



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday May 2, 2011**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

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**April 17, 2011**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W**

**3**

**E G & F / Youth**

**3-4**

**Seniors**

**5**

**M&O/ Administration**

**5-6**

**Our Friends at Home**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### April 17 - Palm Sunday - Longing

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

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

## Holy Week

April 21 - Maundy Thursday - Remembering - with sanctuary worship and communion at 7:30 p.m.

### April 22 - Good Friday - Grieving

6:00 p.m. - Family Tenebrae worship service with a simple telling of the events of Holy Week, suitable for all ages.

6:00 p.m. - Soup supper in Guptill Hall - hosted by the Spiritual Life & Worship Team.

7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir.

8:00 p.m. - Vigil begins in the chapel.

### April 24 - Easter Sunday - Rising

6:00 a.m. - Sunrise service with communion at Fort Williams near the flag pole

9:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with Meetinghouse Choir and brass. **American Sign Language** interpreted for the deaf. John McCall will give the message.

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with Meetinghouse Choir and brass. John McCall will give the message.

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



## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Ongoing prayers:

**Edchen Ferguson** at The Cedars; **Margaret Fuller**, recently hospitalized; **David Smart**, recently hospitalized; **Gretchen and Jerry Reynolds** (and Maggie) celebrating the birth of **Aidan Reynolds** March 30; **Max Rowe**, recovering well from a concussion; **Kim Early**, awaiting surgery for a torn ACL in her knee.

## 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.

## A Facebook Resurrection

This past Sunday afternoon, delegates and ministers from the Cumberland Association of the Maine Conference gathered at Woodfords Congregational Church UCC for our the Spring Meeting. The Cumberland Association gets together for ordinations, installations and to do business in the fall and spring.



At our spring meeting, there was a learning opportunity for our churches to explore how we might use social media in our ministry. Don't roll your eyes. This is important. While I personally use social media for sermon preparation, community and prayer, there were a few facts that I had overlooked. Perhaps because I'd never heard them. Did you know that if Facebook has so many members that it could be the third largest country in the world? Did you know that email is seen by younger generations as too slow? Have you even noticed how many forms of communication including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and so many more encourage two-way communication? The popular internet outlets are those where the user is able to offer their input, to upload their own content and to engage in some healthy banter.

This fascinates me. I am of the generation that remembers when email first appeared. I didn't have a laptop in school. I didn't even have one in college. They didn't exist. Still, I remember how quickly technology has changed so that I did have a laptop in seminary just 3 years after I graduated from college. When I was first called to this church, I refused to join Facebook. I thought it was for the young kids. I was insistent even though I had friends that constantly sent me requests. That's changed. I've changed. I've allowed the possibilities of social media to aid how I communicate with the world.

I think that we have the same opportunity in the church. We can choose to engage with technology as a mode of communication or we can refuse to change. If we choose the latter, we'll die. Our world is changing too rapidly. We can't deny the world is changing. We have to change with it. We must remember that's part of who we are. We're called to resurrection. We're people that affirm the good news revealed in each of us. We affirm the priesthood of all believers so that we're all invited to proclaim the faith we affirm. And so, we must all find new ways to create new life – and in today's world, that means being a presence in social media. I hope you'll explore our church's Facebook page to share this good news. You can visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/fccucc> whether or not you are a Facebook user. I hope you'll find a way to share this good news with all God's people on Easter and beyond.



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **April 24** in loving memory of **Paul Gray** by Beth DeTine and Sarah Gray.

### APRIL ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **April 3** were given in loving memory of **Jeffrey Stephen Adams and Gordon Franklin Adams** by Gretchen Adams, Cynthia and her Family and Robert and his family.

