



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday January 9, 2012**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

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**December 19, 2011**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W**

**3**

**E G & F / Youth**

**3**

**Seniors**

**4**

**Mission & Outreach**

**4-5**

**Administration**

**5**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### December 24 - Christmas Eve

**5:00 p.m.** - Family Service followed by Birthday Party for Jesus.

**7:00 p.m.** - Worship with special music and readings. ASL interpreted for the deaf

**10:00 p.m.** - Service of Lessons and Carols with the Meetinghouse Choir

### December 25 - Christmas Day

*We'll light the Christ Candle*

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with infant and toddler care, and plenty of Christmas carols. Elsa Peters will lead.

### January 1 - New Year's Day

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with communion, infant and toddler care. John McCall will lead.

### January 8 - First Sunday after Epiphany

**8:30 a.m.** - Chapel worship

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir. John McCall will lead. Second semester Sunday school classes begin.



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



### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*For peace and peacemakers; for the end of US military involvement in Iraq; those in the military and their loved ones; for all who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, safety, love; for all who advocate courageously for justice in our economy that should serve all of God's people; for our elected leaders; for those affected by proposed cuts in Health and Human Services funding.*

#### Concerns:

**Charlotte Knapp** after an emergency appendectomy; **Ann Kilgore**, briefly hospitalized; Carolyn Foster and her family following the December 12 funeral for her husband, **Bob Foster** who died December 8; Henrietta Lombard and family following the December 15 funeral for her husband, **Lester Lombard**, who died December 12. **Zak Theriault** following outpatient surgery on his shoulder. **Pam Howard**, director of our Discovery Center preschool, recovering from surgery; **Mark** and **Denise Calkins**, and their sons Sam and Max, rebuilding their lives after losing their home in a late November fire; **Betty Martin**, a member of our choir, at the rehab hospitalized after emergency surgery; **Marti Strunk**, Rory's mother, recently hospitalized with an uncertain prognosis.

#### Celebrations:

**Henry Leeman**, home after weeks of recovery from a heart attack; for the generous outpouring of clothing and toys for our **Children's Closet**.

## So You Think You Know the Christmas Story?

This is the title of Sally Keiter's pageant that appeared again this year in worship on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In this retelling of the story from Gospels of Luke and Matthew, Gabriel says "awesome" instead of "alleluia," a cow interrupts anyone that might be surprised and one of the narrators tries (fruitlessly) to teach the other that there are actually two Christmas stories. There are other highlights. This year, I loved the pounding of shepherds' shoes as they chased Fluffy the Runaway Sheep that drowned. I was endlessly entertained by the wisepeople that had the maps to get to Bethlehem that were *behind* all of the other wisepeople who seemed to have GPS plugged into their palms. And then, there was one incredible solo. I don't want to pick favorites but I will. I loved the wisepeople.

It's not actually for anything that they did in the pageant (though the map issue was pretty awesome). Instead, I am deeply overjoyed that we call them wisepeople.

Last Sunday, before the pageant happened, Sally had to tell me about rehearsal. It had gone really well. She was really glad - but that's not what she actually wanted to talk about. Instead, she wanted to talk about the fact that she overheard some of the kids talking about the story - and they didn't say wise men. They didn't say magi. These kids didn't use any of the language that you or I grew up with. They talked about wisepeople.

I've been overjoyed that our children can see themselves in this story. This isn't a boy part. That isn't a girl part. There is room for everyone in this story. The title of this pageant begs the question of where we each fit. It asks us to rethink our assumptions and wonder where we might fit this year. Because it might be different this year. Last year we may have been comfortable as the star. This year we'd prefer to be wise. Or maybe this year we feel like the donkey who gets to come along anyway (even though she's not actually in the Gospels). Or this maybe the year that the boys are complaining because that Angel Gabriella insists on delivering all the good news. Each year, the story is a little different. We hear different things. We notice different details. It's not because we are wiser, but because we are different. Each year, we come into this story with new experiences and new questions. We need the story to speak to us in a way that it didn't last year. So, we try to listen. We try to hear it again so that we can find out where we fit this year.

