



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 8
January 27, 2013

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, February 8, 2013.
Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org .

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Looking Ahead in Worship

February 3 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship with communion

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with communion, the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. Diane Harvey will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

February 10 – Transfiguration and Mission Sunday

Worship led by our Mission Outreach Team

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. Fellowship follows in Guptill Hall with Mission Agencies' displays.

February 13 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast in Wright Pavilion, hosted by our Spiritual Life and Worship Team (no cost, donations welcome)

7:30 a.m. – Communion in the sanctuary; finished by 8 a.m. (with John McCall and Shirley Curry)

7:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary (with Diane Harvey and Shirley Curry)

February 17 – First Sunday in Lent

(See our complete Lenten schedule in this Beacon for details)

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school.

PLEASE REMEMBER to wear your name tag to help others learn your name!



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those suffering from the effects of the tough economy; for those who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, or safety; for veterans and those in
(cont. pg. 2)

Learning to Say “Good-Bye”

Nearly twenty-three years ago, April 1, 1990, I was installed as senior minister in a service where you as members, along with leaders of our congregation, representatives of the Maine Conference, UCC, and the Cumberland Association, joined me in making mutual promises about how to begin and how to live out our ministry together. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Evans, third President of the United Church of Christ and friend of many of us, titled his sermon *With Boldness and with Courage*. You and I have shown a good deal of each over the years. We’ve also lived through times of timidity and anxiety.

By God’s grace, our mutual hard work, and our love of the faith and our church, we’ve come through “many dangers, toils and snares.” We’ve renegotiated that original covenant many times over the years, as we’ve learned more about each other, as we’ve read scripture and the culture around us, and as we’ve pushed through times of disagreement and disappointment.

It seemed occasionally this would go on forever. But now we’re figuring out how to say good-bye. I think we’re doing pretty well. In November I gave a sermon titled *Enough*, not as the sigh of a tired soul but as my prayer of gratitude – sufficiency, fulfillment, satisfaction. We’ve worked hard to build and maintain healthy relationships and a strong, vital church. You and I don’t want anything to undermine that health. We all want what’s best for our congregation going forward.

The first priority is your establishing a healthy relationship with your new senior minister, who (God willing) will walk with you through all the celebrations and sorrows, challenges and changes that will come. For that to happen, you and I need to release each other from the pastoral relationship we began in 1989. That will happen officially on June 9 in my final service of worship with you.

Beyond that we need to maintain healthy boundaries. As your pastor I’ve been invited into some very tender and terrifying situations. That has drawn us close and our mutual love and respect makes it seem that no one else could ever be in this relationship. But once I’ve retired my *pastoral relationship with you ends – no more weddings, funerals, communion, pastoral care, or meetings*.

It would hurt you and the church if I said “yes” to some requests and “no” to others. It would hurt your new minister if I were lurking around the edges expressing opinions and giving counsel. So I will be moving my church membership to another congregation.

I’m not retiring because of illness, spiritual exhaustion, discord in the church, or even to go somewhere else to begin again. I’m retiring because it’s time and I can. I’m so very grateful.

Prayers of the People *continued...*

*active service; for peace
and peacemakers*

Ongoing Prayers:
Henry Leeman,
recently hospitalized.
Pauline Wyman now
residing at
Springbrook Center,
300 Spring St,
Westbrook, ME 04092.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar
January 27 were in
loving memory of
Wayne Lockwood from
Pat, Bruce, Ann, Rachel
and Andrew Lockwood.

The flowers on the altar
February 3 are in loving
memory of **Bob
Cannell, Harriet and
William Cannell and
Mary and Robert Kelby**
from Joan, Bill, Joyce
and Audrey Cannell.

(cont. next page)

“And Jesus said, “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith and don’t show it by your actions?” – James 2:14

On **February 10th** the Mission and Outreach Team members welcome you to **Mission Sunday**. We will try and share what mission and outreach mean to us – outwardly and inwardly, for others and for ourselves. We want to celebrate what our church community does for our neighbors near and far. On the eve of Mardi Gras and before the beginning of the Lenten season, there will be music and prayers full of spirit, hope, and purpose; a unique Message; and special guests - representatives of many local organizations, agencies and ministries we support have been invited to join us at the 10:00 a.m. service and at Coffee Hour. Come share in this service about giving and in doing so receive.

