



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday August 22, 2011**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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 United Church of Christ
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July 31, 2011

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

3

E G & F

3-5

Seniors

5

Looking Ahead in Worship

Each Sunday through September 4, we'll have a single sanctuary service at 9:30 a.m. followed by lemonade on the porch. Infant and child care through age 5 is offered in the nursery. We'll have varieties of special vocal and instrumental music throughout the summer. Communion – by intinction – is offered on the first Sunday each month.

John and Elsa's sermons will follow the Revised Common Lectionary readings through **Genesis and Exodus** exploring the ancient narrative of God's Creation and Promise and what it means to us now.

July 31 (John) - Genesis 32:22-31

August 7 (Garvey MacLean) - Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

August 14 (Elsa) - Genesis 4:1-15

August 21 (John) - Exodus 1:8-2:10

August 28 (John) - Exodus 3:1-15

September 4 (John) - Exodus 12:1-14

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

September 11 is Homecoming Sunday with services at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. It's also a day of national remembrance on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. After thoughtful guidance from our Spiritual Life and Worship team, we're setting aside the chapel service that day as a time for scripture and prayers around this occasion. Our 10 a.m. service will include a prayer for peace but otherwise will not dwell on 9/11. We sincerely hope this feels like an appropriate way to mark the day. Please also note information elsewhere in this Beacon about the community gathering at Back Cove that evening.

John and Elsa

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Those serving in the military and their loved ones; peace and peacemakers; those suffering from the weather, especially of the severe drought in sub-Saharan Africa, Somalia and South Sudan; for our elected leaders and those who are left desperate by budget cuts and shifting priorities.

Concerns: **Jim Dyer** and his family following coronary surgery; continuing prayers for **Sally Rendall** and her family following the July 3 death of Burt Rendall, her husband of 60 years; **Jim Morang**, continuing with chemotherapy; **Alberta Munde** at the Cedars continuing recovery from back surgery; **Dave Smart** at Falmouth by the Sea who hopes to be home in early August. Donna Clark, grandmother of our building manager **Tom Conlon**, died July 20 in Worcester.

In grateful memory: **Jean Fisher**, a member since 1960, died July 20 at the South Portland Nursing Home at the age of 90; her memorial service will be Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m. in our sanctuary; **Lois Isabel Hill**, a member since 1957, died July 5 in Edgewater, New Jersey. We'll remember her life at a memorial service here in our sanctuary Thursday, August 25, 3 p.m. followed by a reception in the Wright Pavilion.

Congratulations: to **Andrea and Mike Mahoney** on the June 25 birth of their daughter **Mary Eleanor**. Excited older sisters are Caroline, Madelyn, Brooke and Hadley. Grandparents include John and Sue Mitchell, also members of our church; to Heidi Carrier Toala and Jim Toala on the July 9 birth of their son **Evan Leandro Toala**. Grandparents include Joan and Ed Carrier.

Answering the Call

I sit on the Church & Ministry Committee in the Cumberland Association chaired by our own Bob Morse. In this work through the covenant of the United Church of Christ, we have the unique privilege and responsibility to walk with a Member in Discernment as s/he tries to understand what kind of leadership God is calling toward.

This might have been simple once – though I'm not sure when that was. In the United Church of Christ, we have always had three modes of authorized ministry. An individual can be ordained, licensed or commissioned. I won't bore you with the differences between these various authorizations – but they exist. And they are admittedly complicated. After General Synod 25 in 2005, after passing something called the Marks of Ministry, committees like this one had to struggle even harder with these modes of authorization. The gist is this: there are many ways that an individual called by God can be lead into leadership. Whatever your assumptions might be, it's not that simple. We must be careful to listen to where God is leading.

I'm quite sure that the other members of the Church & Ministry committee would not agree with this summation – but that is the beauty of the United Church of Christ. We are varied and different. However, I'm not sure we can really argue God's call. We can question where it starts and where it will lead but we must recognize that something is happening in this person's life. In the local church, we are not as worried about authorization. We struggle with it sometimes. We wonder who gets to do what and why – but every so often someone in our church family will be brave enough to say that they feel God is calling them into this work. Recently, in our church, this has happened twice. Jerry Reynolds has heard a call to lead Youth Ministry and Carolyn Foster feels moved to lead as the Sunday School Coordinator. I marvel at God's ways in their willingness to step forward to do this work. They won't sit before the Church & Ministry committee to seek authorization in the United Church of Christ. They are called to be leaders in our local church and I know that God rejoices with us in knowing this.





STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 7** in loving memory of **Frederick P. Andrews** by his wife Verna Andrews.

The steeple is lighted the weeks of **August 14** and **August 21** in memory of **Howard Fleming** by his Daughters.

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 28** in loving memory of **William T. and Vera T. Holbrook** by Judy and Bob Kelley, Debbie and Joe Conley and Karen McDonough and in memory of **Helen Calhoun Otis** by her son Jim and daughter Kathy Hollis and their Families.

ALTAR MEMORIALS JULY

The flowers on the altar **July 10** were in loving memory of **Louis C. Anderson, Jr.** by his family Barbara Patterson and Katharine and Mark Anderson.

The flowers on the altar **July 17** were in loving memory of **Marion Tukey** from the Bauchinger and Tukey families.

The mission globe on the altar **July 24** was lighted in memory of **William B. Tayloe** from John Howard.

“Come All for the Table is Ready”

Our church takes pride in being open and affirming, allowing all to worship, ‘no matter where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here’. Communion is no exception to this. We say that communion is open to all that wish to partake. This year our youth challenged this by asking why they weren’t partaking in communion within their classes while the rest of the congregation did. We, the EG&F committee, along with the SL&W group, agree that we are leaving a valuable part of our church out of communion, **our children**. We are going to move toward offering communion to our children in the fall.

We realize that communion is a sacred time and we respect this. To get the most out of this experience, we’ll begin the Sunday school year with two sessions for the parents to answer questions and concerns, with the first session on **September 25, 2011** and the

second being on **October 16, 2011**, directly following the church service. We will plan classroom education about what communion is all about and ask that Elsa visit each classroom to assist with the education.. Communion will take place in the chapel by intinction, and will be given by one of our pastors. Our hope is that this will allow our children to feel more of a part of our church and it may direct some ‘family discussion’ at home too.

Our children have expressed an interest in being part of communion and we have heard them. If there are any questions please feel free to contact the EG&F committee or speak with Elsa or John.

Thank you,
*Education Growth & Fellowship
Committee*

Meet Our Newest Church Members

In June we witnessed 10 youth complete their journey toward Confirmation.

In the last June edition of the Beacon we shared a few things about each of them. One last biography from Silas Zechman has been received since that edition, and we’d like to take the opportunity to share this from him with you.

Silas Zechman

I’m in 8th grade at Mahoney Middle School. I enjoy reading and playing sports. My favorite sports are soccer, basketball and baseball. I have 2 younger brothers.

Love Wins . . . A Three-Part Conversation

A new book by Evangelical pastor Rob Bell of Michigan is raising challenging questions for many Christians. The full title is “Love Wins... A book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived.” And from the dust jacket: “God loves us. God offers us everlasting life by grace, freely, though no merit on our part. Unless you do not respond the right way. Then God will torture you forever. In Hell... Huh?” What do you

believe about heaven and hell, about the classic teachings of the church regarding faith and accepting Jesus Christ?

Join John McCall for three evenings of conversation on Mondays, October 17, 24 and 31st at 7 p.m. in the Davidson Lounge. It promises to be lively and thought-provoking. In the meantime, read the book and consider what it says to you.

A New Sunday School Coordinator

My mentors in ministry taught me that it was my calling to work myself out of a job. It's my calling to build up the body of Christ by allowing others to lead even when it might be easier to lead by myself. (I am Type A, after all.) Still, I know that the church is stronger when we recognize that we each have unique gifts to serve our community and our God.

As many of you know, Carolyn Foster has been faithfully serving as my right hand since I have been blessed with the responsibility of being the Sunday School Coordinator. Carolyn has given her heart to this program already – so it should be no surprise that she told me this spring that she'd like to take on more responsibility. In fact, she told me that God was calling her into this ministry. And so, we've

been praying about what that might look like. With much prayer, we've discerned that Carolyn will take over the role as a volunteer position. She'll be a presence that I can't be and offer support to the program in ways that will be unique to her own talents. I am amazed at Carolyn's energy and hope for this program, and I know that she has gifts to offer that are beyond all of our imaginations.

My mentors were right. It's an amazing thing when anyone realizes their call to serve God. I am so honored to witness this holy moment in Carolyn's transformation and look forward to celebrating this new ministry with you on Homecoming Sunday.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

A Note from Carol Foster



I'm retired from the banking/real estate business. Since 1990 I've been doing more volunteer work both in health-care, public

education and at First Congregational Church UCC. Sunday school has always been a passion of mine. I began teaching at age 17 and eventually assumed every role the church offered involving Christian education. At the age of 12 I became a member of Hammond Street Congregational Church in Bangor, ME where my faith journey began. Later I would join Centre Street Church in Machias, ME and a few years ago became a member of this church.

