



# THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 10

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, March 8, 2013.

February 24, 2013

Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org) .

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## Looking Ahead in Worship

### March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

#### *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering*

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

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

### March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

#### *(Daylight Saving time begins – spring ahead one hour)*

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Hilltop Ringers, the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. Diane Harvey will give the message at both services. We'll receive new members. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

### March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

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

### March 24 – Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

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

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 or shelter;*

*(cont. pg. 2)*

## From The Sr. Pastor Search Committee

The Search Committee has just entered a very exciting phase of the search process. Our Local Church Profile and Prospectus have been completed and if you are interested, the Prospectus can be found on our church website, under the 'About' tab. Our Senior Pastor position posting went 'live' on the UCC.org website under UCC Ministerial Opportunities on Feb. 14th and we began receiving profiles to review the very next day! As exciting as it is to move into this new phase, it is important to note that this work and the discernment of candidate profiles *must remain confidential*. So when you ask a member of the Search Committee how things are going, please understand that we appreciate being asked, but we will be unable to respond with any specific details. Though details will not be forthcoming, rest assured that your Search Committee is focused and working diligently on your behalf.

## Join our Easter Vigil – A Lenten Tradition

Scripture tells us only a little about the time between Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. His body was laid in a borrowed tomb and the disciples waited in fear. For more than 20 years our congregation has held a Good-Friday to Easter vigil in the chapel, taking two hour watches to sit in silence, to write, read scripture or devotional books, and to pray for God's world.

Our Vigil begins on **Good Friday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m. and continues until 6:00 a.m. Easter**

If, by chance, you know a UCC affiliated pastor you think would be a viable candidate for our church, then have a conversation with him or her and direct them to our Prospectus. If he or she is interested in our position, encourage him or her to contact the Maine UCC for more information on next steps needed in order to be considered. We are committed to finding the best possible candidate for our church, but in order to be considered, each candidate must follow a standard protocol through the UCC and Maine UCC.

On behalf of the Search Committee, I would like to say thank you again for your continued prayers!

*Peace,*

*Betsy Keiter, Search Committee*

**morning.** We like to have at least 2 people to keep the Vigil for each 2 hour increment. *The sign-up sheet can be found just outside the Library or near Wright Pavilion.* Grab a friend or family member and sign-up together! Also, anyone is welcome to come to the chapel and join in this blessed time of meditation and reflection. If you have any questions, feel free to email [slwteam@fccucc.org](mailto:slwteam@fccucc.org).

Thank you!

### *Prayers of the People continued...*

*or safety; for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers*

#### **Ongoing Prayers:**

**Doris Mallar** receiving Hospice care at home in Falmouth; **Julia Peters** and her family upon her father's death; **Henry Leeman**, at the Barron Center, Portland; **Kathleen Rummler**, at home. **Ruth Bonney** is now living at Village Crossing, 78 Dyer Road, Room 222, Cape Elizabeth.

#### **In Memory:**

**Ruth I. Fogg**, a member since 1949, died February 17 at her home. She was 98. Ruth's survivors include her son Steven Fogg, and her great niece Margaret O'Connor. **Donald "Lefty" Files**, Died February 16 from complications after a stroke. He is survived by Janice, his wife of 56 years, their four daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. His funeral was Saturday, February 23. **Pauline F. Wyman**, a member since 1950, died at Springbrook Center, Westbrook, on February 9, at the age of 91. Her memorial service will be, Saturday, March 2, 11 am at Hobbs Funeral Home followed by a reception.

*(cont. next page)*

*Citizens of Which Realm?***Our Lenten Theme for 2013**

In reading the New Testament it's easy to miss the undercurrents: everything in Jesus' ministry and in the lives of his listeners stood against the background of Rome's harsh military power.

In fact, to really understand the drama of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem we need to recall that he intended everything he did to show that God's realm was exactly the opposite of Caesar's realm. Jesus lived in counterpoint to the culture. That's why he was executed.

For the six Sundays of Lent, join us for a journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday, then on to Easter. John and Diane will preach from *The Last Week, A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem*. The authors, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, are renowned biblical scholars and professors.

We'll look at each of the days and ask many questions, including:

- What was happening there and then?
- What was Caesar's realm intending to do?
- What did God call Jesus to do?
- What does God call us to be and do?
- How might we choose to live as citizens of both realms today?