-Mission Outreach Team

Learning to Say “Good-Bye” (cont.)

I’m not moving away so I expect we’ll bump into each other around town. We don’t have to avoid each other! Those are the bonds that will never be broken – gratitude, respect, and love for what we’ve shared. So help me keep these promises, OK? And I will ask the same of you.

Faithfully, gratefully, joyfully,

John

Update from the Senior Pastor Search Committee

The Search Committee has been working very hard on a church prospectus and church profile which is used to give prospective candidates a sense of our congregation. At this point we are putting the final touches on these documents and are hopeful that our Senior Pastor employment opportunity will be posted on the ucc.org website over the first week in

February. Thank you for your on going support and please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers as we continue to work through this process!

Flowers and Globe Honor Loved Ones

Each Sunday as we enter the sanctuary our eyes are drawn to the altar and the cross. Most Sundays we’ll see flowers on the altar and occasionally the world globe. These donations are a familiar way of remembering a loved one, honoring a dear friend, or celebrating a special time in the donor’s life. Information about the donor and the occasion are included in the worship bulletin and the Beacon.

Flower donors may gather flowers from their garden or order an arrangement from a florist, to be delivered on Saturday. After the service the donor may take the flowers or ask that they be delivered to a home or nursing home.

Mission Globe sponsors choose this alternative by making a donation to the mission fund, used by our Mission Team for special projects and outreach. Our flower committee schedules donors for Sundays throughout the year, and welcomes your contact to learn more at flowers@fccucc.org.

Currently the dates of February 10 and February 24 remain open for donation. Interested? Contact flowers@fccucc.org.

Bible Discovery Workshop for 3rd and 4th Graders

Mark your calendars for the next **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This will be the 25th year that our church has offered a fun and special workshop geared just for our 3rd graders--and any 4th graders who were not able to attend last year are welcome to join as well!

Those interested are invited to come join us for three Monday afternoons of learning, games, songs and fun! Participants will be introduced to the basics of the bible and our faith in an age-appropriate and engaging program. We will meet from **4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Laity Room on the following **Mondays: April 1, 8, and 22nd** (we'll take the 18th off since it's school vacation week). Then, on **Sunday, April 28th** during the church service we will have our traditional graduation ceremony

when the children will be presented with their own bibles, sing the ever-popular "Books of the New Testament" song, and then celebrate with cake in Wright Pavilion after the service!

We have a list of those children currently enrolled in 3rd and 4th grade in the Sunday School program and will be sending out a letter in the next few weeks. If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up now, please call Beth Harris-Hess at 899-2214 or Deb Dagnan at 749-5045 OR you can sign up **Sunday, March 17th** or **Sunday, March 24th** (Palm Sunday) at the table outside Wright Pavilion. Thanks!

*Teachers,
Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Dagnan*

Kids Quarter Store

I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all the adults and children who donated to and purchased from the Kids' Quarter Store in December. It was a great success, exceeding all my expectations. We took in \$90.00 which has been donated to the Community Crises Ministry.

A special thank you to Susan and Elinor Redmond, Karen Westerberg and Ken Ross who helped me set up an estimated 500+ items and assisted with check-outs. I hope our efforts promoted giving this holiday season. Thank you again.

Susan Ross

Hilltop Guild Tea Tasting – February 14, 1 PM

The Hilltop Guild is meeting at **1 PM February 14** for an introduction to tea. **Marianne Russo, owner of Nellie's Tea in South Portland**, will be telling us about the history of tea, the basic types of tea and their growing and processing. We'll taste various varieties and then enjoy some tea and refreshments.

All ladies of the church are welcome to join us for a Valentine's Day afternoon of fun, fellowship, and tea. If you wish to attend and are not on the Guild calling list, please contact Joan Dennison at 799- 3193 to let her know you are coming.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **January 27** in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Dennison Sr. and Keith Jr. & Kathy** by Joan Dennison.

