



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday March 12, 2012**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

First Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
 South Portland, Maine 04106
 Phone (207) 799-3361
 Fax (207) 799-4095
 E-mail: office@fccucc.org
<http://www.fccucc.org>

February 27, 2012

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

3-4

E G & F

5-7

Seniors

7

Mission & Outreach

7-9

Administration

9

Easter Flower Order Form

10

Calendar - March

11

Looking Ahead in Worship

March 4 - Second Sunday in Lent

Theme: Body and Blood

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

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with communion and the Meetinghouse Choir. Sunday school classes through the sixth grade and Worship Discovery for grades 7 & 8. Elsa Peters will give the message.

March 11 - Third Sunday in Lent

Theme: Cup

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir. Sunday school classes through the sixth grade and Worship Discovery for grades 7 & 8. Elsa Peters will give the message.

March 18 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme: Cross

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir. Sunday school classes through the sixth grade and Worship Discovery for grades 7 & 8. John McCall will give the message.

March 25 - Fifth Sunday in Lent - Bring a Friend

Theme: Sword

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir. Sunday school classes through the sixth grade and Worship Discovery for grades 7 & 8. John McCall will give the message.

11:30 a.m. - Davidson Conversation

Remember to bring non-perishable items for our food pantry. The need is greater than ever.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For peace and peacemakers; for the end of US military involvement in Iraq; those in the military and their loved ones; for all who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, safety, love; for all who advocate courageously for justice in our economy that should serve all of God's people; for our elected leaders; for those affected by proposed cuts in Health and Human Services funding.

Congratulations: to Marvin Ellison and Frank Brooks, happy grandfathers of **Maya Nicole Hudson-Brooks**, born February 13; to **Christ Church of Kennebunk** which just became the 1001st Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. Nearly 25% of our UCC churches in Maine are ONA congregations.

Concerns: **Elizabeth "Dollie" Moore**, Mary Anne Wallace's mother, whose funeral was February 16; **Meredith Alston**, a member since 1962, whose funeral was February 27; the **Bangor Theological Seminary** community as they discern their path for the future; the **Rev. Dr. H. Milton Bartlett**, Jodie Ramsey's father, who died recently in Massachusetts after a long illness.

At-one-ment

How does God make a connection with us? This is the central question of atonement –which roughly translates to “reconciliation.” It’s the question that we ask when we ponder what happened with Jesus on the cross. How exactly did God become one with us through this death? The short answer to this question is: We don’t know.

If you are determined to find one answer to this question, the Christian faith doesn’t have one. This is an ancient argument that we’ve tossed and turned with since Jesus died on the cross. In the United Church of Christ, where we don’t have creeds and don’t ask you to make any resolute claim on what happened on the cross, we can only muster the courage to proclaim in one voice:

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. *(from the UCC Statement of Faith)*

We don’t make any claim about how Jesus shares our common lot. We don’t belabor what happened on the cross. We just infer that something happened that we may or may not fully understand. This is what we claim together about atonement, but there’s always more to the story. Our story begins with our Jewish roots – the tradition in which our faith is based. You know that the ancient Jews participated in sacrificial rites where an animal was offered to atone for the sins of God’s people. The basis of this ritual is all about the Jewish faith that humanity is always seeking right relationship with God. Our Jewish ancestors and neighbors today believe that the world is broken. It was shattered in the beginning of time – and the work of humanity is to put the world back together. Our work is to heal the brokenness. This can be done in many ways – including animal sacrifice – which allows humanity to address the fact that something is broken in the human connection to God.

If you’re not already thinking it, let me ask this for you: How exactly does an animal sacrifice restore the connection between humanity and God? This is the question that Christianity began to trip over in the 11th century. Lemme repeat that. We didn’t really care about this atonement stuff until the Middle Ages. It was then that this guy Anselm of Canterbury began asking the question about why God had to become human. Mind you, this wasn’t a question about why Jesus died – but focused instead on why God came to share our common lot. Anselm concentrated his doctrine of sin around the question of God’s honor. He believed that sin was defined as giving God what God was owed – which God obviously couldn’t do. It had to be a human payment which could only be satisfied if God came into the world as both fully God and fully human. Therefore, this perfectly human and perfectly God person was born to substitute for the honor that imperfect humans can’t honor themselves. Known as substitutionary atonement, Christ acts of the substitute of our honor. Other theologians have built upon this idea to make it normative in nearly every

(continued on page 3)

MARCH ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **March 4** are in loving memory of my brother **Bruce Jordan** and my parents **Robert** and **Elizabeth** from T.J. Heald and Family.

