



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday March 28, 2011**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccucc.org)  
<http://www.fccucc.org>

**March 20, 2011**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W / Youth**

**3**

**Seniors**

**4**

**E G & F**

**4-5**

**Mission & Outreach**

**5-6**

**Administration**

**6-7**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### March 20 - Second Sunday in Lent - Calling

**8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship**

**10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship** with the Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School through the eighth grade. We'll welcome new members. Elsa Peters will give the message centering on "Calling," and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

### March 27 - Third Sunday in Lent - Lamenting

**8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship**

**10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship** with the Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School through the eighth grade and Christ Kid's Club. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

### April 3 - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Living

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

**10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship** with communion, the Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School through the eighth grade. John McCall will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

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



## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### *Ongoing prayers:*

Marilyn Mitchell on the March 2 death of **Gordon Mitchell**, her husband of 55 years; **Kim Early**, with a torn ACL in her knee, awaiting surgery in May; **Roger Dolan** at the rehab hospital; **Charlotte Farrin**, a member since 1947, very near the end of her life at a Saco nursing home. She is 102.

### *Congratulations:*

to Joel and Joanna Pond on the baptism of their daughter **Caroline Adele Pond**.

### *In our extended family:*

Carolyn Grant on the recent death of her brother **Bob Chaplin**.

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

Please let us know by phone or email. John ([jbm@fccucc.org](mailto:jbm@fccucc.org)), Elsa ([elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org)) and Beth Harris-Hess (trained lay visitor) regularly check the hospitals. But it's often difficult to find the names of parishioners in the hospitals. The *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)* of 1996 has resulted in significant tightening of access to patient lists so we may not know you're hospitalized unless you tell us.

## Look on the Bright Side

Last month in Parenting Teens Faithfully, we focused on anger and emotions. It was our second conversation. Admittedly, it was a big change from where we began. In our first gathering, we talked about drugs and alcohol. This time, even though the questions were more or less the same, our focus was on feelings. (Check out page 4 to see where the conversation will take us next.) I threw another question in the mix though. I added a question about my own family because my father is the one that always insists that we look on the bright side. You've probably heard this said before. You've heard someone say that the grass is always greener or that there must be a silver lining. At some point, someone has probably told you to look on the bright side.

It's the same message we get on the Sundays during Lent. Every Sunday is supposed to be Easter. You're supposed to give yourself a break. You're supposed to find the light that seems to be out the rest of the week. You're supposed to find that power of resurrection. You're supposed to look on the bright side while taking careful steps toward Jerusalem. I find this a strange tension – and a difficult balancing act particularly when the stories from our Holy Scriptures remind us of our fragile existence here on earth. Each week, we listen to ancient stories that beg us to make a decision. To claim Christ. To choose life. To discover who we will be tomorrow. And yet, as we struggle to make all of these claims, we're moving closer and closer to death. Not just Jesus' death, but our own. In the mysterious journey of Lent, something in us dies with Jesus. This is how we find the power of resurrection on Easter. It's not supposed to be an ancient story but something that we experience too.

And yet, as I enter into my Lenten practice of finding daily silence, I find myself flirting with darkness. I don't want praise on Sundays. I don't want anyone to tell me to look on the bright side. Instead, I just want to feel this. I want to feel all of this tension that seems to be magnified by the news of state budgets, labor disputes and anti-family planning legislation. I feel the flood of frustrations overpowering like a tsunami.



It feels like there is a lot going on in our world. There is a lot that is broken. There is a lot that is dying. I find myself wanting to feel that gravity as each of those candles goes out on the altar. I don't want to be stuck there but I want to feel that loss so that I know best how to bring more light into the world on Easter.

*Elsa*



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **March 20** in loving memory of **Judith Leeman** by her loving husband Henry Leeman, brothers William Angell, Richard Angell and Robert Angell and sisters Lynn Angell, Dianne Burns and Deborah Thayer.

