



# THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 13

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, April 19, 2013.

April 7, 2013

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WORSHIP 1

COUNCIL 2

SL&W 2-3

EG&F 3

M&O/SENIORS 4-5

ADMINISTRATION 5

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

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

### April 21 - Community Crisis Ministries Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir, Hilltop Ringers, and Sunday school. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

### April 28 - Pilgrim Lodge Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir, Children's Choir and Sunday school. Scholarship awards and Bible Discovery presentation. Sally Keiter, a long-time Pilgrim Lodge camper, will give the message. 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 who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, or safety; for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers, especially on the Korean peninsula; for our Senior Minister search committee.*

*(cont. pg. 2)*

## 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](mailto:office@fccucc.org) or phone 799-3361 to let us know.

## News from the Search Committee

Dear Friends,

Your Search Committee is making good progress on their mission. We have received more than 25 profiles from prospective candidates. These are 20 to 25 page documents, and we carefully study each one. Some of them we can see do not fit with our needs. Others we contact for more information. We receive new

profiles from the Maine Conference office every week, so this is an ongoing process. The committee is learning and growing as we go along, and feel very privileged to be trusted with this important task. We are blessed by your continued prayers.

*Sandy Dyer*  
Search Committee Member

## Shirley Curry . . . Minister of Music

The congregation responded with enthusiastic applause on March 24, when Sue Ross of the Music Committee announced the unanimous action of our Church Council to name Shirley L. Curry our Minister of Music. She will be recognized more formally on **Founders Day, June 2**. Shirley began her ministry among us in September, 1968. For many years she was choir director at the 9 a.m. worship service and organist at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services. With the shift to our current worship schedule she combined those roles as organist, and director of the Meeting House Choir, Children's Choir, and Hilltop Ringers.

In making their recommendation to the Church Council, the Music Committee said: "the change in her title would accomplish several things: first, it would affirm her long, healthy, faithful ministry

with our church; second, it would place her next to the clergy as a respected leader in the church's life...; and third, it would affirm ministry as the work of all people of faith regardless of whether they are ordained."

As a congregation, we celebrate with Shirley Curry, Minister of Music.

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

#### **Ongoing Prayers:**

**John Shoos**, after hip surgery; **Karen Fillebrown**, a member many years ago, after surgery for cancer; **Cheryl Barter** at Seaside; **Henry Leeman** at the Barron Center; **Kathleen Rummler** and **Nancy Chadbourne** at home.



### **STEEPLE LIGHTING**

The steeple is lit during the week of **April 7** in loving memory of **Betsey Berry** by Scott Berry, and in remembrance of the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the birth of her beloved husband, **Frank E. Wright** by Maxine L. Wright.



**PLEASE PUT ON  
YOUR CALENDAR!**

**JUNE 7, 2013**

**A CELEBRATION  
for and with**

**John McCall**

**The evening will  
include dinner  
(5:30 – 7 PM)  
and program  
(7 – 8:30 PM)**

**Invitations will arrive  
in your mailbox in the  
next couple of weeks.**

***Lisa Merchant  
& John Shoos***

**EARTHRITE**

**Interfaith Observance of  
Earth Day!**

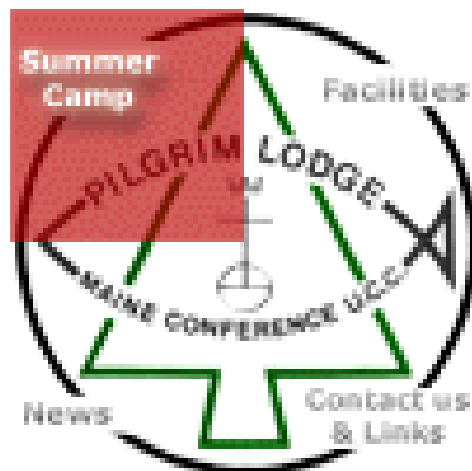
The Chaplaincy Institute of Maine (CHIME) invites you to participate in a Community Celebration honoring Earth and Spirit on Saturday April 20 from 4-7 PM at Memorial Hall at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland, ME. Ceremony begins @ 4:15 PM. For more information visit: [www.chimeofmaine.org](http://www.chimeofmaine.org) or call 207-347-6740.

## Thank You for the Scarves

Both the chapel and sanctuary on Sunday, April 7 looked like a rainbow with all the scarves draped over the pews so we could bless them. Over 41 scarves were created for the UCC's project to speak out against violence whether it is domestic abuse or bullying. The scarves will be given out at General Synod this June in Long Beach, CA to any who are willing to speak up and take compassionate action.

Thank you to all who fashioned such beautiful statements of our support and solidarity! And, there's still a little bit of time. Diane will be delivering the scarves to the conference office on April 22, so if you have time to make a few more, there is room in the box.

## Pilgrim Lodge News



Registration is now open and camps are filling up fast! If you've never been to our outdoor camp of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ located on beautiful Lake Cobbossecontee in West Gardiner, Maine, you need to check it out! Not only are there wonderful camps there at Pilgrim Lodge, but we are also in partnership with the UCC in New Hampshire and their beautiful camps are available as well. Check

it out online at [www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org), or pick up a brochure outside of Diane's study.

