



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 5
November 11, 2012

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, December 7, 2012.
Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org .

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Looking Ahead in Worship

November 18 - Thanksgiving Sunday

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. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

November 25

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. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

December 2 - First Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship and communion.
10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir, Sunday school, and the sacrament of communion. Diane Harvey will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Guptil Hall with Advent wreath making.

PLEASE REMEMBER to wear your name tag to help others learn your name!



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*For those suffering
from the effects of the
tough economy; for*

(cont. next page)

DAILY DEVOTIONAL to START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT!

Receive an inspirational message each morning. Short meditations on scripture from noted writers will start your day off right. Subscribe today to "Daily Devotional":

1. Go to ucc.org
2. Click on "Feed Your Spirit" (third button from the left, bottom)
3. Click on the button labeled "Daily Devotional."
4. Fill in your name and email address.

**Prayers of the People
continued...**

those who live without sufficient food, water, shelter or safety; for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers

Continuing Prayers: for those affected by Hurricane Sandy; for Ruth Cline on the recent death of her son **John Phillip Cash** in Augusta. He was 59.

Celebration: Carole and Walter Jellison are the proud grandparents of **Addison Elizabeth Nappi**, born on October 31 to Kim (Jellison) and Brian Nappi of Scarborough.

Baptized: Emma Katherine Anderson and **Sophia Marissa Anderson**, children of Erik and Jennifer Anderson; **Ella Grace Piper** and **Liam Clifford Piper**, children of Lynne Holler and Craig Piper, on Sunday, November 11.

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.

Stewardship Committee Continues Its Work

The spirit has already moved many of us to delight in giving. We're grateful for every commitment and encouraged by the responses so far. The thermometer just outside Wright Pavilion shows the progress we've made towards our goal, but we still have a long way to go. Our enlistment won't be complete until every household has made a decision about its intentions to support our shared ministries in 2013. Pledge cards are available in the pews or from the church office at 799-3361. If it's more convenient for you, try the online pledge form at: <http://fccucc.org/about/pledge-form/>.

Meet Our Newest Church Members

At our service on **November 4** we had the privilege of welcoming eight new members to our church family. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a few things with you about each of them. Please help them to feel welcome.

Georgia Donati

I grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey and attended the University of North Carolina, graduating with a degree in Music (major instrument-Cello) and a graduate degree in Library Information Science. I worked as a reference Librarian in High Point, NC and San Mateo County, CA before I married Robert Donati. In 1969 I came east and stayed! We had 3 daughters, Grace (deceased), Sylvia (in CA) and Ellen (in South Portland). Ellen's a baker at Standard Baking Co.

A member from Stewardship will soon begin making follow up telephone calls to those households from which we have not heard to be sure we understand everyone's intentions.

In gratitude,
Your Stewardship Committee –
*Bill Campbell, Chris Keiter,
Ted O'Meara, Jerry Reynolds,
Jayne Sawtelle, Dan Cummings and
John McCall*

I'm interested in international affairs, politics and community service. I look forward to working on mission projects and rummage sales.

I have roots in Andover, Maine. My grandmother came from there and I have been going there all my life. I have a summer camp on nearby Roxbury Pond.

I moved to South Portland after my husband died in 2011 to be near Ellen and our camp.

Patricia Harmon

I'm Paul and Peggy Murray's mother. I've been a Maine-iac all my life – so far! – living in Cape Elizabeth, Matinicus Island and

(cont. next page)

Meet Our Newest Church Members (cont.)

Patricia Harmon (cont.)

Scarborough. I love sunrises, sunsets, the ocean, Scarborough marsh and trains.

Tim Honey

My family and I first came to Portland in 1977. While we moved around a great deal because of my career in city management and international consulting, we returned to the Portland area in 2007. My wife passed away in 2010. I have a married son, Ryan, in Los Angeles with two beautiful grandchildren. My daughter Kristen, just completed her PhD in marine ecology at Stanford and is now back in Portland.

I love to sail, garden and travel. I have a summer cottage on Long Island in Casco Bay. I am very pleased to be joining the First Congregational Church of South Portland.

Kristen Honey

My roots are in Maine - having grown up in Portland and the small island community of Long Island, Maine - but I've lived much of my past 20 years in Northern California, between San Francisco and Monterey. I'm a scientist by training with a passion for our environment and oceans and have recently finished my PhD at Stanford University. I also have interests in holistic health and mind-body-spirit healing.

I hope to make Portland my home and permanently settle down here.

However, I will likely be "bicoastal" for the next couple of years, as my research takes me back to the west coast for extended periods.

Beyond science, writing and spending time with friends, my favorite hobbies include outdoor activities and anything on or in the water, especially sailing, SCUBA diving, skiing, hiking, yoga, travel and more.