The flowers on the altar **April 10** were given in loving memory of **James Hodgson** by Glenice Hodgson and daughter.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On **April 15**, **Rev. Helen Zigmund** will receive a **Certificate of Lifetime Achievement** at a recognition ceremony at the State House. Helen has been recognized by the Remember Me project as an outstanding Maine Citizen. Helen, as an ordained minister, moved to Maine to become the first woman to hold that position at the South Portland First Congregational Church. Cards to congratulate her may be sent to:  
Rev. Helen Zigmund, Box 134, 75 State Street, Portland, ME 04101

## 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, April 22**, at 8:00 p.m. and continues

## Scholarship Update

Our Scholarship Committee will meet soon to consider 22 applications for the 2011 scholarship awards. Initial email problems made it difficult for some to get and return the forms so we delayed the deadline and have also postponed the awards. **We'll present**

**until 6:00 a.m. Easter 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!

**scholarships during worship on Children's Celebration Sunday, May 15.** Applicants will be informed of their awards before May 1.

*Scholarship Committee*  
[scholarship@fccucc.org](mailto:scholarship@fccucc.org)

## ESKIMOS!

The Eskimo Men's Club will meet next on **Wednesday May 4**. This will be a ladies' night with an extended invitation to the Hilltop Guild. Sheryl Kieran and The Classic Blend will be our live evening

entertainment. Dinner starts at **6:30 p.m.** in **Guptill Hall** followed by entertainment around 7:15 p.m.

*Rick Angell*  
[eskimos@fccucc.org](mailto:eskimos@fccucc.org)

## Annual Hilltop Guild Mystery Ride

The **annual Hilltop Guild Mystery Ride** will take place on **Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave from the church promptly at **6:15 p.m.** and return after the mystery has been uncovered for dessert and a short business meeting. At this meeting

we will sign up for the banquet taking place on May 12<sup>th</sup> so if you are unable to go on the Ride, please contact Kathy Cotter at [hilltop@fccucc.org](mailto:hilltop@fccucc.org) to reserve your space.

## Ushers Wanted and Needed

An usher team is assigned duty once every eight Sundays. If you're interested and/or willing to

volunteer for this worthwhile service to your congregation, please contact Rick Angell, 839-7171.

## Youth Ministry Schedule

**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>:** 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.

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>:** YM will be serving coffee hour on **Mother's Day**, in honor of all the MOM's of the church!

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>:** **Go Karting/Mini Golf @ Seacoast Family Fun Park. Meet @ church @ 11:30 a.m.** and return approx 2:00 p.m. ( I will be

sending a cost sheet of what everything costs there, but they offer Go Karting, Mini Golf and several other fun activities!)

**Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>:** YM goes to the **Sea Dogs!** 1:00 p.m. game, **meet @ church @ 11:45 a.m.** After the game, we'll have an end of the season barbecue at the Bakke's home.

*Steve Ferris  
[youth@fccucc.org](mailto:youth@fccucc.org)*

## Saying Goodbye to Steve and Sherry



Almost as long as I have been in ministry here in South Portland, Steve and Sherry have been involved in Youth Ministry. Steve took over the program after an amazing summer at Pilgrim Lodge. He felt a clear call to work with the youth which caught his sister Sherry's attention so that they've now been working on this program together for 2 years.

Now, Sherry and Steve are preparing to move. Steve will be moving to Bangor while Sherry will move south. Both are looking forward to what lies ahead - but both will miss the energy of our youth and our church. We're all sad to see these two wonderful people move far away. I know that you join me in gratitude for all that these two stewards have done for our youth. **I hope that you will join your church family in offering your thanks, praise and blessing on Steve and Sherry as we conclude their ministry on May 15 in worship.**

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

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

The **Bible Discovery Workshop**, a special workshop for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, starts this month!

Join us for three afternoons from **4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Laity Room on the following **Thursdays: April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>.** Then on **Celebration Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>,** we'll present Bibles to the workshop participants.

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 24<sup>th</sup> (Easter) at the table outside Wright Pavilion. Thanks!

*Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Theriault*

### ALL CHURCH CAPTURE THE FLAG GAME

Christ Kid's Club (our all-age learning experience for 1-8 graders) wants to invite parents and church friends of all ages to an all-church capture the flag game on **Sunday May 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome to play with our kids in this field game as they model for us the ways that they reveal the Spirit of Jesus. They will teach us the rules (or encourage all of us to cheat in the Spirit of Jesus) and remind us how to play.