*If you have photos of the pageant, please burn them to a CD for the Church Office.*

*Elsa*



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **December 25** in loving memory of **Noble Mallar** by his wife Doris Mallar.

The steeple is lighted the week of **January 1** in loving memory of **Bursley, Mark Alan, Nathan Mark Taylor and Roger Belanger** by Joyce Belanger and family; and in loving memory of **Mabel Martin Ahlsen and Hettie Steeves Martin** by daughter Nancy Ahlsen and Rod Link.

The steeple is lighted the week of **January 8** in memory of **Paul D. Gray** by Beth DeTine and Sarah Gray.

### JANUARY FLOWER AND GLOBE MEMORIALS

The mission globe on the altar is lighted **January 1** by Blair and Charlotte Knapp in loving memory of their parents **Roscoe and Marion Knapp and Charles and Lurlene Mitchum**.

The flowers on the altar **January 8** are given in loving memory of **Paul Gray** by Beth DeTine, Sarah Gray and his uncle Gerald Gray.

## Christmas is on a Sunday!!!!

Join us for worship on December 25 at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Come in your pajamas.**

**Bring your favorite new gift for show and tell. Bring all of those extra Christmas cookies in your kitchen to share in coffee hour.**

## Count Yourself Blessed

As we close the year your Church Council is preparing a budget for 2012. The Stewardship Committee's job is to present the "cost and joy of discipleship" and to be thorough in the follow-up. Have you responded? And have you remembered there are many other ways to support our ministries, by volunteering, pitching in, and reaching out?

In these hard economic times we all face the reality that there are more needs than resources, and that by faith and perseverance we come through.

## Men's Retreat – March 10-11, 2012

The **2012 annual Men's Retreat** will be at the **Beachmere Inn, Ogunquit**, on **Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11**. Hold the date and watch for more information. Estimate cost is about \$100 including three meals and

On Christmas morning, we'll tell the story and sing carols. We'll find the comfort of being together as we celebrate that Christ has come again.

Your church is here for you: if you're feeling the pinch, know our prayers are with you; if you can do a bit more, now is the time.

Pledge cards are in the pews or by calling the church office at 799-3361. If it's more convenient for you try the online pledge form at: <http://fccucc.org/about/2012-pledge-form/>

*Stewardship Committee  
Bill Campbell, Betsy Keiter,  
Ted O'Meara, Jerry Reynolds,  
and John McCall*

over night lodging. There will be plenty of time for conversation, fellowship, and free time. Contact [menretreat@fccucc.org](mailto:menretreat@fccucc.org).

## Youth Ministry Calendar

Save the date for these upcoming events for our youth. Please contact Jerry Reynolds with any questions at [youth@fccucc.org](mailto:youth@fccucc.org).

**Sunday January 22**  
@ 9:15 AM/11:30 AM  
Superbowl Sub Sale

**Sunday January 29**  
@9:15 AM/11:30 AM  
Superbowl Sub Sale

**Saturday February 4**  
@4:30 PM  
Lock in at the church

## The Christmas Fund

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:22-23)

For 109 years, the **Christmas Fund Offering for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** has been a means by which we, as members of the United Church of Christ, live out the mandate to be Christ's Body in the world. The Christmas Fund is a ministry of compassion and care to those who serve our church. Your generous giving to the 2010 Offering enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide

## Christmas Offering

This year we selected **Community Crisis Ministries** and the **Solar Cooker Project** to receive our donations made on Christmas Day. Our own Community Crisis Ministries will focus on providing fuel assistance to our neighbors in need, while the Solar Cooker Project, sponsored by the Jewish World Watch, protects and empowers the women of Darfur. This mission is committed to protecting refugee women and girls from rape and other forms of violence. Women and girls who have fled the genocide in Darfur, Sudan are particularly vulnerable while performing the

## Mission One Update

**Mission One** was hugely successful! At the close of business on Nov. 28, the totals stood thus: 1,438,124 food items collected; 37,443 letters sent to Congress regarding hunger-related concerns; \$119,584 raised for hunger-related ministries; and \$113,271 raised for East Africa famine relief. The totals are expected to climb further as