The flowers on the altar **March 11** are in loving memory of our mother and grandmother **Elizabeth Cannell** from Alex and Meghan Livingston and Christie Cannell.

The Mission Globe is lighted **March 18** by John and Andrea McCall in celebration of the birthdays of their late mothers **Barbara Warren McCall** and **Billye Jean Thompson**.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **March 18** in loving memory of **Judith Leeman** by her loving husband Henry Leeman, sisters Dianne Burns, Deborah Thayer and Lynn Angell and brothers Richard Angell and Robert Angell.

hymn we sing. However, it is not the only idea out there. There's another crucial perspective that emerges a generation after Anselm.

Peter Abelard wasn't as interested in how God came into the world, but he was worried about how Christ shared our common lot. Abelard wisely thought it was disgusting that God would require innocent blood as the price for anything. He didn't buy into the idea of payment (or substitution) but believed that the death of Christ didn't have anything to do with why Christ came into the world. Instead, God revealed God's self through Christ for the sake of love. It's as simple as that. Every single thing God does is an act of love and we are too human to achieve that intense emotion. This sounds nice but this atonement theory doesn't deny the reality of sin. Abelard defined sin as the gap from where we are and where we ought to be. Therefore, the act of atonement is the human response to God's love. It's the way that we choose to move across the gap. Ancient Jews did this through animal sacrifice. We do this through the celebration of communion. But, these are not the only rituals that close the gap. As our Jewish sisters and brothers believe, we are also working toward right relationship with God through the justice and mercy we show others. This is all rooted in the Abelard's theory of atonement. The question for us should not be which of these theories is correct – but instead what we believe brings us into greater connection to God. In all reality, that's not going to be the same thing for every person. Some need a challenge. Some need affirmation. Some need, well, you know best what you need. This is the mystery where God seeks to connect with you.



Meet Our Newest Church Members

At our service on February 12 we had the privilege of welcoming two new members. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a few things with you about them. Please help them to feel welcome.

Margaret G. Anderson

Margaret is a life long resident of Cape Elizabeth and South Portland, has two children and four grandchildren who also attend this church, and she is pleased to be part of this church community. Retired from a successful career in education – teacher, coach and administrator – she looks forward to sharing her talents and learning from others.

Marvin M. Ellison

Marvin, a native of Tennessee and an

ordained Presbyterian minister, teaches Christian social ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary's Portland campus. He is President of the Board of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination, which supports civil rights protections in Maine for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, including the freedom to marry. He also founded the Maine Interfaith Council for Reproductive Choices. An author and lecturer, his most recent book, due out in July, is *Making Love Just: Sexual Ethics for Perplexing Times* (Fortress Press). He lives in Portland with his partner Frank Brooks, a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice.

Bring a Friend – March 25

Have you found a home here? Do you love your church? Don't keep it a secret! **Bring a friend to worship on Sunday, March 25th** to experience the warmth. Our Growth Group will help us all make a special effort to welcome our neighbors, family and friends to come and see. On that Sunday, John McCall will give the message in our

Elder Nominations

Please send us the name(s) of one or more members who you think should be recognized as an **Elder for 2012**. It will help if you include a brief explanation of why you feel the member qualifies, whether for diligent service in various church roles over an extended period or for other reasons.

Parenting Potluck – March

The Family Potluck will be hosting a meeting on **Tuesday, March 13th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** for parents interested in a discussion on the issue of our kids and alcohol and drugs. The meeting will be facilitated by **The Opportunity Alliance's (formerly PROP) Communities Promoting Health Coalition staff**. A potluck meal will be served from 6:00-6:30. The parent discussion will be from 6:30-8:00. Children of all ages are welcome and can play in the gym or nursery following the meal. Babysitting will be provided for very young children for just \$5 per family.

For many of our kids, alcohol and drugs hasn't been an issue, but there will be a day in the future (maybe sooner than we would like to think), that our kids will be presented with a situation in which they have to make some difficult decisions. The good

ongoing Lenten series: "God so loved the world?" and reflect on the symbol of the sword and ask about violence in the name of the Prince of Peace. Of course, fellowship time and refreshments follow the 10 a.m. service. For more information contact office@fccucc.org.

Please send your names **by Friday, March 9** to Tex Hauser of the Spiritual Life and Worship Team, in care of Jen Dealaman in the Church office.