The steeple is lighted the week of **February 3** in celebration of **Gordon Adams and our son Jeffrey Stephen Adams** from Gretchen, daughter Cynthia Blanchard and son Robert G. Adams and their families.

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED....

Please contact the office if you or a family member is hospitalized. We check the lists at Maine Medical Center and Mercy regularly but may miss your name among the many. Email office@fccucc.org or phone 799-3361 to let us know.

**COMMENTS FROM
RECENT SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS:**

As I head off to college I just wanted to say thank you for the very generous scholarship that I received. It will be very helpful towards furthering my education and I am very grateful. Once again, Thank You.

+

Thank you very much for the very generous scholarship. It really means a lot to have the church community supporting me.

+

I'm in my second year and appreciate your continued support. It's very nice that I don't have to worry about coming up with extra financial money to attend school. Thanks!

+

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I greatly appreciate how supportive you have been while helping me thorough my college endeavors. This contribution is significant and I know I can always count on my church family for strong support while I pursue my dreams. Thank you so much.



Scholarship Opportunities at First Congregational Church

ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATING SENIORS AND STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR PLANNING TO ENROLL IN POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Your church supports your continuing education and awards several scholarships each year. You are encouraged to apply for one of those listed below.

The Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship was established in 1995 and is for graduating high school seniors who are members of this church. Criteria for the Pond Scholarship include service to the church and the community, involvement in church activities, academic achievement, and financial need.

Applicants need to complete both the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship Application and the General Scholarship Fund Application. Three letters of reference and two essays are also required.

The **General Scholarship Fund** is available to church members who are high school seniors or studying or intending to study at the college, university, or graduate level. Applicants need to have been accepted or are attending a college or university in order for the funds to be awarded.

Award considerations include church involvement during and after high school. Applicants for this scholarship only need to



complete the General Scholarship Fund Application.

Applications are available from fccucc.org or by calling the church office at 799-3361. Completed applications need to be returned to the church office by **Monday, March 11**. If you have questions after reading the applications, direct them to scholarship@fccucc.org or the church office.

Scholarship Committee:

*Jeri Sides, Sally Sutton, Lee Taylor,
Jane Taylor, Margaret Thibodeau,
& John McCall*

SAVE THE DATE!**A FAREWELL
GATHERING AND
CELEBRATION FOR
AND WITH JOHN
MCCALL****JUNE 7, 2013****Between the hours of
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM****

**** Details and more
specific timing to follow -
but wanted people to get
this event on their
calendars!**

**Lisa Merchant
& John Shoos**

ESKIMOS

The Eskimo Club will meet
on **February 6, 2013** in
Guptill Hall at **6:30 p.m.**

The program will be a
Power-Point presentation
by **James Millinger:**

***"The Ever-Changing
Water Front of Portland
Maine: 1690 - 2013"***

**Hear Our Story and Tell Us Yours**

... at our next Inquirers' meeting,
Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m. in the
Wright Pavilion. Are you new to the
church? Have you been worshipping
for a few weeks or few months?
Have you been around for a long
time and never (quite) gotten
around to becoming a member?

This is an informal gathering where
we'll get to know each other, talk

about the church, and answer
questions so you can decide
whether you're ready to become
a covenant member. New
members will be welcomed
Sunday, March 10 at the 10 a.m.
service. Please call the church
office (799-3361) or send us an
email (office@fccucc.org) to say
you'll be there.

Pictures Needed for Web Page

We'd like to add more recent photos
to our web page - particularly the
opening marquee. Best pictures for
this are horizontal. Please send

along a couple of your favorites
to webmaster@fccucc.org
Thanks.

