



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday September 12, 2011**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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August 28, 2011

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

3

E G & F / Seniors

3-5

Mission & Outreach

5

Calendar - September

Looking Ahead in Worship

August 28

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship. John McCall will give the message from Exodus 3:1-15.

September 4

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship. with communion. John McCall will give the message from Exodus 12:1-14.

September 11 Homecoming Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship with scripture and prayers remembering the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. {Also see page 5 of this *Beacon*, - "A Time for Light."}

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with a joyous reunion as we begin the new year. Remember to bring water from a favorite place to include in "Many Waters" baptisms in the year ahead, AND your backpack, smartphone, or datebook (if you're *that* old fashioned) for a brief litany blessing on our beginnings and our busy lives.

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship time in Wright Pavilion and Sunday School Open House for children's classrooms and teachers.

September 18

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and installation of Sunday School teachers. First day of regular Sunday School classes. John McCall will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

September 25

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with the Meetinghouse Choir. Elsa Peters will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

11:30 a.m. - Acolyte (candle-lighter) training in the sanctuary - for grades four, five, six or above.

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: **Pauline Ingalls** recently hospitalized with a broken leg; **Alberta Munde** at home continuing recovery from back surgery; **Dave Smart** home and continuing to recover from a stroke in April; **Mel Butler**, recovering at home after a recent injury; **Tom Saturley** and his family on the August 14 death of his father, Howard Saturley, in New Hampshire, at the age of 87; **Ruth Upshall** beginning chemotherapy for cancer. **Rod Redstone's** extended family in mourning the death of his former mother-in-law, Mary Duggan on Thursday.

FOOD PANTRY

We've been helping many of our neighbors this summer and the shelves are emptying.

Please help us. We need cereals, breakfast mixes, peanut butter, jelly, dry milk, canned vegetables, pasta sauce, baked beans, tuna, canned chicken, crackers, small jars of mayo and instant coffee.

These are the staples that go quickly. We always need soap, toilet paper and shampoo. We DO NOT need toothpaste.

The Mission Trip

If you're not on Facebook, you haven't seen all of the pictures appear on our church page sharing the work we did with Maine Seacoast Mission over the week of July 24-30. Enjoy these pictures and look forward to hearing the whole story on **Mission Trip Sunday on November 13.**

{Photo file to large for web download }

You may have also heard a rumor that there is already another trip being planned for next year to work with Maine Seacoast Mission. The rumors are true. Stay tuned.





STEEPLE LIGHTING

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; also in memory of **Helen Calhoun Otis** by her son Jim and daughter Kathy Hollis and their Families.

The steeple is lighted the week of **September 11** in loving memory of **Norman Fogg** by Ruth Fogg and family; and in loving memory of **John Wetmore, Jr., and our parents Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Strout and Mr. & Mrs. John Wetmore** by Ina Wetmore.

ALTAR MEMORIALS JULY / AUGUST

The flowers on the altar on **July 31** were given in celebration of **our Family** from Herb and Evie Strom.

The flowers on the altar on **August 14** are in loving memory of **Mrs. Josephine Smith** by Margie and Cole Kelly.

The flowers on the altar on **August 28** are in memory of a cherished member **Lois Hill**, from her daughters: Nancy, Janet, Linda and Lauren.

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 **all choirs will be starting rehearsals the week of the 5th.**

Tuesday the 6th the Hilltop Ringers will meet at **6:00 p.m.** in the balcony of our sanctuary to dust off the bells and our brains and make some joyful sounds. Rehearsal ends at 7:00 p.m. Anyone from grade seven on up is welcome. Come and give it a try. It is great fun.

Also on **Tuesday, September 6th,** the **Meetinghouse Choir** will begin rehearsals at **7:00 p.m.** in the choir room under the sanctuary. We will be singing in service on the 11th. Again, the choir is open to all from 7th grade on up. We are so excited about some of 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 will be preparing not only for Sunday

Our New Sunday School Coordinator

In the last Beacon, we introduced you to Carolyn Foster who will take over from Elsa Peters as Sunday School Coordinator. This is a volunteer position that Carolyn brings a lot of energy toward. In Carolyn's own words:

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.

I consider it both an honor and a privilege to assume the role as Sunday School Coordinator. We are blessed to have

morning services, but also for the grand hymn sing celebration at Merrill Auditorium on September 25th.

On **Wednesday 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 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.

Also listen for details about the **Joyful Noise** group led so ably by Robin Reinhold. Next Beacon should carry those details.

Guess that's all the news for now.

Shirley Curry
Choir Director
799-3361, ext 108

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.

We hope that you will support Carolyn in her budding ministry among our children. She can be reached by email at sundayschool@fccucc.org



Changing Programs

Recently, a question bubbled to the surface in our shared ministry about how to best serve the needs of our 7th and 8th grade youth in our current Sunday School program. While Sunday School attendance has increased dramatically in the past few years, we've still struggled with finding meaningful ways to engage these budding young adults.

The Education, Growth and Fellowship Team (EG&F) brainstormed several ideas - but nothing seemed quite right. So, we called a special meeting in the middle of July to try to better understand what the needs are for our youth and how we might move forward. Our focus was on the 7th and 8th grade, so it was my task to offer a series of possibilities that we might discern as options to serve our youth. After eliminating the most extreme options, we decided we didn't like any of the options as they were presented. So we innovated.