\$1,504,420 to individuals and families in need. Like the Magi of old, we can honor the Christ Child by bringing gifts that will be used to support and honor those who have served and are serving our beloved church. May we continue to experience the blessings of Emmanuel - the One Who is with us now and always. To make your offering for 2011, use the Christmas Fund pew envelopes or label your donation on the memo line of your check. Undesignated offerings at the Christmas Eve Services are also added. The Mission Team thanks you for your past and present generous support.

critical task of collecting firewood for cooking. For over five years, their mission has been to reduce the frequency of these heinous crimes by providing women in refugee camps with an alternative cooking option: the solar cooker. More information can be found at <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/donate/solar-cooker-project>. To make your offering, use the all purpose envelopes or label your donation on the memo line of your check. The Mission Team thanks you for generous support.

late-reporting congregations send in their efforts. Our own community wrote 128 letters to Congress and Governor LePage, 376 food items donated, and \$582 for Neighbors in Need. THANK YOU!

~Mission & Outreach Team



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Friday, December 30** - join us for **breakfast at I-Hop** at **9:00**.

**Thursday, January 5** - we'd love to have you come to our **SAGE meeting** at **1:00** to plan future activities.

**Wednesday, January 11** - the movie, **Whales of August** will be shown in Davidson Lounge at **1:30**.

**Thursday, January 19** - **Soup Luncheon at noon** in Wright Pavilion. Bring your own place setting and enjoy soups and treats made by the SAGES. Please RSVP by January 13.

**Friday, January 27** - **breakfast at I-Hop** at **9:00**.

**Thursday, February 2** - **SAGE meeting** at **1:00**.

**Wednesday, February 8** - **lunch at SMCC** at **noon**. The price of \$14 includes tax and gratuities. Please RSVP by February 1.

### WHEN THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL...

Check the SMCC storm line (741-5900). If evening classes at the college are cancelled, so is the church team, committee, or Council. You can also find this on local TV and radio stations. Each team or committee will be responsible for rescheduling their meeting.

Starting this year, Worship cancellations will be listed on Channels 6, 8 & 13 as well as on radio 560 – WGAN.

Though this doesn't include choir rehearsals, or fellowship groups, we always trust you to be safe and use your best judgment.

### HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**December 26** - Closed

**December 27 – 30**  
8 a.m. – 12 noon

**January 2** - Closed

Have you contributed to your Maine Conference "Per Capita Contribution" yet? The amount is \$15 per member. Please note "Per Capita" on your check in the memo line.

*Thank you,*  
Cyndi Alden  
cda@fccucc.org

### The Children's Closet

The Children's Closet is in desperate need of winter coats and boots, as well as a gently used winter clothes in sizes 6 months to size 8. We have occasional need for clothes for bigger kids as well.

### Holly Daze Bazaar Funds

Thanks to all of you, the Holly Daze Bazaar needs to disperse \$11,500.00. In order to do this, we need your help. If you are associated with any helpful organization within the church or the community, which could use assistance, please submit a written request to the Bazaar chairs by January 2nd. The request should be mailed to the church in care of the Holly Daze Bazaar or put in our mail

As you replace outgrown items, won't you please consider donating them to the Children's Closet? Every child – and especially their parents – will thank you.

cubby in the church office. The request should state what the funds will be used for. We will be dispersing these funds by mid-January. Once again, thank you for helping us have such a successful bazaar.

*Jan, Karen & Lynn*  
Bazaar Chairs

### 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 2011.

In general, gifts/pledges must be received by the church office by December 31st in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2011.

However, checks that are written and postmarked in 2011 will be deductible in 2011 even though they may not be received by the church in 2011. 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 2012, (January 1st) will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2011, even if the check is predated to 2011 or was actually written in 2011.

Additionally, please do not file your 2011 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 2011 Giving Statements mid-January.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year,

*Cyndi Alden*  
cda@fccucc.org

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