Judy & Walter Kimball

We live in Thornton Heights in South Portland and have a son, Jesse, who lives in Virginia. He attends graduate school in Washington D.C. and is engaged to be married in April.

We come from several faith traditions including Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Congregational, and most recently United Methodist.

Walter grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and is in his 25th year as a professor of education at USM. Judy grew up in South Portland, and works part time at the South Portland Public Library and at the library at Verrill Dana law firm. We are happy to find a home with this loving, serving congregation.

Anne Snyder

For the past thirty years, I've lived with my family in Philadelphia, PA. My husband and I have raised three children, two girls and a boy. They are all married and live with their families in the Boston area.

Teaching is my passion and I enjoyed my high school teaching career. Walking on the beach with my

(cont. next page)

NOVEMBER ALTAR MEMORIALS

The Mission Globe was lighted **November 4** in memory of our mothers **Helen Marguerite Prescott and Jacoba Onos** by Diane and Jerry Onos.

The Thanksgiving Bounty on the altar on **November 18** is provided by the Flower Committee from the church and will be donated afterwards to Youth Ministry who will distribute for the food baskets for the needy.

The flowers on the altar **November 25** are given in loving memory of **Gordon Franklin Adams and Jeffrey Stephen Adams** from Gretchen Seavey Adams, the Cynthia Adams Blanchard family and the Robert Gordon Adams family .



SPIRITUAL LIFE & WORSHIP / YOUTH

PILGRIM LODGE 2013

The tentative summer camp schedule for Pilgrim Lodge is now available. There may be a few minor changes, but it is very close to final. Be sure to check out the new "Best of Both Worlds" camp for middle school youth which starts at Horton Center, our sister camp in the Mountains of New Hampshire, and ends at Pilgrim Lodge.

<http://www.PilgrimLodge.org/schedule>

**A Christian
Family:
Loving,
Welcoming,
Serving**

Meet Our Newest Church Members (cont.)

husband, babysitting my grandchildren and volunteering at the library in the children's room fill my days!

Clinton Snyder

I was born in Boston, Massachusetts and grew up in several suburbs west of Boston. I've been married to Anne, my wife, for 42 years. My

several careers include serving in the U.S. Navy, scientific research in the pharmaceutical industry and running a small business. After spending 30 years in the Philadelphia area, Anne and I moved to Maine. Our children and grandchildren are nearby in Massachusetts.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 – 5:30 PM



ADVENT VESPERS "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

A candlelight service of poetry and music from around the world. Solos, duets, trios, choir, French Horn, sacred dance – all celebrating the coming of Messiah. Come, relax, enjoy. Light refreshments following in Wright Pavilion.

The Kid's Corner Store

To encourage giving this holiday season, there will be a Kids' Quarter Store for children from birth to 12 years old to shop for gifts for their family and friends. All items will be sold for 25 cents each. No one over the age of twelve will be admitted unless accompanied by a child! **The sale takes place on December 2nd at 11:15, after Sunday services in the Laity Room.**

washable items to add to our gift selection. Ideas may include small toys, knick-knacks, jewelry, ornaments, mugs, ties, yarn, sports equipment and books for all ages. Think small and encourage all in your family to donate. Please leave items in Guptill Hall against the wall under the sign. Thanks in advance for all your help.

Sue Ross

I am looking for donations from the congregation for small, gently used,

Thanksgiving Basket Reminder

"Over the river and through the woods . . ." I'm sure we all know the words to this song which celebrates the feast of Thanksgiving. For many people, such feasts are more of a dream than a reality and, unfortunately, the numbers are increasing.

This year we will be providing Thanksgiving baskets to 30 families in our area. **Please remember to share your blessings by bringing your donation of non-perishable food to the church service on Sunday, November 11 & 18th.**

Recommended items include canned vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, bread/rolls, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie filling/crust, beverages and any other items you may traditionally have at your Thanksgiving table.

We will be sorting and packing the baskets after worship at 11:30 on November 18th and would love some extra hands, so please come join us for some joy-filled service! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact thanksgiving@fccucc.org.

Fall Rummage Sale

I want to send a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the fall Rummage/Garage Sale a success. I know personally that we worked hard all week getting it together, but it happened as it always does!! It looked like Macy's store until 5 minutes into the sale!

We had people there at 7:30 and they were backed up the stairs going to the Pavilion. Everyone knows we have a good sale with good low prices. They start calling for the date months in advance, which shows in our total of \$2,791.00. Our budget sure can use the money and I know it's spent well.

Thanks also to our clean up committee. Without you I am not

sure it would have gotten done! Good Will was nice to come and get the left over items. It took me a week to coordinate the plan but it was done and Tom got to wash the floors to make them shiny!