### ALTAR MEMORIALS MARCH

The flowers on the altar **March 6** were in loving memory of my brother **Bruce Jordan** and my parents **Robert & Elizabeth Jordan** from T.J. Heald and Family.

The flowers on the altar **March 13** were in loving memory of our Mother and Grandmother **Elizabeth Cannell** from Alex and Meghan Livingston and Christie Cannell.

The Mission Globe is lighted **March 20** by John and Andrea McCall in celebration of the birthdays of their late Mothers, **Barbara Warren McCall** and **Billye Jean Thompson**.

### Living into Lent

Verb forms make a difference. It matters whether we claim that we were tested rather than we are testing. The latter reminds us that it continues. It goes on into the future. So it is with the stories we hear in this season.

This Lent, we'll center ourselves around these verbs looking forward to what we might learn together as we seek resurrection in this life.

### Stop Bullying this Lent

This is the journey that our Sunday School children will go on this Lent. They will follow the stories that guide us through the season from Ash Wednesday to Easter. They will explore their meaning using the resource from the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, but they will be offered a special focus on a topic that has appeared so often in the news this year: Bullying.

The Sunday School teachers have been offered a supplemental curriculum to use as they feel is appropriate to their classrooms that evokes both the scriptures and the realities that face our kids.

There is another resource for parents and mentors which provide a snapshot of what might have been

### Youth Ministry Schedule

*Sunday, March 20th:*

**Craft Time. Right after church until 1:30 p.m.** Learn a couple of crafts or bring a craft that you can teach everyone!

*Saturday, March 26th:*

YM goes to the **Pirates!** Game time is 7:45, meet at the church parking lot at **6:45 p.m.** Cost TBA.

Lent One (March 13): **Testing**  
 Lent Two (March 20): **Calling**  
 Lent Three (March 27): **Lamenting**  
 Lent Four (April 3): **Living**  
 Lent Five (April 10): **Disappointing**  
 Lent Six (April 17): **Longing**  
 Holy Thursday (April 21):  
**Remembering**  
 Good Friday (April 22): **Grieving**  
 Easter (April 24): **Rising**

*John McCall & Elsa A. Peters*

explored in Sunday School so the conversation can continue at home.

The children will be given a calendar for their personal use to mark the days that they complimented another student or stated their own needs or successfully completed a whole day without calling anyone any names. Each child will be asked to make their own commitment so that bullying can truly be something that doesn't happen in our community. Whether you are a parent or a mentor, I hope that you'll join me in being very intentional about the language we use to affirm and hurt those around us. Who knows? Maybe you want to keep a calendar too.

*Elsa A. Peters*  
[elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org)

*Saturday, April 9th:*

**Lock In #2!!!** Meet at church at **7 p.m.** for fun and memories and we will head to worship together in the morning.

*Sunday April 17th:*

Celebrate **Earth Day** with YM with a Picnic at Bradbury Mountain in Pownal. Cost for Park fee is \$3 per person. If you are under 11, cost is \$1.

## Bible Discovery Workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

Spring is in the air, and it's time for the **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This is 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. We invite you to come join us for three afternoons of learning, games, songs, and fun. The children 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 **Thursdays: April 28th, May 5th and May 12th.** Then on **Celebration Sunday, May 15th,** during the service,

### This Season: This Lent

After lots of conversation and a wonderful lunch provided by Scott Berry, the Adult Faith Formation Committee made the decision to talk about death and dying this Lent.

At about this time last year, the Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) of the UCC were trying to figure out the very same thing. In 2009, a resolution that came before General Synod 27 introduced the topic of physician aided suicides. The faithful delegates and members of the UCC decided this was too big a topic and invited JWM to create a working group to engage congregations in the topics of death and dying. This resulted in a study guide released in 2010. With the blessing of the Adult Faith Formation Committee, these resources have been adapted for our congregations' use in a study called *This Season* to explore the range of choices which surround dying and death - hospice care,

we will have our traditional graduation ceremony where the children will be presented with their own Bible, followed by a cake celebration in Wright Pavilion after the service.