I have 3 adult children, 3 step children and Bob and I together have 13 grandchildren. We reside in Portland. I

have studied at Husson College, University of Maine and Bangor Theological Seminary, where I also served as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I consider it both an honor and a privilege to assume the role as Sunday School Coordinator. We are blessed to have energetic children, dedicated teachers, helpers, supportive parents and ministers; however, we must continue to strive to be innovative as we explore ways to instill Christian values while we walk with our children on their own journey of faith.

I am open to suggestions and questions so please feel free to contact me. I ask for your patience, support, and your prayers as I embark on this very exciting journey.

Blessings,
Carol

IT'S TIME FOR LIGHT!

9/11/2001 has cast a shadow over the world for ten years. We've lived with the dark fear of terrorism. Peace Action Maine invites people of good will to mark this anniversary with light: join together on Sunday, September 11, 2011, 6 – 8 p.m., to encircle Back Cove In Portland With Light for Peace! Bring candles or flashlights; bring friends; bring signs. Come to the Payson Park or Hannaford parking lots. We'll space ourselves to encircle Back Cove, then turn on our lights at 7:30. For more information, phone Grace Braley at 774-1995.

PIE

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE), a nonprofit agency, is searching for host families in all of ME, NH, and VT and surrounding areas for several high school foreign exchange students arriving in August. Some students are very interested in going to church!

Students come from countries like: Mexico, China, Brazil, Germany, and Thailand, range in age from 15-18 years old, speak English, have medical insurance and their own spending money. Host families provide a room & meals. **Please inquire by August 20th.**

For information about being a volunteer host family contact Rev. Ginger Snapp-Cunningham (cont. pg. 5)

PIE (Cont.)

at (207) 565-1038 or email:
snappy2@roadrunner.com.
 Our website is
www.pieusa.org/

**SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

Wednesday, August 3 -
SAGE meeting at 1:00.
 (PLEASE NOTE: change in
 day - Wednesday, not
 Thursday.)

Wednesday, August 10 -
 leave the church at **11:30**
 for a picnic at **Fort**
Williams.

Thursday, August 18 -
 Meet at **I-Hop** for
breakfast at 9:00.

Wednesday, August 24 -
 Leave church at **12:15** for
Arundel Barn Playhouse
 where we will see "**I Left**
My Heart". Tickets are
 \$22.

Thursday, September 1 -
SAGE meeting at 1:00 in
 regular place.

Wednesday, September
7 - trip to **Peak's Island**
 with more details to follow.

Changing Programs

Dear 7th and 8th Grade Youth:

I'm writing you on behalf of the Education, Growth and Fellowship Team who've been trying to figure out the best opportunity for you. We recognize that many of you feel too old for Sunday School and are interested in trying something new. We're also aware that many of you are curious about what happens in worship and want to offer you the space to explore what it means for you. And so, the Education, Growth and Fellowship Team wants to experiment.

This fall, the Education, Growth and Fellowship Team invites you to Worship Discovery - a new program that invites your participation in worship. This will be a program where learning will not take place in a classroom but in the Sanctuary. We are actively recruiting a bunch of mentors (or worship buddies but certainly not teachers) who will meet you every Sunday in the narthex. You'll decide together where you want to sit as a group and worship together. (You can even invite your parents along if you like.) While you worship, you'll have a worksheet similar to the one that the Confirmation class has been using to explore a monthly theme.

We recognize that there are often commitments and homework assignments that take you away from Sunday worship. We hope that you'll find this so interesting that you want to be at Worship Discovery, but we're not asking any more of your attendance in church. In this non-traditional learning experience, we hope that you find a

place to explore what happens in worship and in your own spiritual growth. There will be a monthly opportunity to talk about the monthly theme with your mentors while your parents are in Coffee Hour. I'm including a schedule that will hopefully help you understand this experiment.

There's one more detail you should know. We made these changes because we're aware that when Confirmation begins in January, it affects the group dynamic in the 7th and 8th grade class. We hope that Worship Discovery eases that transition. We are creating a 2-year model so that those starting in 7th grade this year won't be bored by repeating themes. Instead, we'll try to build a program that builds upon our shared understanding of what happens in worship and invites you to discover new things about yourself and your God. If you have any questions, please send me an email or give me a call.

Blessings,
 Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

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