2013 Youth Ministry Schedule Update

FEBRUARY 2	SUPERBOWL SUB MAKING PARTY	4:00-5:30 PM
	LOCKIN starts after SUB MAKING	5:30 PM-Sun 10 AM
FEBRUARY 3	SUPERBOWL SUB PICKUP	
	volunteers?	9:00 & 11:15 AM
FEBRUARY 17	SEACOAST FUN PARK SNOW TUBING	12-2 PM
	Leave right after service so bring your winter gear to church!	
	http://www.seacoastfunparks.com/snowparkpricing.asp	
MARCH 9	BOWLING	Scarborough Big 20 12-2 PM
APRIL-TBD	PREBLE ST SOUP KITCHEN <u>BREAKFAST!</u>	7-10 AM
MAY 25	FUN TOWN/.SPLASHTOWN USA!!	TBD
	http://www.funtownusa.com	

Fair Fancy - Holly Daze Bazaar

January brings resolutions and with that your Fair Fancy chairmen resolve to start planning for the next Bazaar!! After profoundly thanking all who donated their time, talents and money for this past Fair Fancy success, we now invite all crafters and would be crafters to think about and start working on items for next November. With the cold weather and more indoor activities this is a perfect time to put your thinking caps on and hands to work. To get you started, this year we had

requests for aprons, especially mother/daughter holiday and everyday type. We need tree ornaments - lots of them, enough for 2 trees!! We welcome your ideas and input and offer help to any of you willing to get a head start. Remember, no matter how small your idea, it will be appreciated. Call us with your thoughts.

*Marilyn Andress (741-5199)
Marilyn Mitchell (773-4147)*

Holly Daze Bazaar Disbursements

On Sunday, January 20th, the room chairs & chairs of the Holly Daze Bazaar met to vote on the disbursements of the \$10,000.00 we made last November. This is how we decided to donate:

CHURCH BUDGET	\$3,000.00
FOOD PANTRY	1,000.00
CRISIS MINISTRIES	2,800.00
CHURCH	
CAMPER-SHIPS	700.00
COFFEE POT	200.00
PHOTO ARCHIVES	45.00

GRACE ST.	
MINISTRIES	500.00
PREBLE ST.	
SOUP KITCHEN	1,000.00
SWEETSER HOME	1,000.00
TOTALS	\$10,245.00

Once again we would like to thank all of you that worked so hard, all who donated & all of you who came & bought.

*Co-chairs,
Jan, Lynn & Karen*

Greetings from The Children's Closet

In the Worship Bulletin, there is always a plea for gently used clothes & toys for the Children's Closet but we are finding our shelves and racks at a low ebb, particularly in Sizes 1 - 7. With the frigid temperatures of the last couple of weeks, the need for clothes, particularly warm

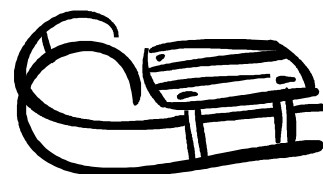
jackets, is greater than ever. If your children have winter clothes & jackets they are no longer using, would you please consider donating them? Thank you for your support.

Carol Scheffler
childrenscloset@fccucc.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY MAGNUSON!

The South Portland – Cape Elizabeth Sentry has named Judy Magnuson their Great Person of the Year! They speak of her as a patient, effective speech therapist at South Portland's Small School. We know her as a Sunday school teacher, member of EF&G Team, Lauren and Erica's mom, Carol and Phil Thorne's daughter, among many other qualities.

**A Christian family:
Loving,
Welcoming,
Serving**





SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, February 7 – SAGE meeting will start at **1:00**. Bring your ideas for new activities.

Thursday, February 14 - Join the women of the church at **1:00** in the Wright Pavilion for a **Valentine's Day tea sponsored by the Hilltop Guild**.

Wednesday, February 20 - Come for a **Soup Luncheon** in Wright Pavilion at **noon**. Bring your place setting and everything else will be provided. Please RSVP by February 14. Snow date is February 21.

Thursday, February 28 - Join us at **I-Hop** for breakfast at **9:00 a.m.**

Thursday, March 7 – SAGE meeting at **1:00** in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom.

Mission Trip 2013

We are going to Cherryfield, ME from July 28 -August 3 to again work with the Maine Seacoast Mission. While the work will primarily be home repair, there could also be opportunities for other work and all skill levels are needed.

