The interim period is a time for the congregation to examine this history, to determine the good and the bad, and to determine what it wishes to continue and what it wishes to change. Mead tells us that a congregation that takes the time "... to come to terms with its history will strengthen its ability to develop new and stronger chapters in that history ..." Each congregation also has a self-perceived identity that often is formed by and is an integral component of its history. Do we still think of ourselves as a church the way we did years ago? Or, have we been able to change our identity as our demographics have changed? How does our church reflect and fit in with

the community around us? This interim period is the time when we are able to assess who we think we are and to change our identity if necessary.

The time of pastoral change is also a good time for the congregation to look at the leadership of the church. Every congregation has many capable members; however, for many reasons, some have not been in leadership positions. Now is the time to try to “stir the pot” and attempt to get more congregants involved. Additionally, many of those who have been in leadership for a while may want some time off.

Very often, a church’s ties to the denomination will get loosened over the years, knowingly or otherwise. This is especially true in a non-hierarchical faith. This interim period is a good time to examine the relationship with the denomination and renew it if need be. The denomination very often can provide resources that the individual parish cannot afford. Of course, in the process of selecting an interim we are relying on the support and guidance of the Conference.

Finally, after completing the first four tasks, the congregation needs to commit to the fact that it has done its best in seeking a new settled pastor. It is certain that one will be found. It should be clear to everyone that the settled pastor will not be a carbon copy of the previous pastor. There will, most likely, be a change in direction. This means that the church must commit to work together to ensure success. It may also mean developing a new and different idea of what it means to be a congregation.

In addition to the tasks addressed above, the Committee defined seven primary goals specific to us that we felt were essential for an interim pastor. They are

1. Helping the congregation, both adults and children, through our time of grief;
2. Supporting congregants in sustaining their faith and commitment;
3. Providing substantive sermons that encourage church attendance and participation;
4. Reaching out to all levels, including children (e.g. children’s sermons);
5. Being involved with major committees of the church (e. g. Church Council, Trustees, Deacons);
6. Continuing with adult education, including weekly bible study; and
7. Helping to find ways to include more people in church responsibilities.

We hope that these goals are self-explanatory.

Another question that has been asked and needs to be answered is “Why don’t we start the search for a settled pastor right away instead of waiting several months?” This is a very good question, one that is answered in large part by the explanations of the aforementioned five tasks. The congregation must take time for self-examination which, if done correctly, is a time-consuming process. An interim pastor who has specialized skills (such as helping a congregation with its grieving) can be a significant asset in this self-examination.

A few last important points to tell you are that the interim pastor will be full-time, fulfilling all the traditional pastoral roles. The interim can be helpful during the search for a settled pastor in terms of process, but is not part of the candidate selection process. Also, (s)he cannot be a candidate for the settled position and will probably be with us for at least 12 months.

The Committee knows that this is a difficult time for all of us. It is our intention to keep you informed regularly through Sunday announcements and articles in *The Deaconer*. However, we remind you that there is much of this process that has to be confidential and cannot be shared. Should you have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask.



Elly's Indian Spinach Recipe

1/4 Cup

1/4 Cup

2 Tbsp

2 Tsp

1/2 Tsp

1-1/2 Tsp

1 Tsp

2 Tbsp

8 C (10 Oz)

1-1/2 Cups

1/2 Cup

White wine vinegar

Salad oil (canola is good)

Chutney, chopped

Sugar

Salt

Curry powder

Dry mustard

Sliced green onion (scallions), sliced.

Fresh spinach, torn into bite size pieces

Unpared apples, chopped

Raisins

In closed top jar, combine vinegar, oil, chutney, sugar, salt, curry powder and mustard. Cover and chill. Place torn spinach in large salad bowl. Top with apples, raisins, and green onion.

Shake dressing, pour over salad, and toss.

Chopped peanuts may be added (present in original directions, but not present in ingredient list). Mary Alice doesn't use peanuts and gets rave reviews, every time.

Note: try to get sugar to dissolve. One way is to add oil only after considerable shaking.

Sliced green onions: include both the green shoots and the onion proper.

Original recipe on Baer Packing Corp. package for spinach.

Submitted by: Mary Alice D'Ambrosio

If you have a yummy recipe you would like to add to the deaconer, please email me (larelcyr@yahoo.com)