### PARENTING TEENS FAITHFULLY

The last parent conversation of preteen and teens about the **Internet**, will be held **Sunday May 8** at **11:30 a.m.** in Davidson Lounge.

### CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **May 15** when our kids will lead us in worship. We'll conclude the Sunday School year and have a picnic in the parking lot hosted by Education, Growth & Fellowship.

### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 12

Love our youth as they decide if and how they will join our church in June.



### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, April 14** - The movie, "Letters to Juliet" will be shown at **1:30** in **Davidson Lounge**. Please join us.

**Thursday, April 21** - meet at **9:00** for **breakfast** at **I-Hop**.

**Thursday, April 28** - **SAGE meeting** at **1:00**. Please note change in date (this is in place of our "May" meeting).

**Thursday, May 5** - **90th Birthday Party** at **noon** in **Wright Pavilion**.

**Tuesday, May 10** - meet at **noon** for **lunch** at the **Bridgeway restaurant**,

**Thursday, May 19** - We will see the movie, "Ladies in Lavender" at **1:30** in **Davidson Lounge**.

### HELP US CELEBRATE

We will celebrate the **birthdays of all our friends 90 years and older** at a **party on May 5 at noon** in **Wright Pavilion**.

Everybody is welcomed to attend the party. The cost is \$12 per person for lunch and entertainment with the 90 year olds and one guest each attending for free.

Help is always welcomed (and necessary) to serve and clean up. If interested please contact Kathy Sahrbeck at the church. Thank you.

## Japan Earthquake = Maine Relief Effort

In light of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the eastern coast of Japan on March 11th several Maine organizations with strong ties to Japan have joined together to raise money to aid in the relief, rescue and recovery efforts in Maine's sister state Aomori, Japan. The Japan America Society of Maine, the Friends of Shinagawa, the Maine Aomori Sister State Advisory Council and the Maine International Trade Commission form the coalition.

If you are looking for a way to donate to the relief effort in Japan that will go directly to our friends in Aomori may we suggest that you make contributions to "Friends of Aomori - Earthquake Relief".

Contributions can be deposited at any branch of TD Bank, or mailed to TD Bank, 790 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Funds collected will go directly to the Aomori official relief agency, Aomori-ken Saigai Taisaku Honbu (Aomori Prefecture Disaster Management Office), for use in assisting earthquake and tsunami victims in the prefecture.

Please visit Maine Japan Earthquake Relief Effort on Facebook for more updated information. Many thanks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deb Sandler at 767-3629, [debsandler@maine.rr.com](mailto:debsandler@maine.rr.com)

## This Easter Give to Community Crisis Ministries

**This Easter our church offering will support our own Community Crisis Ministries (CCM)**, specifically to meet the growing need for heat and utility expenses. CCM is an ongoing vital program of our church community supporting our local neighbors in need. The mission is to help our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn.

Our Outreach Ministry Coordinator helps individuals find linkages to community resources and supports local people in need of help with utilities, car/home repairs, food and

clothing, medical and dental care, education and camp expenses.

CCM is our mission in action and we hope you will give generously this Easter season. For more information on Community Crisis Ministries contact Kathy Sahrbeck at 799-3361, ext. 112 or visit: [www.fccucc.org/serve/community-crisis-ministries/](http://www.fccucc.org/serve/community-crisis-ministries/).