Being involved in mission trips has been an invaluable part of my life journey. I first went on one as a high school youth in Rhode Island when the RI Conference of the UCC sponsored a trip to Jamaica to work in an orphanage. To raise money, I polished silver and ironed - 5 cents for each fork or knife and a quarter for each piece of clothing. At those prices, do you know how long it took to raise \$500?

In college there was a trip to another orphanage in Costa Rica. In seminary a mission trip to work with inner city youth, and during my ministry, there have been mission trips to St. Louis to sandbag after flooding or do home repair, to Tanzania for a worship exchange, and several Habitat for Humanity projects. Each trip allowed me the opportunity to develop deep community with the ones with whom I traveled and with whom we shared at each location. Each trip allowed me to experience faith in action whether that was preparing and sharing a meal, wielding a paintbrush, or late night conversations; and each trip, my life and theology were stretched and changed. Every trip



has been a blessing, some in very unexpected ways.

I covet such a life changing experience for all of you. Would you consider joining us? While I realize that family responsibilities, work commitments or life situations for many people preclude taking a week to head north, I do want to encourage those who may have flexible schedules to consider being part of this year's trip. More details and specifics will follow in subsequent Beacons and worship bulletins, but in the meantime, please ponder and pray about signing up on the list outside Wright Pavilion. We'd love to have as many as possible join us.

*Blessings,
Diane*

ADMINISTRATION

2013 Budget Has Been Approved

The congregation unanimously approved the 2013 budget as proposed by the Church Council at the annual budget meeting, January 27. Elinor Redmond, co-chair of the Council and Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the summary: last year, our members approved the 2012 budget with a projected deficit of \$26,000 but actually finished the year with a deficit of only \$6,000, covered by cash reserves. Cost containment and additional gifts from our members made this possible. The 2013 budget anticipates

no deficit, though recognizing, as Elinor said, this is a year of transition with many unknowns particularly about the progress of the Search Committee and when we'll again have a settled Senior Minister in place.

Copies of the budget are available in the church office and around the building. Thanks, as always, to Cyndi Alden, our Business Manager, who faithfully guides the budget throughout the year.

Mission Giving 2011-12

Our total Mission Giving at the First Congregational Church far exceeds that which is "budgeted" year to year. With our special offerings, Community Crisis Ministries,

scholarships and camper-ships you can see that our outreach is far and wide.

*Cyndi Alden
Business Manager*

Mission Giving	2011	2012
Camperships	1,600	1,000
Christmas Offering	3,433	2,265
Crisis Ministries	80,393	87,634
CWS Blankets	775	790
Easter Offering	2,661	1,660
Food Pantry	5,201	6,810
Holly Daze Bazaar	3,600	1,850
Mission Fund (# 3020)	520	616
UCC Basic Support (Budget)	36,494	36,484
Other Mission giving (Budget)	17,000	17,000
Neighbors in Need	1,111	813
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,218	970
Mission Mall	1,130	1,480
Scholarships	12,900	21,000
Veterans of the Cross	2,017	2,498
Children's Sunday School	788	300
Total Mission Giving:	\$170,841	\$183,170

ADMINISTRATION TEAM VACANCIES

The Administration Team currently has two vacancies and we're actively seeking all who are interested in joining us. The Team's purposes include

- reviewing monthly financial statements
- overseeing insurance policies and coverage
- recruiting and providing support for House, Counting, and Planned Giving Committees
- selecting independent accountant(s) and overseeing annual financial review
- oversight of rental of properties and leases
- development of planned giving program.

If this captures your interest and you'd like to pursue this opportunity further, please contact Ellie at ateam@fccucc.org

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IS IT STILL ADULTERY IF THE SPOUSE HAS ALZHEIMER'S?

What does fidelity mean, and how do we best maintain a high standard of ethically vibrant and faithful unions in this age of divorce, remarriage, blended families and shifting morality? Join the Rev. **Marvin M. Ellison**, Ph.D., Willard Bass Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary, **Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.** The State Street Church, 159 State Street, Portland. Reception follows.