



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is **Friday, Sept. 7, 2012**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

First Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 South Portland, Maine 04106  
 Phone (207) 799-3361  
 Fax (207) 799-4095  
 E-mail: [office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org)  
<http://www.fccucc.org>

**August 26, 2012**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor & Pew**

**2**

**S L & W**

**3-4**

**E G & F / Seniors**

**4-5**

**M & O / Administration**

**6**

**Calendar – September**

**7**

**2012-13 Calendar**

**8**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### September 2

**9:30 a.m.** – Sanctuary worship with the celebration of communion; John McCall will give the message. Lemonade on the porch.

### September 9 is Homecoming Sunday and we return to two services –

**8:30 a.m.** – Chapel

**10:00 a.m.** – Sanctuary

-- Meet the Rev. Diane Harvey, our Transitional Minister (more information in this Beacon)

-- Bring *water from a special place* to add to the baptismal font.

Join us for the *all church picnic immediately following worship*. Pray for sunshine, and dress for fun. There's a sign-up poster so everyone can help make this a great day. Please look for it in the Narthex (sanctuary entry).

### September 16

**8:30 a.m.** – Chapel worship

**10:00 a.m.** – Sanctuary worship and first day of Sunday school. We'll commission our Sunday school teachers and John McCall will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

### September 23

**8:30 a.m.** – Chapel worship

**10:00 a.m.** – Sanctuary worship and Sunday school. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COMING

Regular Sunday school classes for preschoolers through eighth grade begin **September 16**. Each Sunday our children begin in the sanctuary and then leave for classes after the children's message. Nursery and toddler care are also offered each week for the 10 a.m. service. Families can register children for Sunday school online at:

<http://fccucc.org/grow/sunday-school/sunday-school-registration/>



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*For peace and peacemakers; for our veterans and those in active service; for those who struggle with PTSD and injury; for all who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, safety, love; for those confined to their homes and to nursing homes.*

**Continued Prayers:** Terry York, sons Seth and Will, and their extended family on the sudden death of her husband Jeffrey York on August 13; Ruth Cline and family following the death of her husband Robert on August 6; Sue Stevens on the recent death of her father, William Lockman, in Florida; Jim Morang home from the hospital; Gail Dransfield at home after recent surgery; Jeanie Lothrop at Woodford's Park Nursing Center.

**Celebrations:** Elsa Peters and her ministry with us, for safe travel and a wonderful new chapter in Olympia, Washington; Zack Culver who was recently honored with the Dino Giamatti Community Service Award from the Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 baseball organization in Scarborough; Robin Reinhold shares the joy of the baptism of her grandson Andrew James Heck in Nashville, TN

## Pastor and Pew

As you know by now, I've announced my plan to retire in June 2013 - one more church program year. But please don't act as though I'm already gone. We have a message to share, a church to love, plans to make and commitments to keep, and exciting new opportunities to live our faith.

I've shared my decision now because of my deep desire to see our church continue in its commitment to spirited worship, strong faith-formation opportunities, energy for outreach, and an unequivocal commitment to the barrier-breaking, inclusive love that Jesus showed us in his ministry. Our voice is critical in the Christian chorus especially at a time when conservative traditionalists are preaching a narrow message and rigid adherence to doctrines that label people and turn them away.

Some of you already have asked the rhetorical question "what if we go back to being the kind of church we were 20 years ago?" I can't see that happening. For many years we've learned to help each other patiently and wisely articulate a strong Christian voice as the church for today. Frankly, there are many other congregations that continue to provide a safe refuge for those who want church to be the way it used to be. Will you remember my refrain? "It's no longer enough to be the church our grandparents loved. We must become the church our grandchildren will love."

So, how might we spend this next year? Let's remember that the church we know and love has been shaped by many factors - pastors, sure - but it's you the members who make us the church we are: generous, loving, open-hearted folks who really believe that God showed us the power of love, justice, and truth in the life of Jesus. Your presence in worship, your financial support, your commitment to bring and welcome newcomers - these will all keep us strong and vital.

Thank you for your spirit and witness. Let's make this a great year.

*Faithfully, gratefully,*  
John

**Introducing . . .****THE REV. DIANE L. HARVEY - TRANSITIONAL MINISTER**

Your Church Council is excited to introduce the Rev. Diane L. Harvey who will soon join us in ministry and serve our congregation through the pastoral transition that lies ahead. She will be with us on an open-ended contract, ideally until our congregation has called and settled a new senior minister to succeed the Rev. John McCall who will retire in June, 2013.

Diane will begin September 1, on a three-quarter-time basis with responsibilities including pastoral visitation, preaching once a month, worship leadership twice a month, and the resourcing of our Teams, Sunday school, faith formation for all ages, and confirmation.

It's our mutual hope that Diane will soon share the kind of trust, affection and respect we've enjoyed with our pastors over many years. She'll also remind us that she's serving on an interim basis, and she affirms the UCC standard that "under no circumstances will I allow myself to be considered as a possible candidate for the settled position at the church where I am serving" on an interim basis.