Parents, when you register your child online, in addition, please let the church office ([office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org)) or Diane ([dlh@fccucc.org](mailto:dlh@fccucc.org)) know right away, as the church helps pay part of each camper's fees; we can only pay if we know who is going to camp! Then save the date of Sunday, April 28, when Pilgrim Lodge will be part of worship with camper and counselor-in-training, Sally Keiter, offering the message. There may even be s'mores at coffee hour!

## MISSION & OUTREACH / SENIORS

### Call to Ministry "Near and Far"

As the spring season commences, our church's committees begin to wind down for the year. The Mission-Outreach Team has had a successful year and we celebrate the good work done by its members. Money has generously been donated to numerous worthy organizations at the world, national, and local level. Mission Sunday was again celebrated by the congregation; the Mission Trip revitalized; Mission Moments have become part of worship once a month; and Special Offerings have been collected and shared with designated causes and agencies. In honor of John McCall's ministry,

### Food Pantry News

You might all have read the recent article in the Portland Press Herald reporting the increased use of food pantries and soup kitchens. Our Emergency Pantry has been aware of this need for some time. We have been receiving daily calls asking for help. This past Wednesday, I filled five requests, four were for families with two and three children. So, our pantry is emptying. The shelves are not bare but as we come to April school vacation and summer break they will be without your help. Please remember the pantry needs as you shop. There is a listing of immediate needs on the pantry door. Staples, in small amounts, are always needed. We supply two

we have chosen this month to give to organizations which honor in their work John's passion for his calling - Long Creek Youth Ministry, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, and Pilgrim Lodge.

We are humbled by the trust placed in us and invite you to become part of our Team. We welcome interested members to contact the MO Team at [moteam@fccucc.com](mailto:moteam@fccucc.com). Please consider joining us.

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."  
~Margaret Mead.

days of food: two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners. Those using the pantry may call for help once every two months.

We do not ask questions or take income information which would be required to receive government food surplus, thus, the pantry supplies are all donations. We serve Cape Elizabeth and South Portland residents only.

Soups, tuna, tuna helper, spaghetti sauce, salad dressing, cereals, crackers, small mayo, canned meats and vegetables are always needed.

Thank You,  
*Gail Dransfield*  
Food Pantry Committee



#### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Wednesday, April 10** - Join us for **lunch at the Bridgeway Restaurant**. We will meet at the church at **11:30 AM**.

**Wednesday, April 17** - "Lunch and Fun" at noon in the Wright Pavilion. Bring a sandwich and beverages will be provided.

**Wednesday, April 24** - We will meet at **SMCC for lunch at noon**. RSVP by April 17, one week before, as they require exact numbers.

**Tuesday, April 30** - Join us at **I-Hop for breakfast at 9 AM**

**Thursday, May 9** - **SAGE meeting at 1 PM**

**Wednesday, May 15** - Come to our **annual birthday party for everybody who is at least 90 years old**. All 90 year olds and a guest attend as our guests and everybody else is asked to pay \$10 for the lunch, birthday cake and companionship. Please RSVP by May 5.

## Tickets, Tickets, Buy Your Tickets . . .

Sundays after worship look for the table in Wright Pavilion with the tools and paint brushes where you can purchase your tickets for the Mission Trip Fundraiser! This is a dinner and auction on **Saturday, April 27 at 5 p.m. in Guptill Hall.** Meal choices are chicken or eggplant parmesan served with spaghetti, salad and homemade cake for dessert. The cost is \$8./person

or \$20./family. Following dinner, enjoy a wonderful auction with fantastic items to bid on - homemade pie, artwork, meals, Downeaster train rides, vacations and more! Hope to see you there. Open to members, friends and guests. Contact Diane for more information, [dlh@fccucc.org](mailto:dlh@fccucc.org).

**First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106**

### OFFICIAL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on Sunday, May 5, 2013 following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

- I. To receive the annual reports of the Officers of the Church, the Minister and Staff, Boards and Committees;
- II. To elect Church Officers, Council and Team members for the 2013-2014 program year;
- III. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the Church.

Janet B. Butler  
Church Clerk

### SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, April 20  
9 AM – 2 PM**

Remember, it is only weeks away... start that cleaning now!! Anything that you have not used or want we will gladly accept, except for the following particular items: **We do not take old TV's, typewriters, computers, or suitcases.** Other than these, we'll gladly take it!

Problem with getting it to the church? Call me!

*Prudy*  
799-5705

### NEEDED:

1 Bedroom apartment for 1 quiet person, non-smoker, non-drinker with excellent references. If you can help, please call or email me.

*Maryann*  
[chillax@maine.rr.com](mailto:chillax@maine.rr.com)  
207-767-5321

### THANK YOU

Thank you to the Thursday Duplicate Bridge group for their continued support of the Food Pantry.

Thanks,  
*Cyndi Alden*

\*

\*

\*

\*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

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

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

Find us at: [www.facebook.com/fccucc](http://www.facebook.com/fccucc)