With deep gratitude to EG&F, I share these changes on their behalf. Both EG&F and I feel that these changes will better serve the needs of all of our children. We are excited to share this good news with you.

The first change is that we are **rearranging classes**. There will be four standard Sunday School classes served by a team of volunteer teachers that Carolyn Foster is actively recruiting for, including:

- Preschool
- Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2
- Grades 3 and 4
- Grades 5 and 6

The impact of this change will be felt by our Kindergarteners who will now be with the older kids rather than by themselves. We feel that this is a blessing to all of the kids particularly as we made one further change.

Since its creation, **Christ Kids Club** has been a monthly learning experience for Grades 1-8 and the Kindergarteners have always wanted to join in the fun. So, our second change is that Christ Kid's Club will now include all children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

The third change is to remove the 7th and 8th graders from the traditional Sunday School model and create something entirely new for them. We're calling this opportunity **Worship Discovery** which offers a 2-year cycle of worship-related themes. Our 7th and 8th graders will meet their mentors (or worship buddies but certainly not teachers) in the Narthex each Sunday. They will worship together as a group - and families can surely hang out with them! Like the Confirmation class, they will have a worksheet to explore particular themes for each worship service and there will be a monthly post-worship conversation to explore the theme of the month.

I know that both EG&F and I are really excited about these changes and looking forward to seeing how our greatest hopes feed our kids spiritual growth. As we make these changes, I hope you'll join me in praying for our children.

*Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org*

Register for Sunday School at www.fccucc.org.

LEISURELY LECTIONARY RETURNS

Our weekly study of the Bible gathers **Wednesday** mornings at **10:30 am** in Davidson Lounge. We call it **Leisurely Lectionary** as no preparation is required but an open heart. After a summer rest, we'll gather again beginning **September 14**.

PILGRIM LODGERS!

Upon your return from camp, please share a photo or a story with your church family to tell us what you experienced at our summer camp. Use the thumbtacks to add your memories to the bulletin board outside of Wright Pavilion.



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 at regular time.

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

RUMMAGE SALE

Well. It's that time again... The fall **Rummage /Garage Sale** is **October 22**. Please start searching through your stuff – we can use anything except computers, suitcases, TVs, typewriters, and adding machines. These items don't sell and cost to dispose of them after the sale.

Remember the money we raise goes directly into our church budget.

Prudy Wiggins
799-5705

rummagesale@fccucc.org

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

The next Fair Trade coffee orders will be taken **September 11 & 18** outside Wright Pavilion with an expected distribution date of October 9.

Carol Scheffler
fairtrade@fccucc.org

MISSION:1

to feed the hungry and
confront food-related
injustice

ucc.org/mission1
Nov. 1-11, 2011

Mission: 1. Look for more information coming soon!

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? What does scripture teach about insiders and outsiders?

Join me for three conversations on the *Sundays* of **October 23 and 30, November 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Davidson Lounge**. (Note this is a change of dates from the previous announcement.) It promises to be lively and thought-provoking. In the meantime, read the book and consider what it says to you.

John McCall
jbm@fccucc.org

“Come All for the Table is Ready”

This year our youth challenged us by asking why they weren't partaking in communion while the rest of the congregation did. We, the EG&F Team, along with the SL&W Team, agree that we're leaving a valuable part of our church out of communion, **our children**. We realize that communion is a sacred time and we respect this and want to explore what it would mean for our children to partake.

To do so, we'll begin the 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 worship. 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. If there are any questions please feel free to contact the EG&F Team or Elsa or John.

Education Growth & Fellowship Team
egfteam@fccucc.org

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. We'll space ourselves to encircle Back Cove, then turn on our lights at 7:30 p.m. If you want to share a ride to join this witness for peace, please contact the Mission & Outreach Team to attend with our church.

Mission & Outreach Team
moteam@fccucc.org

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Greetings from the Hilltop Guild

- Marie Jordan and Kathy Sahrbeck, Co-presidents

While relaxing in the warm weather and beauty of summer in Maine, why not dream about how you can become more involved in church activities this year. The members of the Hilltop Guild invite all the women of our church to join us for fellowship and fun. We meet in the Wright Pavilion on the **second Thursday of the month, September thru May**, for dessert or a pot luck dinner followed by a program and short business meeting.

We cater for funerals and other receptions or dinners at our church and cook and serve some meals for the Eskimo Men's Club. We provide a Christmas luncheon for the church staff, assist with the spring and fall rummage sales and the Holly Daze Bazaar. We contribute time and/or money to many other worthwhile projects within our church community.

If you are unable to attend meetings at this time, perhaps you would volunteer to be on a call list of people willing to provide baked goods for receptions or dinners. Please call Marie Jordan at 799-1408 to receive more information about Guild activities, volunteer to be a baker, and/or to be put on our meeting reminder call list.

Hilltop Guild Meeting – September 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Please mark the date on your calendars now as a reminder for you to join us on the 8th for dessert and fellowship. Our speaker for the evening will be a representative from McAuley House who will tell us about their program that provides a safe environment and a comprehensive transitional housing program that offers life skills, counseling, emotional support, and mentoring to women in need, with or without children. Questions? Please call Marie Jordan 799-1408.