A native of Barrington, R.I., Diane is a graduate of Wellesley College and the Pacific School of Religion (Berkeley, CA). After ordination into ministry in the United Church of Christ in California in 1981, she has served in various pastoral roles in Minnesota: Associate Minister, sole Minister, and as Senior Minister in a multiple staff church. In 2006, Diane and her husband, the Rev. John Heinl, moved to Kittery Point and Diane took specialized training in interim and transitional ministries. She has completed three very different interim settings in Maine and New Hampshire and is uniquely qualified to work with us in this time of change and discernment.

Diane's references describe her as warm, enthusiastic, a straight-talker, great with all ages, wonderful at remembering names, an excellent preacher. Our conversations with her confirm this and more.

While our Church Council is responsible for "overseeing the process of calling a Senior Minister, Interim Senior Minister, Associate minister and Interim Associate Minister," (Bylaws, Article 5.5.3A), we recognize that our church is at a critical time of discernment. The Council's Futuring Committee has been considering long-term questions about the size and configuration of our staff in light of our financial resources. These decisions are necessary before we can determine whether we'll seek a full-time Associate Minister. The Council believes the search and call process for a new Senior Minister needs to come first.

Please join us on Homecoming Sunday, September 9, to meet Diane Harvey in worship and at the picnic following. As always we invite your prayers, questions, and concerns.

*Nancy MacLean, Moderator*

*(Prayers of the People - cont.)*  
on August 26. Proud parents are Josh and Sarah (Reinhold) Heck. **Stan and Marie Jordan** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary (Aug. 4th) on July 28th with a gathering of family and friends at Fort Williams.

**In memory: Myrtle Cleaves**, a member since 1952, died August 22 in Massachusetts after a long illness. She was 95. There was a graveside service August 27 at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS**

The mission Globe was lighted **July 29** in memory of **William B. Tayloe** by John Howard.

The flowers on the altar **August 12** were from Margie and Cole Kelly in celebration of their new granddaughter **Katheryne Kelly**.

The Mission Globe was lighted **August 19** by the Meetinghouse Choir in celebration of **Elsa Peters**. We are a stronger, more resilient congregation due to her ministry.

The flowers on the altar **August 26** were given in memory of a cherished member **Lois Hill**, from her daughters – Nancy, Janet, Linda and Lauren.

The mission globe is lighted **September 2** by Gerry Onos in memory of **Diane Onos**, wife, mother of Kathryn DiPhilippo, and Grandmother of Josie DiPhilippo.

## SEPTEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Most Sundays we'll see flowers on the altar, and occasionally a world globe. Currently the date of **September 30** remains open for donors. If you're interested in making a donation for this date please contact Linda Foss at 883-2013 or [fossy@gwi.net](mailto:fossy@gwi.net).



## STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple was lighted the week of **August 5** in memory of **Frederick P. Andrews** by his wife Verna Andrews, and in memory of Howard Fleming from his Daughters.

The steeple was lighted the weeks of **August 12** and **August 19** in memory of **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 26** 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 **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

## Baptisms Scheduled

The sacrament of baptism will next be offered **October 14** and **November 11**. Baptism is appropriate at any age. For infants and children, families declare their intention to raise their child to be a

disciple within the fellowship of the church. For adults, baptism is a confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Contact John McCall for more information, [jbm@fccucc.org](mailto:jbm@fccucc.org).

## Music News from Shirley Curry

Even though vacations are not quite over, some thoughts are already turning to fall. I'll be on the organ bench on Labor Day Sunday, and most choirs will be starting rehearsals the week of the third.

includes grades 2-6. We rehearse weekly and sing in service monthly. Rehearsals are downstairs under the sanctuary in the Choir Room. This is a building year for this group; so bring your enthusiasm, your voices, and your friends.

On **Tuesday, September 5**, the **Meeting House Choir** will begin rehearsals at **7 p.m.** in the choir room under the sanctuary. We will be singing in service on the ninth. The choir is open to all from seventh grade on up. We are excited about the new younger faces who are joining us. They not only bring great voices but much energy which helps us all. Rehearsal runs until 8:45 p.m. During September we'll be working on a new choral piece by one of our congregation, Dr. Scott Steidl.

**Tuesday, September 12**, The **Hilltop Ringers** will meet at **6 p.m.** in the balcony of our sanctuary to dust off the bells and make some joyful sounds. Rehearsals end at 7 p.m. Anyone from 7th grade up is welcome. Come and give it a try. It is great fun.

Stay tuned for details about the **Joyful Noise Choir** so ably led by Robin Reinhold.

That is all the news for now.

*Shirley Curry,*  
Choir Director  
799-3361, ext. 108

On **Wednesday, September 6**, at **6:30 p.m.** and running until 7:15 p.m. the **Children's Choir** will start their season singing, clapping, marching, and praising the Lord. This choir

## An Invitation to all Women of the Church

The **Hilltop Guild** will hold its first meeting of the new year at **7 p.m.** on **Thursday, September 13**. Please join us for fellowship, dessert and our speaker, **Elizabeth McLellan, President of Partners for World Health**. Elizabeth will relate how her organization reduces environmental

waste here at home while helping people in third world countries by collecting and distributing unused medical supplies to them.