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up, please call Beth Harris-Hess at 899-2214 or Deb Theriault at 799-8990 OR you can sign up Sunday, April 17 or Sunday, April 24th (Easter) at the table outside Wright Pavilion. Thanks!

Teachers,  
*Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Theriault*

advance directives, removal of life support, and other issues.

There will be two opportunities to come on this journey with us - one at **6:30 p.m. Monday nights (Mar. 14 - Apr. 18)** and another at **10:30 a.m. Tuesday mornings (Mar. 15 - Apr. 19).** This journey will unfold as follows:

Week One: **The Wholeness of Creation**

Week Two: **The Challenge of Death**

Week Three: **Dying Well - A Good Death**

Week Four: **The Confidence of Hope**

Week Five: **Healing - The Restoration of Hope**

Week Six: **In the Company of Others**

*Elsa A. Peters*  
[elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org)



### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, March 17 - Soup luncheon at noon** in Wright Pavilion. Please RSVP by March 14, bring your own place setting and come enjoy some delicious soups.

**Thursday, March 24 - Please join us at 9:00 a.m.** for some companionship and **breakfast at I-Hop.**

**Thursday, March 31 - Lunch and Fun at noon** with games after lunch. Bring your sandwich and join us for a Domino game, Scrabble or whatever you enjoy. RSVP by March 29.

**Thursday, April 7 - 1:00 p.m. SAGE meeting.**

**Thursday, April 14 - Movie "Letters to Juliet"** will be shown at **1:30 p.m.** in Davidson Lounge. Please look at bulletin boards for more information about the movie.

### PARENTING TEENS FAITHFULLY

These conversations, began by the Family Faith Formation Committee, will continue for parents of teens and pre-teens. We've already found how parents can support each other through these pre-teen and teen years.

**Dating & Sex**  
Sunday March 27, 11:30 a.m.

**Internet**  
Sunday May 8, 11:30 a.m.

## KITCHEN CLEANING

Please join the Hilltop Guild on **Thursday March 24th** for a **kitchen cleanup day**. We are going to be tackling the Guptill Hall and Wright Pavilion kitchens. We are starting work at **9:00 a.m.** in Guptill Hall. Feel free to drop in at any time. Cleaning materials will be provided but bring your own gloves. Pack your lunch and drinks. Snacks and dessert will be provided.

On Sunday March 20 and 27 there will be a table outside of Wright Pavilion with items that have been left in the kitchens. Please check to see if anything belongs to you. Items not claimed will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

Please call Kathy Cotter 799-4808 if you are not a Guild member but would like to join us for fun, fellowship, and shiny kitchens.

## CHILDREN'S CLOSET DONATIONS WANTED

As your children's winter clothes become too small for them, drop them off at the Children's Closet! Our clothing racks are looking a little bare, and we still have another month before we switch to spring clothing. The Children's Closet also needs donations of baby equipment and children's toys and games. All donations can be put in the wooden bin downstairs in Guptill Hall. Thank you for your support!

Jill Gorneau  
[childrencloset@fccucc.org](mailto:childrencloset@fccucc.org)

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Most of us know the experience of feeling good after helping someone else. We share of our gifts, and both we and those we help feel joy. **"Sharing Brings Joy" is the theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing.** Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water, and help provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and

## Mission Trip Planning

There's a lot that goes into making our first mission trip happen. There are fundraisers to host. There is energy to be created - and there's always learning to be done.

When we consider going on a mission trip, we have to think about why we're doing this. Why would any church group travel all the way from South Portland to Cherryfield? What does our faith say about these things

## Building Dreams: Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Our first fundraiser for the 2011 Mission Trip is on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, a SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION!** Come and enjoy a delicious dinner followed by a grand auction!! Our auctioneer will be Tom Saturley! PLEASE consider what you can contribute to the auction:

- Tickets to a sporting event, play, movie, museum.
- Gift certificates for restaurants, stores, travel, memberships.
- Create a "theme basket" such as chocolate, gardening, games, etc.
- Homemade foods or handmade crafts.

minds and create brighter futures. Help is directed to more than 80 countries including the United States.

