



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 15

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, May 17, 2013.

May 5, 2013

Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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Looking Ahead in Worship

May 12 – Festival of the Christian Home and Mothers Day

Blanket Sunday special offering

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Children’s Choir, Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. John McCall will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion. *Last regular Sunday school classes.*

May 19 – Pentecost Sunday and Children’s Celebration Sunday

[Wear something red!]

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship – Diane Harvey will lead.

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship for all ages with nursery care. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

May 26 – First Sunday after Pentecost – Memorial Day

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and nursery care.

Diane Harvey will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

June 2 – Founders Day

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship with communion (last chapel service ‘til September). John McCall will lead.

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with communion and the Meeting House Choir. We’ll install newly elected Elders, recognize members of 50 years or more, and celebrate Shirley Curry as she is named “Minister of Music.” Nursery care is provided. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

June 9 – Celebration of our Shared Ministry and Closing of the Covenant...

...as John McCall, our Senior Minister since 1989, retires.

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir, and organ with bagpipe. Children activities will be offered. A reception follows in Guptill Hall. [See John’s reflections elsewhere in this Beacon].

June 16 - summer schedule begins: a single 9:30 a.m. service, with nursery care, followed by lemonade on the porch.



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)

From John McCall

You might not have guessed, but I'm really an introvert. I don't enjoy being the center of attention. Ironic isn't it, in that I've spent 42 years drawing attention to myself – at least on Sundays? But that's different. It's not a performance, not a lecture, and not really about me. When we gather as the church, we're together to open ourselves to God's love, God's spirit, and God's example in Jesus. That's been our central reason for gathering over all these years... 24 years since I first met the search committee and just over 23 since I was installed – **April 1, 1990**. April Fool's Day. Some thought that most appropriate. (The Apostle Paul suggested that being "a fool for Christ" is the highest possible calling.)

Some of you remember my installation. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Evans preached. Joe had been third President of the United Church of Christ - a long-time friend of my parents, a clergy colleague with my wife Andrea - and known to many of you. As wonderful as his presence and his sermon were, the real centerpiece of the service was the making of our covenant. You as members of the congregation, representatives of the Maine UCC Conference and Cumberland Association, and I - all three parties, made sacred promises about how we intended to live together and serve God together, pushing through the hard times, and celebrating the blessings. I think we've kept those promises really well. It's been good.

Now, on **June 9**, we'll *close the covenant* - releasing each other from the mutual promises we made back in 1990. I'll no longer be your pastor and you'll no longer be my "flock." I'll no longer be the one you call to share the news (good or bad), and you'll no longer be the folks for whom I have the joyful responsibility of pastoral leadership. I'll give you and your next settled pastor the time and the room to shape a healthy, loving bond, represented in her or his service of installation.

This is as it should be and this is the right time. This means I won't be worshiping with you (even slipping into the back pew), or serving you in any of the familiar pastoral roles including baptisms, weddings, or funerals.

Being an introvert, I've toyed with quietly slipping out the side door rather than face the wonderful fuss that's (apparently) being planned for my last Sunday with you. But that wouldn't be right. No, we need this goodbye, this closure. So we'll gather - one last time - with thanks to God, gratitude for the past and hope for the future. And that's a BYOK day... bring your own Kleenex.

Faithfully, gratefully,

John

In memory: **Kathleen G. Rummler**, a member since 1996, died April 25 at the Gosnell Hospice after a brief illness. She was 78 and is survived by her husband of 53 years, Dick Rummler, and their sons Jonathan and Matthew. A private service will be held at a later date.

Judith J. Moberg, a member since 1991, died April 20 after a long illness. She was 88, and is survived by four daughters and her grandchildren. Private services have been held.

Prayers: **Edchen Ferguson, Joyce Belanger, and Bev Hastings** - recently hospitalized; for **Maxine Wright** at home; for **Corrine Murray**, Peggy's aunt, hospitalized; **Jean Jordan**, Elaine Brownell's mother, following surgery; **Rich Armstrong** on the recent death of his brother **Henry Rae Armstrong**; **Ed Carrier's** brother **Dick Carrier**, recently hospitalized; **Steve Mittel**, brother of Bob Mittel and brother-in-law of Louise Davis, recently diagnosed with cancer; **Sally Hickley's** friend **Brad LaPointe**, in Boston; **Sue Ross** and family on the recent death of her brother **Scott Adair**.