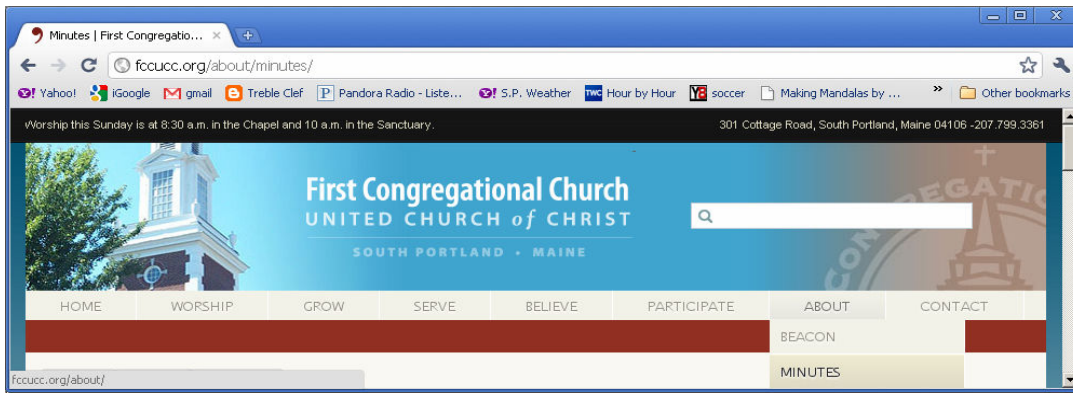
*Mission & Outreach Team*  
[moteam@fccucc.org](mailto:moteam@fccucc.org)

## Mission Trip Study

Our group of 18 participants (we got bigger) will gather to study about why we do mission. We'll be meeting on the following Wednesday evenings:

*April 13 at 7:00 p.m.*  
*May 11 at 7:00 p.m.*  
*June 8 at 7:00 p.m.*

We'll study the Bible and watch a movie. This is required of all participants so please mark your calendars. Questions? Talk with Elsa at 799-3361, x 104 or email [elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org).



## Minutes and Feeds on the Website

The Church website was updated back in January. Throughout March and April, we are writing a series of Beacon articles to describe new features on the site. We started out with the Beacon online. Then we covered contact information. This time, we will describe meeting minutes and RSS feeds.

**Meeting Minutes:** As shown in the picture above, if you go to the church website ([www.fcccucc.org](http://www.fcccucc.org)) and hover your mouse over "About" in the menu bar, a dropdown list of options will appear. Click on "Minutes" and here is what you'll see...

- A list of the most recently posted minutes. Click on one and you will see the full minutes from that meeting.

- In the list, notice that there are categories for each month and the name of each group. Click on one of those categories and you will see a list of the minutes for that month or for that group.

- On the right hand side, you will see "Old Minutes". Click on that and you will be taken to the website where we have been posting minutes for the past three years.

**RSS Feeds:** RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. What it means for you is that you can have website posts sent to you directly, so you don't even have to go to the site to see the latest information! To subscribe, go to the home page and click on the "Subscribe" button. If you already have an RSS reader set up or if you want the posts sent to your email, just fill out the requested information. Posts will start arriving in a few days. It's that simple! We only have sermons fully set up right now, but News & Events, the Ministers' Blog, and Minutes are all coming soon.

That's probably enough for now! As always, we are interested in your feedback on the website. Please let us know if you would like to see more information, see more pages, make a correction, or have questions. Contact us by going to the site, pulling up the Contact page, and sending a note to "webmaster".

Thanks!

*John McCall, Dana Wiggins,  
Aaron Scifres and Chris Keiter*

## RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 30

It is coming... the end of the month of April and our fabulous sale of rummage and garage items. It's always a great success and we're looking forward to another great sale. It greatly helps our church in our budgeting process and we all have the fun time of putting it together. We hope to see you there!

*Prudy Wiggins  
799-5705*

## FOR SALE

There is a leather couch and love seat in the church gallery for the Rummage Sale - - make an offer! Contact Prudy at 799-5705.

## FORGOT YOUR OFFERING?

If you forgot your offering on Sunday morning, or want to donate to the Easter Offering or get that Per Capita Contribution paid before you forget, you can do so easily on our new website.

Go to <http://fcccucc.org/>  
and find the

### DONATE NOW

tab in pale blue on the left side of the page.

Of course, you are always welcome to mail in your offering too.

**THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON**  
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