Thank you!

news is that there is a lot of research that shows that parents have the most influence in kids' decisions to use alcohol and drugs.

The meetings, called "Parent Meet-ups on Underage Drinking and Drug Use", are facilitated discussions about how to best use our influence as parents to help our kids deal with this difficult issue. A short part of the meeting is dedicating to learning the facts while the majority of the time is used for discussion about the things that we are most concerned about.

Carol Zechman
parenting@fccucc.org

FAMILY POTLUCK - CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER

The Family Potluck group will be hosting a **celebration of Passover on Sunday, April 1st from 5:30-7:30** in Wright Pavilion. Jeff and Deb Sandler will lead us in the family oriented tradition of the Seder feast.

Passover is a holiday that commemorates the time in history when the Jewish people were freed from slavery in the land of Egypt. The Jewish people were slaves, and they wanted to be free.

Passover is celebrated today in homes by having a Seder. Seder means order, and we read the Passover story and eat the Seder meal in a special order. All are invited to join this celebration. Children of all ages can participate in the Seder ritual, or eat dinner (provided) beforehand and then play in the gym or the nursery. Babysitting is provided for young children for just \$5 per family.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Wright Pavilion in the next couple of weeks. Please contact Carol Zechman at zechmc@mainehealth.org or <mailto:zechmc@mainehealth.org> with any questions.

Carol Zechman

MEN'S RETREAT 2012 - UPDATE

The retreat has been cancelled. However, we will NOT lose the opportunity to participate with the 3 volunteer session leaders in a new format. We can call it "The Men's Gathering" which will take place in our Davidson Lounge from 7 – 9:00 p.m. on the dates listed below in March, April and May.

➤ **March 22nd** - Mike Quinn will lead the Gathering.

➤ **April 29th** - Jeff Sandler will lead the Gathering.

➤ **May (TBD)** - Scott Berry will lead us.

No money is needed. No sign-up is needed. Please put these dates on your calendar and join us, if you can, for 2 hours of man-to-man conversation. We are part of a wonderful congregation but don't take it for granted. Join us.

Jerry Onos

**A Christian family:
loving,
welcoming,
serving.**

God So Loved the World? A Faith Formation Question

If the preaching series this Lent or the article on page 2 of this Beacon has peaked your curiosity about God's love for the world, your pastors hope you'll consider continuing the conversation with other members of your church.

For Children and Families

Parents, mentors and Sunday School teachers will find a handout tucked into the "Please take one" folder on the Children's Faith Formation bulletin board outside of Wright Pavilion. This handout provides an overview of how to talk about this difficult part of our faith with your children. Though the children will not explore the same texts as those in worship, this conversation will continue in Sunday School as the children explore the significance of the cross.

For Those That Want to Talk More After Worship on Sunday

John McCall will continue to explore the themes suggested in worship in two Davidson Conversations. In these post-worship discussions, John will provide a brief overview of atonement theory as he explores the metaphors explored in worship. Mark your calendars for the **Sundays of February 26 and March 25 at 11:30 a.m.** to share in these conversations.

For Those That Need a Good Book

Elsa Peters will lead a book study of

Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker. In this book two pastors reflect on the particular stories of church members that believe God wants them to suffer. The conversation between these two pastors is heartfelt and eye-opening to those of us who have ever said Christ died for our sins.

A limited number of books have been ordered at Nonesuch Books in Mill Creek and are available at 10% off the cover price. We will read the whole book together and gather three times over the season to share in conversation. If you are interested in joining these conversations, please mark your calendars for the **Mondays of February 27, March 12 and March 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in Davidson Lounge.

For Those on Facebook

Throughout the season, we'll post items of interest and questions to ponder on the FCC UCC Facebook Page. If you haven't already done so, please, like us, be following this link: www.facebook.com/fccucc. Please also know that if you're not a Facebook user, you can still see this page if you follow the link. You can glean all of the same insights without a Facebook account.

John & Elsa

Bible Discovery Workshop for 3rd and 4th Graders

Spring is in the air and it's time for the **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This is the 26th year that our church has offered this fun and special workshop geared just for our 3rd graders--any 4th graders who were not able to attend last year are welcome to join as

well! There will be three afternoons of learning, games, songs, and fun. The children will be introduced to the basics of the bible and our faith in a fun, age-appropriate, and engaging program.