We will receive your gifts on **April 3**. Please make your check payable to First Congregation Church, UCC and write OGHS on the memo line. There will be OGHS envelopes in the pew racks. Thank you for your annual support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Mission & Outreach Team  
[moteam@fccucc.org](mailto:moteam@fccucc.org)

and why should we consider the ways that we do mission? All of these questions are central to this trip, so our group of 16 participants (which may still grow) will ask these questions together on the evenings below. Interested? Talk with Elsa at 799-3361, x 104 or [elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org).

**Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, May 11 at 7 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, June 8 at 7 p.m.**

- Teach something you know: Sports, music, sailing, art, etc.
- Provide a service such as babysitting, yard work, computer help, shopping.
- "Re-gift" something you've enjoyed but haven't worn out: Books, games, movies, music, artwork, sports equipment, etc.

If you have something you are willing to donate, please contact Deb Theriault (799-8990), Judy Dow (749-0862), or Jodie Ramsey (767-0246). Thanks very much for your consideration, and we look forward seeing lots of folks on March 26!!

## Coffee Lovers Practice Java Justice



The First Congregational Church's Fair Trade Coffee efforts grew out of discussions that took place at a Mission Outreach Team meeting and one of Elsa's Trade / Justice Workshops. The Fair Trade Coffee group ("FTC") was formed by a few thoughtful and energized members who subsequently began taking coffee orders in May 2008. Almost 3 years into this effort, members of our Church have been able to place coffee, tea and cocoa orders on 16 different occasions. To date, FTC has processed approximately 250 individual orders, amounting to over 1,326 bags of coffee, tea and cocoa for a total cost of \$8,250!

Orders placed during each ordering session range from 7 to 27 - with larger orders being taken in the fall and winter. The FTC also places orders for the coffee served at Church functions and once a year they use any leftover proceeds to buy the Church's coffee (rather than using Church funds).

It's heartening to think that a few conversations among Church members

## Electronic Giving

Have you noticed that you can now give electronically through VANCO services at our new website [www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org) ?

This is just one of several options to donate or give to your church on-line.

Many of you have already started to give electronically by using your bank's "bill-payer." This is at no cost to you or us.

VANCO Services is a third party service that charges the church a monthly web hosting fee, account set-up fees, as well as .25 for every transaction to our account. If you do choose VANCO as your preferred method of giving, it would be in the best interest of the

can plant an idea, one which grows into a wonderful practice. And in this case, one that gives our members a chance to be a force for change and justice.

And on that note, we now find ourselves heading into spring, but with continual chilly mornings and evenings. A good time to take stock of your existing coffee, tea and hot chocolate supply and determine how much you'd like to order through the UCC Coffee Project. **Future order dates for March** are on the **13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** (distributed April 10) and for **June**, the **5<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>** (distributed July 3).

\*\*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.

church for you to set up as a monthly, quarterly or annual donor (rather than a weekly donor).

Whether you choose to give through VANCO services, your bank's bill-payer, mail in envelopes, or in church during the offertory, we want you to choose the option that best suits you.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to phone (799-3361) or e-mail me at [cda@fccucc.org](mailto:cda@fccucc.org) .

Cyndi Alden  
Business Manager

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 30

Don't forget the Rummage/Garage Sale is coming next month. You can **leave things in Guptill Hall beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Everything and anything is wanted **EXCEPT** computers, typewriters, adding machines, suitcases as these items I cannot dispose of if they are not sold.

Prudy Wiggins  
[rummagesale@fccucc.org](mailto:rummagesale@fccucc.org)  
799-5705

## THE DISCOVERY CENTER

This ministry of our church is **accepting registrations for 3, 4, and 5 year olds for 2011-2012.**

- We are a hands on, child centered learning environment where kids learn through doing and playing.
- 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 parents and get 1/2 off your registration fee! Contact Pam Howard for questions or to set up a tour at 799-3361, x 107.



## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENSION

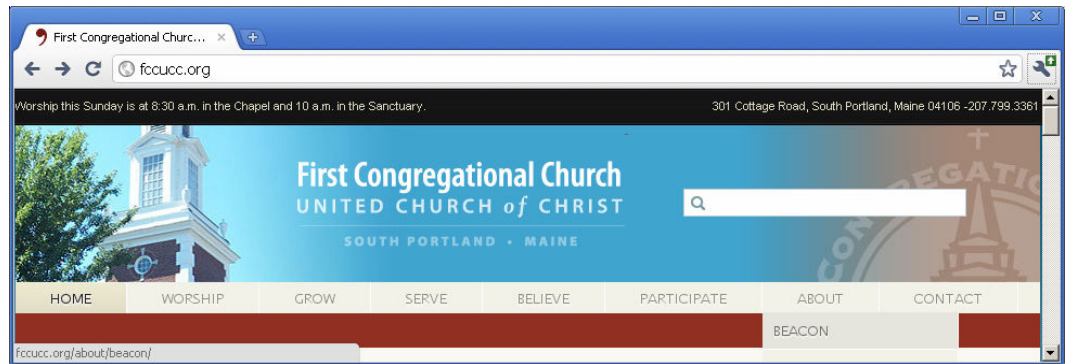
Because of an email glitch some scholarship applications may not have reached the church office. The problem has been fixed, but in view of this the Committee has **extended the deadline for scholarship submissions to Monday, March 28**.

If you sent your application by email prior to Friday, March 11, please send a message to [scholarship@fccucc.org](mailto:scholarship@fccucc.org) to request confirmation that we've received it.

## ELDER NOMINATIONS 2011

Please offer your nominations of those who you think deserve recognition for their service to the church. Please 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.

**Send nominations to** Tex Haeuser of the Spiritual Life & Worship Team at [tex@maine.rr.com](mailto:tex@maine.rr.com) or 152 Fort Road, South Portland, ME 04106 **by Friday, April 8**.



## Get Your Beacon – Hot Off the Press ... or Website

As you may have heard, the Church website has recently been updated. Over the next few months, there will be a series of Beacon articles to describe new features on the website. This first article is about the Beacon, itself! Read on...

**Beacon:** We live in a time of transition, with one foot in the digital age and one foot still in the paper age. It's a challenge for everyone, and especially in the church where we have a congregation of "digital natives," "digital immigrants" and "I want paper!" In order to communicate effectively with everyone, we make the North Church Beacon available in two formats: mailed to homes on the familiar yellow paper and in PDF digital format from the new church website.

If you want to access the Beacon from the website go to [www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org). There are two ways to find the latest Beacon:

1. On the home page, look about half way down the left side of the page for the North Church Beacon, click where it says "click here" and select the edition of the Beacon you are interested in.
2. From any page, as shown in the picture above, hover your mouse over "About" in the menu bar, select "Beacon"

in the dropdown menu, and select the edition of the Beacon you are interested in.

Less paper and postage mean savings for us all, and you can even ask to get a reminder when the latest Beacon goes online. Just email [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org) and put "subscribe" in the subject line. Every two weeks (or so) you'll get an email reminder to go to the website and see the latest.

**Search:** One of the most powerful new features is the search capability. As shown in the picture above, the box with the magnifying lens in the header picture is the search box. Just type in a word or phrase and hit "Enter". The entire site (and just the site) will be searched and the results will be presented to you. For example, a search for "Preble Street" returns 16 results!

**Feedback:** We want to hear your feedback on the site. Please let us know if you would like to see more information, see more pages, make a correction, or tell us what you think. Contact us by going to the site, pulling up the Contact page, and sending a note to the webmasters.

Thank you!

*The Website Committee: John McCall, Dana Wiggins, Aaron Scifres and Chris Keiter*

**THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON**  
Published by the First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Portland, ME  
Permit No. 944

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Post Office**  
**Time Sensitive Newsletter**