



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 14

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, May 3, 2013.

April 21, 2013

Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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CALENDAR - MAY 6

Looking Ahead in Worship

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 PL camper, will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

May 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

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

11:15 a.m. - Congregational annual meeting in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

May 12 - Festival of the Christian Home and Mother's Day

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.

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 or phone 799-3361 to let us know.

News from the Search Committee

Dear Friends,

This is an update on how your Search Committee is progressing on our mission. In the past week or so we have received several more candidates' profiles to which immediate attention will be given. Prayerfully reviewing and going over these documents is the major part of our process. Our committee feels both honored and privileged to go over these candidates' life journeys which they so carefully have prepared.

Can You Help?

We are fortunate to have every service in our sanctuary supported by our usher teams. They greet you with a smile, provide you with a bulletin and often escort people to their seat. They also gather our offerings. We have had some folks leave the usher ranks recently and are in need of some new members. Would you be willing to volunteer to join one of our teams? The commitment is minimal but the

Believe us when we say that your support and never-ending prayers keep us focused on the task ahead. The Holy Spirit surrounds and guides us all as we work to arrive at our final decision.

Many thanks to you for your continuing prayers.

Jim Rideout
Search Committee Member

role is important to our church family. If you have interest, please let the church office know or send an email to me at dallen03@maine.rr.com. Thanks for considering.

Dave Allen

Beach Chair Theology Returns!

The cherished tradition of studying scripture in the summer in sight of the sea continues! The theme for 2013: **Parsing Perplexing Parables on the Patio with People, the Parson and a Pot of Coffee.** Six Wednesday mornings we will meet at the home of Scott Berry at **8 a.m.** to study some of Jesus' more problematic parables. Save the dates of **June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24 and August 7 and 21.**

Copies of the parables will be outside Diane's study.

If there are at least 5 people who are interested in this study but cannot do mornings, a second group can be arranged on the same dates but at **noon** at church. We are calling this version: **Leisurely Lectionary Lemonade and Lunch in the Laity Room.** For more information or to sign up, please email Diane at dlh@fccucc.org or call her at church.

Prayers of the People continued...

Helma Whitten, who died March 26 at the age of 94; **Fern Calderwood**, a former member of our congregation, died April 12 after a brief illness. She'd been living with her daughter for more than a year. Condolences may be expressed to her daughter: Linda Perry
4155 SE 58th Place
Ocala, Florida 34480

Ongoing Prayers:
Kathleen Rummel Now at the Gosnell Hospice in Scarborough; **Henry Leeman** at the Barron Center; **Cheryl Barter** and **Nancy Chadbourne** at home.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **April 21** in loving memory of **Richard E. Skillin** from his children Stephanie and George and their families.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **April 7** are given by Beth-Marie Stacey in celebration of her friend **Charlene Frati Boggins**.

The flowers on the altar **April 14** were given by Glenice Hodgson to her **husband Jim** whom she misses so much.

The flowers on the altar **April 21** were given in loving memory of **Jeffrey Stephen and Gordon Franklin Adams** by Gretchen Adams; Cynthia and her family and Robert and his family.

The flowers on the altar **April 28** are given in loving memory of **Paul Gray** by Beth DeTine, Sarah Gray and his Uncle, Gerald Gray.

RUMMAGE SALE!

We made \$2,387.75. Wow! Thanks to all who gave, all who took the time and great effort to set up just like Macy's stores. Everyone who came was thrilled at what a great job we did. Goodwill has picked up the leftover items and will put them to their great cause.

Prudy Wiggins

Camperships Available for Pilgrim Lodge

Parents and adults, please take note! The church has three separate funds earmarked to support those of any age who want to attend the programs of Pilgrim Lodge, regardless of whether you think you 'need' the money. Please email Diane at

dlh@fccucc.org when you register for camp so we can make sure you receive a campership. And be sure to join us this Sunday, April 28 when we celebrate PL in worship.

Eskimos Tap Dancing?

On **May 1**, the Eskimos welcome all guests and ladies to their supper and program. **Meal at 6:30** and **program at 7:30**. Our guest artist is a tap dancer extraordinaire, Josh Hilberman. Reservations for the meal are

necessary, please. Call Walt Jellison, 799-1023, or your favorite Eskimo.

**Hilltop Guild Mystery Ride - May 9**

The annual **Hilltop Guild Mystery Ride** will take place on **Thursday May 9**. We will meet at the church at **5:30**, proceed to the mystery site, and return for ice cream sundaes and a quick business meeting. Please wear casual clothes, comfortable walking shoes and a jacket or sweater. This is always a fun meeting with only the drivers knowing where we are going.