Now we have the Bazaar coming and then a wait until the spring sale. Seems like we are always doing something or another! Start cleaning out for spring!!!

Prudy

rummagesale@fccucc.org



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, November 20 - we will leave the church at **11:00** for lunch at **Anjon's Restaurant**, Scarborough.

Wednesday, November 28 - join us for lunch at **SMCC** at **noon**. The price of \$16 includes tax and gratuity for this four course gourmet meal. Please RSVP by November 20.

Thursday, December 6 - **SAGE meeting at 1:00.**

Wednesday, December 19 from 12:00-2:00 and **Thursday, December 20 from 11:00-1:00** we would welcome help to **give out Christmas gifts** for children of Community Crisis Ministries families. If you might consider this, please call Kathy Sahrbeck at 799-3361, ext. 112.

Monday, December 31 - Meet at **I-Hop** for breakfast at **9:00 a.m.** and celebrate New Year's Eve.

Thursday, January 3 - the first **SAGE meeting** of 2013 will start at **1:00 p.m.** Come with your ideas for new activities in the new year.

MISSION & OUTREACH



FOOD PANTRY

It is that special time of year when we share gifts with others. Our food pantry is in need of replenishing to help the many families in need in our community.

Please share your blessings by picking up a brown paper bag (near Wright Pavilion) on December 1st or 8th and bringing them filled with food items to church on Sunday, December 16th. You can drop off your donation in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

We will be taking the food collected to our food pantry after worship at 11:30 on December 16th and would love some help!

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Anderson: mga@maine.rr.com.

Holly Daze Bazaar 2012

Saturday November 17, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Bazaar chairpersons need your help. The folks listed below would love to hear from you. Always in demand are knitted items, baked goods, (especially smaller pies and loaves, fewer cookies and cupcakes per package are popular.) Donate gift items, books and jewelry. As a reminder, please take a moment to attach this list to your memo board or refrigerator. Together, we can make the Bazaar an outstanding success – again. Thank you.

Trash & Treasure

Scott Berry 767-0236

Grandma's Attic

Prudy Wiggins 799-5705

Food Court

Karen Westerberg 799-1055

Cindy McLaughlin 899-6854

Luncheon

Judy Magnuson 799-3034

Carol Thorne 772-6713

Books

Adam Siulinski 799-0489

Mission Mall

Carol Scheffler 799-5269

Jewelry

Deb Riley 767-3149

Sue Mitchell 767-2063

Kid's Room

Deb Dagnan 749-5045

Knit 'n Purl

Elinor Redmond 767-4198

Candy

Kathy Cotter 799-4808

Fair Fancy

Marilyn Andress 741-5199

Marilyn Mitchell 773-4147

Gifts

Margaret Anderson 799-2846

Barbara Anderson 767-2898

Christmas Room

Barbara Merrill 799-0094

Pat Harmon 883-6535

Greens

Bea Potenzo 883-8287

The luncheon hours: 11 AM – 1 PM

The marvelous menu includes: Yummy haddock chowder, fresh crab & lobster rolls, chicken salad rolls and apple crisp. Prices have remained the same – very low.

The Bazaar is chaired by Janice Files 799-3457, Karen Souza 772-5238, and Lynne Lanctot 799-1785. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.

Mission Mall November 17 2012

This is the Mission Mall's seventh year with the Bazaar. **They will be open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Wright Pavilion.** This is how it works - The Mall showcases several different charities. Shoppers make donations, cash or check, to the charity of choice in the name of a loved one. An attractive gift card is then issued the donor for the recipient. The card contains all necessary information about the charity, ensuring that your loved ones know that these gifts are for the betterment of others.

Honor someone in your life by making a contribution to one of the many fine causes represented in The Mission Mall at The Holly Daze Bazaar.

Community Crisis Ministries Gift Program

The Community Crisis Ministries Gift program is gearing up. **As of November 25 "Ornaments" will be on the wall in the Gallery with wish lists for children.** The lists are suggestions and not "have-to's" as you may purchase whatever you wish for the

child you choose - - just follow the directions near the ornaments. We thank you in advance for your participation. **Gifts are due back to the church before Thursday, December 13.**

Kathy Sahrbeck

IRS Regulations Concerning Contributions

With the end of the calendar year approaching, please plan ahead for gifts that you would like to be tax deductible for 2012.

In general, gifts/pledges must be received by the church office by December 31st in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2012.

However, checks that are written and postmarked in 2012 will be deductible in 2012 even though they may not be received by the church in 2012. Stock transfers must be received in our brokerage account at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney by December 31st. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 2013

(January 6th) will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2012, even if the check is predated to 2012 or was actually written in 2012.