Date	Preacher	Theme	Gospel
February 17 Lent 1	John	Palm Sunday, Monday	Mark 11:1-19
February 24 Lent 2	John	Tuesday	Mark 11:20-24
March 3 Lent 3	John	Wednesday	Mark 14:1-11
March 10 Lent 4	Diane	Maundy Thursday	Mark 14:12-72
March 17 Lent 5	John	Good Friday	Mark 15:1-47
March 24 Palm Sunday	Diane	Palm Sunday, Holy Saturday	Mark 11:1-19 Matthew 27:62-66
March 31 Easter	John	Easter	Mark 16:1-8

**Prayers of the People  
continued...**

**We just received word that:**

**Theo H. Hill** died July 12, 2012 in Peoria, Arizona. She joined our congregation in April, 1977, and had moved To Arizona in June 2009, to be closer to family. **Rizalina "Lee" Dyer** is now living in an Alzheimer's facility in Florida. The home mailing address is available from the church office.

**Beverly J. Gould Labbe**, a long time member of our church before moving to Florida in 1980, died January 16 in Clearwater, Florida. She is survived by her son Raymond and daughter Amy-Jo E. Labbe. After a January 19 service in Florida, her ashes will be scattered at Willard Beach on her 68<sup>th</sup> birthday July 22.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to the Monday bridge group for their \$200 contribution towards heating the church.

*Cyndi Alden*  
Business Manager

## Lent 2013 – Evening Gatherings to Explore Prayer

*What is prayer?*

*What can prayer change? Is it possible to "pray without ceasing" as Paul insists?*

*Why did he instruct us to do that?*

**Join Andrea Rosenberg, church musician, piano teacher, and restless prayer, for three sessions exploring varied traditions and understandings of prayer. Two sessions remain. The second session, March 4,** will focus on learning about and practicing **Christian contemplative prayer**, including lectio divina and visio divina. **The third session, March 11,** will look at forms of **Daoist prayer** that can enhance our spiritual walk -- Qi Gong (gentle healing

prayerful movement), An-Moh Gong (healing self-massage), and Daoist meditation.

When working with prayer methods developed and taught by other faiths, Andrea will create a solid connection with the teachings of Jesus. Sessions are about one hour. **Please bring a notebook or journal with you.**

*The text for this study group will be "Prayers of a Planetary Pilgrim" by Fr. Edward Hays. Copies of this book are available for purchase at Nonesuch Books in Mill Creek Plaza.*

## Family Communion Class – March 23

Please join Diane Harvey on **Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to noon** for a Family experience where we will learn about the sacrament of Communion. We will begin in Wright Pavilion by looking at some stories of Jesus sharing meals with others. We will talk about Communion as a time to gather as the people of God, as a time to celebrate, remember and give thanks for God's love. We will do some art work and activities, and then move into the sanctuary to experience how communion is prepared and how it is served.

The morning is geared for children age 4 through grown-up! It is for families who would like to learn more about Communion or be refreshed in what they have already learned and experienced. **Pre-registration is required** so Diane can prepare materials. You may sign up for this class on the list outside Diane's study, or by emailing her at [dlh@fccucc.org](mailto:dlh@fccucc.org) If there is enough interest, another class will be held later in the spring.

## EDUCATION GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

### Sunday School Sightings

Grades 1 – 6 are making bread to be used for communion. Beth DeTine has kindly offered to work with these grades on this Lenten service project. Individual classes are making and may even deliver cards of encouragement and cheer to our members and friends who cannot attend church. There is

much activity everywhere and most importantly we see happy faces engaged in various projects during this season of Lent. A child can be registered at any time throughout the year by going to [www.fccucc.org/grow/sunday-school/sunday-school-registration/](http://www.fccucc.org/grow/sunday-school/sunday-school-registration/).

### Bible Discovery Workshop for 3rd and 4th Graders

Mark your calendars for the next **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> year that our church has offered a fun and special workshop geared just for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders--and any 4<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>** (we'll take the 18<sup>th</sup> off since it's school vacation week). Then, on **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** (Palm Sunday) at the table outside Wright Pavilion. Thanks!

*Teachers,  
Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Dagnan*

#### FEBRUARY ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **February 17** were in loving memory of **Kathleen and George Doering and Daniel A. BaRoss** from the family of Robert P. BaRoss.

The flowers on the altar **February 24** are from Barbara and Keith Powers in celebration of their grandson **Jordan Thompson Harder** born February 13, 2013. Jordan is the son of Lynn and Jeff Harder.

#### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple was lighted the week of **February 17** in memory of **Marika and Stanley Kulczycky** from Merle and Dolores Broberg.

The steeple was lighted the week of **February 24** in loving memory of **Gordon Mitchell** by wife Marilyn and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and in loving memory of **Elizabeth Liston** by her mother Virginia Baker and sister Sue Lang.