Congratulations: to **Harold Ahlsen**, marking his 90th birthday. He is a resident of the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough; cards may be sent to his home address of 98 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth 04107; for the safe arrival of **Alia Gale**, daughter of Dana Scheffler and Amanda, and grandchild of Dave and Carol Scheffler.

Search Committee Update

Dear Friends,

Your Search Committee is continuing to make strides in our developing search for a new Senior Pastor. In the recent week we have received more profiles from prospective candidates, of which we will review prayerfully and thoughtfully. While we continue to work, we are ever thankful for your continued support and prayers. As a committee we look to

you as our source of strength, continuing on our way through this journey together. May we feel the presence of God in and around us during these times to come. Thank you all.

Lauren Magnuson
Search Committee Member

Can You Help?

We're 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 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

Summer Worship – Invitation to Musicians

The Meeting House Choir and Hilltop Ringers will be on summer hiatus after Sunday June 9th. **On the Sundays from June 16th through September 1st it has been a tradition to have Special Music provided by others wanting to step up to offer a musical selection or two during each of the 12 summer services.** In the past, individuals have played or sung (unaccompanied

or accompanied by Shirley Curry or the guest organist/pianist if Shirley is on vacation that week), established ensembles have played or sung, and even ad hoc family ensembles have come together to give this special offering of the gift of music. Please contact Shirley by the end of May to sign up at 799-3361, ext. 108.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 12** in memory of **James Corbett Otis** by his son Jim and daughter Kathy Hollis and their families, and in loving memory of **Frank J. Potenzo** by his wife Beatrice Potenzo.

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 19** in memory of our parents / grandparents / great grandparents **Beatrice and William DeTine, Agnes and Donald Gray, and William and Margaret Hill** by Beth DeTine and Sarah Gray.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **May 5** were given in loving memory of my brother **Luke** from Christie Cannell and family.

The flowers on the altar **May 12** are in loving memory of **Frank Potenzo** from Bea Potenzo and children; JoAnne Freeman, Frank J. Potenzo Jr. and Anthony J. Potenzo.

The flowers on the altar **May 19** are in loving memory of **Miles E. and Mina Haskell** from Miles T. Haskell and family.



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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.



HILLTOP GUILD MYSTERY RIDE MAY 9

We'll be meeting at the church at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to join us for this excursion, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 to let her know you are coming!

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.

Sunday School Sightings

There are many "sightings" to behold. Our children are very busy planning and writing the entire service for Pentecost Sunday. May 19th is our last day of classes and we are planning a celebration. The stories of the foundation of our Christian faith are important for us all. Therefore, the classes will follow the scripture for the day and it promises to be filled with surprises and fun for all as we at First Congregational Church UCC have our own birthday celebration.

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

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.

The children and their teachers are working very hard on this project and we hope you will all support this day and celebrate with us. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Carolyn Foster
Sunday School Administrator
sundayschool@fccucc.org

email Diane at dlh@fccucc.org when you register for camp so we can make sure you receive a campership. Pilgrim Lodge registration is available at www.pilgrimlodge.org.

Women's Spirituality Circle Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00

Adah Dikole, from Soweto, South Africa, will visit the U.S. for two weeks in May as the guest of Tim Honey and Debra Andrews. Adah, the Principal at the Thabaneng Primary School in Soweto, will visit schools in Washington, DC, NY City, and Portland, ME in addition to local museums and professional education organizations.

Debra has invited Adah to the FCC Women's Spirituality Circle meeting on Wednesday, May 22, at 7:00 PM. We look forward to greeting her and learning about her spiritual life's journey

It promises to be a special evening of sharing. Please join us.

Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30

Liza Little and Beth DeTine will show an 18 minute TED series presentation on "vulnerability and worthiness" and then the group will discuss. Meet at Beth's house for pot luck at 6:30 PM. More details to come. Check the June bulletins or Beacon.

Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00

Jan Bosse will host at her home. Topic TBD. Check the July bulletins and Beacon.

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.

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 for Your Support!

The Mission Trip dinner and fundraiser on April 27 was a grand success thanks to the wonderful congregational support! We served over 100 meals and people enjoyed the chicken and eggplant parmesan and lots of homemade cake. The silent and live auctions along with the dinner raised over \$5,400. Thank you to all who purchased tickets, came to dinner, contributed items for the auction and bid generously. The entire Mission

Team is grateful for your generosity and you will be with us in spirit as we work in Cherryfield, ME later this summer. Special thanks to Peggy Murray for heading up the meal, to Prudy Wiggins for her incredible job with the auction and to all the Mission Team members for their help on Saturday.

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.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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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.