(continued on page 6)

We will meet on three **Tuesdays—March 13, 20, and 27—from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Laity Room.**

Our traditional graduation ceremony will be on **Sunday, April 1st**, when the children will be presented with their own bibles during worship. There will be a cake reception in Wright Pavilion after the service.

The Longfellow Choral Festival Concert and Event Schedule – March 3, 4 & 5, 2012

March 3, 2012:

12:30 PM Film: *Ole Bull's Fairy Tale*
Location: Patriot Cinemas Nickelodeon Theater One, 1 Temple Street, Portland, Maine. (Norwegian with English subtitles.) In this film for all age groups, the distinguished Norwegian violinist Arve Tellefsen narrates the life story of 19th century Norwegian violin virtuoso Ole Bull and performs a number of Ole Bull's violin compositions on location for a group of school age campers at Ole Bull State Park in Pennsylvania, site of Ole Bull's infamous New Norway colony; for the local townspeople in West Lebanon, Maine, where Bull's youngest daughter, Ole Bull Vaughn, was born; atop the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt; by the fireside in poet Longfellow's Cambridge Massachusetts home. Arve Tellefsen, in person, will greet the audience in Nickelodeon Theater One at the 12:30 starting time.

4 PM Concert Matinee: Arve Tellefsen performs concert pieces by Ole Bull and Edvard Grieg, with soprano Deborah Selig and The Longfellow Chorus and Orchestra. Location: South Portland Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Rd., South Portland, Maine. Arve Tellefsen, "one of the most highly regarded violinists in Europe,

If you have any questions or you would like to sign your child up, please call Beth Harris-Hess at 899-2214 or Deb Dagnan at 749-5045. Look for our sign-up table in Wright Pavilion, where you can sign your child up any Sunday prior to March 13th.

Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Dagnan
Bible Discovery Workshop Teachers

"presents Ole Bull's most popular compositions for solo violin and orchestra, and shares with audience members his many years of experience as Norway's leading Ole Bull ambassador. Soprano Deborah Selig sings Grieg's *Solvejg's Song* and *Arabian Dance* from *Peer Gynt*, and The Longfellow Chorus (as the "Chorus of Trolls") and Orchestra perform Grieg's *Morning Mood* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*.

8 PM Concert: Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf, a cantata by Edward Elgar. Location: South Portland Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Rd., South Portland, Maine. Brian Arreola, Deborah Selig and Bradford Gleim return to Portland as Viking King Olaf Tryggvason, who brought Christianity to the Norse, Gudrun (and the other women in King Olaf's life) and Ironbeard, who defies Olaf's demand to convert. The original text from Longfellow's *Tales of the Wayside Inn* featured Ole Bull, violin in hand, as storyteller. Here, Arve Tellefsen acts as storyteller and performs several of Ole Bull's popular concert pieces between scenes.

March 4, 2012:

1:30 PM Recital: New Longfellow Songs and Choruses. South Portland

(continued on page 7)

Eskimos!

Spring is nearly sprung and we meet again in the Igloo on **Wednesday March 7 at 6:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be **Mary Burnet-Kroth** whose office, "**Back in Motion Physical Therapy**" is in South Portland.

HILLTOP GUILD

The next meeting of the Hilltop Guild is on **Thursday April 8 at 7 p.m.** in Wright Pavilion.

Our speaker for the evening is **Amber Mooney**, who spent 2 years in Nicaragua with the **Jesuit Volunteer Corps**. From the Jesuit Volunteer Corps website: "The Jesuit Volunteer Corps offers women and men an opportunity to work for justice and peace. It sends Jesuit Volunteers for a year or more to live with and serve the poor and marginalized in the U. S. and developing countries. JVs live simply, in community, immersed in Ignatian Spirituality."

If you are not a member of the Guild and would like to attend our meeting, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193. We welcome all women who would like to share in service, fellowship and fun.

Kathy Cotter
Program Chair
hilltop@fccucc.org



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Join us on **March 8** at **1:30** in the Davidson Lounge for the movie, **The Blind Side with Sandra Bullock**. She befriends a homeless teenager and invites him to live with her family. It's a "feel good" movie, which many of us seem to like and we hope you might enjoy it, too.

On **Thursday, March 15** we will leave the church at **10:15** to attend a **cooking class at Kitchen and Cork**. After the instructor cooks for us we will eat the food and bring home the recipes. Cost is \$12.

We will have lunch at **Anjon's Restaurant** on **Thursday, March 22**, leaving the church at **11:00**. Please RSVP by March 19.