## Pilgrim Lodge Online Registration 2013 Is Now Open!

Go to the website [www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule) for a newly posted interactive schedule with photos and program descriptions! Then click the "Register" button. Some sessions fill very quickly so be sure to get yours in soon. If you aren't familiar with this wonderful resource of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ, please go to the home page

of Pilgrim Lodge and check it out!

There are camps for all ages including adults, and there are camps that offer music and drama, wilderness exploration, grandparents and grandchildren and more! To learn more, speak with Diane Harvey or Sally Keiter, or pick up a brochure outside Diane's study.

## Hilltop Guild Pot Luck Dinner - March 14 at 6 PM

The Hilltop Guild is meeting on **Thursday March 14 at 6 PM** for a **pot luck dinner**. **Marie Jordan will speak to us about her birding trip to Cuba**. All women of the church are invited to join us for a delicious dinner and a

magnificent presentation by our birding expert.

If you are not a Guild member and would like to attend, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 to let her know you are coming.



## 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.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you who have sent cards, notes, and caring words concerning the death of my son, Steve Onos. I would especially like to thank those who braved the cold waiting to enter Hobbs during visiting hours, many waiting out in the cold for an hour or more before getting inside to offer your condolences, and those who came to church during the snow storm for Steve's memorial service. Although I did not get a chance to see many of you who came to the memorial service (the storm's intensity did not allow us time together afterward), please know that I am immensely grateful to you all for being my caring family during this time of sorrow. Thank you, thank you for your love and concern. I am overwhelmed by your caring and support.

*Jerry Onos*

Thank you to the Thursday Duplicate Bridge group for their contribution of \$100 in the month of February for the Food Pantry.

*Cyndi Alden*  
Business Manager

**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 (cont.)

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](http://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 reading the applications, direct them to [scholarship@fccucc.org](mailto:scholarship@fccucc.org) or the church office.

**Scholarship Committee:**

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

## Save The Date!

**Saturday, April 27  
- Starting at 5 PM -**

That's the date for a dinner and auction in Guptill Hall to raise money for our Mission Trip to Cherryfield this summer. If you went two years ago, you'll remember what a great time it was! In addition to a wonderful meal with your church family, there will be some great items to bid on: paintings by Maine

artists, babysitting services, Sea Dog tickets, a 3-course meal cooked at your home by Diane Harvey, and much more! Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date. Hope to see you there!



### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Wednesday, March 6** - We will meet at **SMCC for lunch at noon**. RSVP by February 27, one week before, as they require exact numbers.

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

**Wednesday, March 13** - Join us for **Lunch and Fun at noon** in the Wright Pavilion. Bring a sandwich and stay for a Domino game after lunch.

**Wednesday, March 20** - Come for a **movie, "Pay It Forward"** in Davidson Lounge at **1:00**.

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

**Thursday, April 4** - **SAGE meeting at 1:00**.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. This year, the theme for One Great Hour of Sharing, is "Sharing Brings Joy".

Your gift makes a difference in lives of people around the world 365 days of the year. For more information go

to:

[www.onegreathourofsharing.org](http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org)

**To make your offering on Sunday, March 3, use the pew envelopes or label your donation on the memo line of your check.** God loves our joyful attitude when we share from our abundance!

Thank you,  
*The Mission and Outreach Team*

## Fair Trade Coffee

The next opportunity to order Fair Trade coffee will be on **March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** with orders being **distributed on March 31<sup>st</sup>**. When you place your order, you may want to consider trying one or both of the following:

**Congo Coffee Project Full City Roast.** The Congo Coffee Project was created by Equal Exchange in partnership with the Panzi Foundation to support the medical programs of Panzi Hospital in the D. R. Congo . These programs include life-saving treatment, counseling & after-care to survivors of sexual violence. Equal Exchange will donate \$1.00 to the programs for each bag sold through their wholesale program. 5 - 1 lb. bags may be bought for \$41.25. To learn more about this program, go to their website, [www.equalexchange.coop/congocoffeeproject](http://www.equalexchange.coop/congocoffeeproject) .

**Eight Rivers light medium roast from the Exchange's Biosphere Reserve Series.** Located in El Imposible National Park in El Salvador, the eight rivers within the park are key to the life within & beyond the borders. The coffee trees planted on steep slopes help absorb fresh rainfall & prevent erosion of the soil. Your purchase helps support this fragile & dynamic ecosystem. Their website, [www.equalexchange.coop/EightRivers](http://www.equalexchange.coop/EightRivers).

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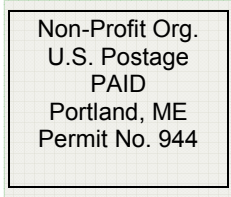
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