If you would like to join us for this excursion and are not on the Guild calling list, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 to let her know you are coming.

Hope to see you for an evening of mystery and fun.

Scholarships 2013

The Scholarship Committee organizes and facilitates the process for church members to receive financial support from the Scholarship Fund for their post secondary education. Awards are made through two funds: the General Scholarship Fund, which includes six different bequests and gifts; and the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship Fund that was established by friends and family of Loretta T. Pond. Each scholarship fund has specific criteria

for applicants to meet in order to qualify. It was a pleasure for the committee to award General Scholarship Funds to Zach Culver, Christopher Harle, Jennifer Harle, Evan Indorf, Catherine McAloon, Ben McCall, J.D. Moyer, Barry Quinn, Alexander Ratta, Greg Reinhold, and Matthew Russell. In all, \$13,000 was disbursed from the General Scholarship Fund.

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This year, there were no applicants for the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship.

Scholarship Sunday is April 28th. We look forward to recognizing the recipients and wish them the best in

their endeavors.

We thank you, the Congregation and Donors, for the privilege of administering this wonderful program for our church.

The Scholarship Committee

Blanket Sunday – May 12, 2013

Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th, is a day of celebration and is also Blanket Sunday in our church. Again, as we have for many years, we ask that you consider a donation to the **Church World Service Blanket+ program.**

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity. For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities around the world to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

As shown from the above list, the program has grown over the years to include more than blankets.

From the CWS website:

Freeport, New York

To outsiders, New York's Long Island may evoke images of summer homes and beach living. But economic hard times have not been kind to working-class communities like Freeport. And the

damage brought by Hurricane Sandy has only worsened -- and deeply so -- what have already been tough years. "For some of the most vulnerable on Long Island, their lives were already a disaster before Sandy," said the Rev. Tom Goodhue, a United Methodist minister who heads the Long Island Council of Churches.

So, shipments of Church World Service Blankets, Hygiene Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets are proving to be a boon to those in communities like Freeport who were already vulnerable before the disaster.

Dominican Republic

- 2,010 lightweight blankets and 625 heavyweight blankets to partner agency *Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicana* in support of on-going efforts

A \$5 donation will go toward the purchase of a blanket which is used for warmth, cover and protection from the elements.

I will be at coffee hour on May 5 to accept your donations and you can pick up a Mother's Day card or an all occasion card. If you pay by check please make it out to the church and put "blankets" in the memo field. You can also put your donation in one of the CWS envelopes found in the pew rack or one of the generic envelopes indicating that the donation is for blankets.

Kathy Cotter

THANK YOU

We in the church say a heartfelt 'thank you' to Prudy for all her tireless efforts and energy in organizing the rummage sale.



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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.

Thursday, May 30 – Meet at **9 AM** for breakfast at **I-Hop**.

Thursday, June 6 – **SAGE** meeting at **1**.

This Is It! Dinner and Auction THIS Saturday

Please join mission team members this **Saturday, April 27** at 5 p.m. for a delicious dinner of chicken or eggplant parmesan, spaghetti, salad and homemade cake followed by a silent and live auction. Cost of the meal is \$8/person or \$20/family. All proceeds go to defray expenses for the 23 people traveling to Cherryfield this July to do housing repair through the Maine Seacoast

Mission. Tickets will be available at the door.

Following the meal, join the fun as we bid on items such as complete car detailing; an overnight in Bar Harbor with a 2 hour trolley ride around Acadia National Park; oil, watercolor and ink paintings; an Italian food basket, a Beach day basket and more!

Office Staff Update

The Personnel Committee is in the process of reviewing and updating the job description of our Business Administrator. As soon as that process is finished, we will advertise for applicants. In the meantime, our thanks to Ellie Chatto for taking care of the financial work. And

thanks to Jen Dealaman who has added duties covering the calendar and room scheduling. Committee members are Ellie Baker, Judy Magnuson, Andy Ellis, Ellie Chatto, and Nancy MacLean.

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

OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOUR CHURCH

The Administration Team needs 3 new members. This team oversees the financial activity of the Church, reviews insurance coverage, recruits and provides support for the House, Counting, and Planned Giving Committees, and oversees the rental properties owned by the Church.

This group meets once per month. Generally, the meeting last less than one hour.

If you have been wondering how you can help your Church, please consider serving on the A-Team!

Please contact Ellie Chatto if you are interested by emailing business@fccucc.org.

ANNUAL REPORT BOOKS

will be available on
Sunday, April 28th

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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