Thursday, March 29 - breakfast at **I-Hop**. Join us at **9:00!**

Thursday, April 5 - **1:00 SAGE** meeting.

Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Rd., South Portland, Maine. Violinist Arve Tellefsen, soprano Vera Savage, The Longfellow Woodwind Quartet and The Longfellow Chorus present the winners of the 2012 Longfellow Chorus International Composers Competition.

3 PM Concert: *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf*. South Portland Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Rd. Repeat performance of Elgar's Longfellow cantata (see Saturday, March 3).

March 5, 2012:

4 PM Film: *Ole Bull, Conqueror of Heaven*. Location: Patriot Cinemas Nickelodeon Theater One, 1 Temple Street, Portland, Maine. (Norwegian with English subtitles.) This prize-winning 2006 documentary about Ole Bull stars Norwegian violinist Henning Kraggerud, who performs in the film on Bull's 1744 Guarnerius violin. Following the showing, Mr. Kraggerud will greet the audience in Nickelodeon Theater.

7:30 PM: **Henning Kraggerud in Recital**. South Portland Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Rd., South Portland, Maine. One of the most exciting young contemporary Scandinavian Classical music artists, violinist Henning Kraggerud (b. 1973) is the winner of Norway's Ole Bull

Prize, Grieg Prize and Spellermann CD Award, and Finland's Sibelius Prize. "An artist of exquisite musicianship, who combines an unusually sweet tone and beauty of expression with impressive virtuosity." In this concert, Henning Kraggerud presents violin concert pieces by Scandinavian composers.

For ticket information:

www.longfellowchorus.com or call 207-232-8920



Olaf the King, one summer morn, blew a blast.

My Sister's Keeper (MSK), a mentoring ministry for women in transition from corrections will be facilitating a **mentor training session for interested mentors and community volunteers on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** MSK provides mentors for women transitioning from incarceration to community. Mentors strive to empower women to make positive choices for their spiritual, physical, emotional and mental health needs. Working collaboratively with faith groups, community groups, and government agencies, MSK assists women with the resources they need and provides mentors with direction, through training, practical and emotional support. To register or FMI, please contact Kelly Dell'Aquila, Director of Services, My Sister's Keeper @ 712-5962 or mysisterskeeper@ceumc.org

A WARM THANK YOU

The Discovery Center sends warm thanks and is incredibly grateful for all who have donated so generously. Thank you!

The Discovery Center Staff
discoveryctr@fccucc.org



SPRING RUMMAGE / GARAGE SALE

I can't believe it is that time again! The **Spring Rummage / Garage Sale !!!** It will be held on **April 29th**. You can start dropping off items on March 1st in Guptill Hall. Start that Spring Cleaning!

We don't accept suitcases, computers, typewriters or adding machines, old TV's etc.

Clean usable clothing as well as workable items are greatly accepted.

If you need it picked up just give me a call.

Prudy
799-5705

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. In 2010, the United Church of Christ received \$2,822,878 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. In addition, UCC members and friends gave more than \$4,861,168 to UCC special appeals for domestic and international emergencies, including the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. To

make your offering on **March 18th**, use the pew envelopes or label your donation on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Your gift makes a difference in lives of people around the world 365 days of the year.

"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."
- Mother Teresa

Mission & Outreach Team



Coffee Lovers Practice Java Justice

The Fair Trade Coffee Group ("FTC") was formed by a few thoughtful and energized Church members who began taking coffee orders in May 2008. Isn't it heartening to think that a few conversations among Church members planted an idea; one which has grown into a wonderful practice? A practice that not only gives members the opportunity to order delicious fair-trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate, but also gives our members a chance to be a force for change and justice.

Also of note - the FTC has also saved the Church money! For the past four years, the coffee served at coffee hour is available due to the surcharge fund (50 cents/ bag) that fair-trade ordering members have been paying throughout the year.

Traditionally, coffee hour coffee had been purchased through EG&F funds. FTC's donations have helped trim the Church's budget.

Future order dates are:

- **March 4th and 11th**, 2012
(Distributed on April 1)
- **June 3rd and 10th**, 2012
(Distributed on July 1)

** Coffee orders will be taken after both the Chapel and 10 a.m. worship services (just look for the order table outside of worship or in Wright Pavilion). Payment in check or cash will need to be received on the day you order.