If you are not on our calling list, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 to let her know you will be

*(cont. - next page)*

## An Invitation to all Women of the Church (continued)

joining us and be added to our calling list for future meetings. Need a ride? Please contact Marie Jordan at 799-1408. Please join us

and invite a friend to come along with you.

*Marie Jordan & Kathy Sahrbeck  
Co-Presidents*

## Sunday School Registration

As the summer draws to a close, we look forward to the beginning of a new year of Sunday School! Classes begin September 16th. This year, we will use a curriculum called the Seasons of the Spirit to explore meaning and mystery in the Bible; celebrate in worship, sacraments, education, and service; engage in ministries of love, justice, and witness; and live in inclusive communities of faith, shaped and led by the Holy Spirit.

We offer five traditional Sunday School classes for the following age groups:

- Preschool & Kindergarten (Ages 3-5)
- Grades 1 and 2 (Ages 6-7)
- Grades 3 and 4 (Ages 8-9)
- Grades 5 and 6 (Ages 10-11)
- Grades 7 and 8 (Ages 12-14)

## Thank You !

Imagine my surprise when I finally reached my parents' house, poured a glass of wine and opened your cards to find your messages of love tucked among my luggage. All of those messages have been packed in my rainy day box as I take your love with me. I offer particular thanks to those that offered gifts within those envelopes, boxes and bags. You are exceedingly generous and I am

grateful for it as much as I am for the time we shared in Maine. I pray your ministry continues to be richly blessed.

*Peace,  
Elsa*



### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, September 6 - SAGE meeting at 1:00** in the 3rd/4th grade classroom above the church office.

**Wednesday, September 12** - carpool from the church at 10:00 to take a ferry to **Peak's Island** where we will be picked up as we debark the boat to have a tour of the island and lunch at a nearby restaurant. The price is \$14 per person for the tour and lunch is on your own.

**Thursday, September 20** - leave the church at 10:30 for a trip to **Dundee Park** in Windham where we will have a picnic lunch and stop to see a covered bridge. In case of inclement weather we will "picnic" at the church, followed by a Domino game.

**Thursday, September 27** - meet at **I-Hop** for breakfast at 9:00.

**Thursday, October 4 - SAGE meeting at 1:00.**

### The Children's Closet

While drafting the fall schedule for the Children's Closet it has become apparent that we need a few more volunteers. Typically the Closet is open on the first and third Wednesdays & Saturdays from 9-11:00 a.m. Volunteers help with sorting & hanging clothes, sorting toys, rearranging shelving, and of course, just being there when the Closet is open. We prefer to schedule volunteers for one shift each month, however we can always

use people willing to come in as a back-up sub when "regulars" can't make it. If you are interested and/or need more information, please contact Jill Gorneau at [gorneau98@gmail.com](mailto:gorneau98@gmail.com) or 799-4109. And of course, contributions of gently used toys & children's clothing are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Closet.

### Volunteer Opportunity in South Portland Schools

South Portland's Mahoney Middle School principal, Carrie Stilphen, is seeking volunteers from the community to help out at the Learning Lab, weekday afternoons from 1:35-3:30 p.m. She writes: "By having some volunteers come into the school, my hope would be that positive relationships might be built that would encourage those students, who may not decide to

stay at school to do their homework, but would in order to see their 'friend'. It would be very structured, a teacher would always be supervising. The key to my idea is to provide students with positive and encouraging role models ." For more information, contact Carrie Stilphen at [stilphca@spsd.org](mailto:stilphca@spsd.org).

### The North Church Beacon Article Deadlines for 2012-13

As summer is winding down, here is a glance at Beacon deadlines for the upcoming year, September 2012 through June 2013. Recalling, in late spring we decided to implement Friday article deadlines (which seems to be working much better), bear in mind that all dates listed below are Fridays.

<u>September</u> 7 & 21
<u>October</u> 12 & 26
<u>November</u> 9

<u>December</u> 7
<u>January</u> 4 & 25
<u>February</u> 8 & 22
<u>March</u> 8 & 22
<u>April</u> 5 & 19
<u>May</u> 3, 17 & 31
<u>June</u> 14

#### THE DISCOVERY CENTER PRESCHOOL

The Discovery Center Preschool has openings in its three-year, four-year and Pre-K programs. For more information, please contact Kathy Jones at 329-8856.

#### MONDAY MORNING BRIDGE GROUP

A thank you to the Monday Bridge Group for their donation of \$100.00 to Community Crisis Ministries.

Cyndi Alden  
Business Manager  
[cda@fccucc.org](mailto:cda@fccucc.org)

#### GRACE STREET MINISTRY

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK AUCTION  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7  
5 - 8 PM

Hope.Gate.Way. Church  
185 High Street  
Portland, ME 04101

Proceeds to benefit  
Grace Street Ministry.  
[www.gracestreetministry.blogspot.com](http://www.gracestreetministry.blogspot.com)

**THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON**  
Published by the First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

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

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