Additionally, please do not file your 2012 tax return until you have a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Per the IRS, your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions. We expect to mail out your 2012 Giving Statements mid-January.

Cyndi Alden
cda@fccucc.org

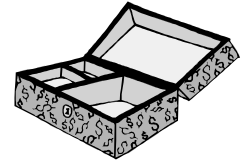
When the Weather Outside is Frightful...

Weekdays:

Check the SMCC storm line (741-5900). If evening classes at the college are cancelled, so are church Teams, committees, or Council. You can also find SMCC cancellations on local TV and radio stations. Each Team or committee is responsible for rescheduling their meeting. Note: this doesn't include choir rehearsals or fellowship groups; these groups have their own contingency plans.

Sundays:

worship service cancellations will be listed on the three local news stations (Channels 6, 8 & 13) as well as on radio 560 - WGAN. We've only canceled worship once in the past 20 years, and would do so only if there's a public safety issue or power outage affecting our building. However, be alert to parking bans during heavy snows and try to avoid parking on Cottage Road.



THE JEWELRY ROOM

The Jewelry Room at the Church Christmas Bazaar is in need of donations this year. We usually have a wonderful selection of beautiful items, but this year our supply of jewelry is in need of replenishing. If you have a chance to sort through your jewelry boxes and would like to donate items, please leave them in the church office or call Debbie Riley 767 - 3149.



APARTMENT FOR RENT

The upstairs apartment on the corner of Sawyer and Cottage is available for rent.

The monthly rent is \$750 and includes heat. Please contact Cyndi @ 799-3361 or cda@fccucc.org if you are interested.

Cyndi

Advent Wreath Making

Yes, it's that time of year already - time to make your Advent wreath for home! Having an Advent wreath at home is a great way to help enhance your Advent celebration. **We'll be making Advent wreaths after worship service in Guptill Hall on December 2 during coffee hour.**

Greens, wreaths, bases, and candles will be available to purchase for a nominal fee. Feel free to bring your own wreath base if you have one. We

The Giving Tree

Make your Christmas season a little brighter, a little fuller, as you bring joy to a resident of the Long creek Youth Development Center (YDC). **Envelopes will be coming to the Giving Tree in the sanctuary on Sunday December 2nd.** Here's how it works:

- * Pick an envelope from the tree for a male or female resident of the YDC.
- * Purchase one or more items from their wish list.
- * Place them in gift bags (not wrapped-- for security reasons).

Christmas Caroling – Saturday, December 15th

The Family Potluck Group will host our annual Christmas Caroling Gathering on **Saturday, December 15th from 4:30-7:30 p.m.** We'll warm up our voices in Wright Pavilion at 4:30 and then bring the Spirit of the season to home bound church members in our community. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share for

look forward to continuing this tradition! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judy Magnuson, 799-3034 or speak with Diane.



- * Attach the original wish list to the gift bag.
- * **Return the gift bags to the foot of the tree by Sunday December 16th.**
- * Enjoy the feeling of bringing a little joy!

Sarah Randall



dinner in Wright Pavilion afterwards.

Feel free to contact Carol Zechman at zechmc@mainehealth.org or 799-1241 with any questions.



HILLTOP GUILD MEETING DECEMBER 13TH 7:00 PM

Shirley Curry will lead us in a Christmas Music sing-a-long. We will also be wrapping gifts that evening. For the past several years, the Guild members have generously donated funds with which we have purchased Christmas presents for a needy family in our community. If you have not already made a donation, you can do so by sending a check payable to "Hilltop Guild" to Marie Jordan, Treasurer, 32 Crestview Drive, South Portland, ME 04106 by November 21st. If you are not on our calling list, please call Joan Dennison (799-3193) by Dec. 9th to let us know you will join us in fellowship, fun, and dessert.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS & CELEBRATIONS

First Congregational Church offers the opportunity for remembrance of loved ones at Christmas. You may purchase a poinsettia as a memorial or to celebrate someone or something special in your life.

Our red or white poinsettias come in six inch pots and have five to eight blossoms. They will decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve worship services. A list of the names for memorial and celebration plants will be included in the order of worship on Christmas Sunday, December 23rd. Print all information on the following form and then mail it in or drop it off at the church office with your check.

✂-----

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

I would like to order _____ white or _____ red poinsettias at \$11 each.

in memory/celebration of: _____

from: _____

* * * * *

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Christmas Eve following the 10 p.m. service.

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) Thursday, December 27th (10 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

_____ I will leave my poinsettia(s) as a gift to be delivered to our shut-ins.

Total amount enclosed: \$_____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____

Please return form and payment by Monday, December 10th to the church office.

Thank you!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

Post Office
Time Sensitive Newsletter

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 – 5:30 PM



ADVENT VESPERS
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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