-Mission & Outreach Team

First Parish Congregational Church and the City of Saco are celebrating their **250th Anniversary** during 2012. Several events are being planned in celebration of this shared momentous history. A **special concert will be performed by the eighty voice University of Maine Singers on March 7 at 7 p.m. at First Parish Congregational Church, 12 Beach St., Saco, ME.** Five former ministers and their wives will be special guests, along with Saco city officials. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering will be gratefully received to help defray the expenses of the concert and support future events. For more information contact Mary Johnson at 207-282-0633.

The Discovery Center

The Discovery Center, a ministry of South Portland First Congregational Church, is **now accepting registration for 3, 4, and 5 year olds for 2012-2013.**

- We are a hands on, child centered learning environment where kids learn through doing and playing.
- We offer a loving and caring place to introduce your child to their first preschool experience.
- Our pre-K class prepares children for kindergarten through a

developmentally appropriate curriculum that focuses on sharing, recognizing our name and letters of the alphabet.

Give us a call today and mention this ad for *new incoming children* and get **½ off your registration fee!** Contact Pam Howard for questions or to set up a tour at 207-799-3361, ext. 107.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATING SENIORS AND STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP YOU WITH SCHOOL COSTS. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE . THE DEADLINE IS **MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012.** CONTACT SCHOLARSHIP@FCCUCC.ORG.

The Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship, established in 1995, 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. Letters of reference and written essays are required in the application process for the Pond Scholarship.

- ✓ Applicants for the Pond Scholarship will complete the General Scholarship Fund Application, the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship Application, and the Church Financial Aid Form.

The General Scholarship Fund is available to church members who are studying at the college, university or graduate level. Award considerations include church involvement during and after high school.

- ✓ Applicants for the First Congregational Church Scholarship will complete the General Scholarship Fund Application.

Scholarship Committee: Jeri Sides, Sally Sutton, Lee Taylor, Jane Taylor, Margaret Thibodeau, & John McCall.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The church is running low on our stock of birthday post cards and will need to order more soon. Are you interested having your art grace the cover of our new card order? If so, please contact elsa@fccucc.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

**Religious Coalition
Against Discrimination**
Second Annual Educational
Conference

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
**First Parish
Congregational Church
Saco, Maine**

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE:
CLAIMING OUR FAITH
VOICES FOR MARRIAGE
EQUALITY**

AGENDA: Skill building, resource sharing, and strategy development for how people of faith can engage effectively in difficult conversations, including how to talk (and listen) about marriage equality.

WHO: Clergy and congregants. Teams from congregations are encouraged!

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**
Contact info@rcadmaine.org

EASTER PLANTS, MEMORIALS and CELEBRATIONS

Each year we offer several opportunities for remembrance at Easter -- traditional Easter lilies or pots of red tulips or yellow daffodils. You may purchase these as a memorial or in celebration of someone or something special in your life. Memorial or celebration gifts from those who do not wish to purchase a plant will be added to the North Church Memorial Fund.

Please use the form below to order one or more lily or tulip plants or to make a gift. A list of all memorials, celebrations and gifts will be included in the order of worship on Easter Sunday, April 8th.

✂-----
[cut off here and return with check]

PLEASE PRINT

EASTER PLANTS:

I would like to order: _____ lily(ies); _____ daffodils; _____ tulips @ \$9.00 each

in memory of/celebration of: _____

from: _____

_____ I'll pick up my plant(s) on Easter morning following the 11 a.m. service

_____ Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut-in

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

I would like to make a gift of \$ _____

in memory of: _____

from: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Please return form and payment by Monday, March 26th to the church office.

THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON
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United Church of Christ
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

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Find us at: www.facebook.com/fccucc

God So Loved the World?

Lent is the season where Christians think about suffering.
But maybe you suffer enough. Maybe you need more love.
So what do you do with the violent metaphors in the end of Jesus' life?
Come listen to two pastors try to figure it out.

What metaphor works for you?

Sunday February 26 // Water (1 Peter 3:18-22)
Sunday March 4 // Body and Blood (Mark 14:12-26)
Sunday March 11 // Cup (Mark 14:32-52)
Sunday March 18 // Cross (John 3:14-21)
Sunday March 25 // Sword (Mark 15:16-32)
Sunday April 1 // Palms (Mark 11:1-11; 14:1-15:47)
Sunday April 8 // Empty Tomb (Mark 16:1-20)



Faith formation
opportunities available
for all ages. For more
information, visit:
www.fccucc.org.

