

April 2012



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

Another incredible day of stunning weather is beaconing all and each to come outside. As I sit and ponder such beauty, I wonder about this same time of year, some two thousand years ago, and how the apostles viewed the potential of spring and change. They witnessed Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and knew that their messiah was going to usher in a renaissance. They knew that the air was thick with potential and promise. They knew that the climate of the world would be different forever. They knew so much, but never could they imagine how transformative the next several days would be.

Some centuries later, sitting, staring out the window at the not yet budded trees, I cannot but help ponder how we view the potential and possibilities of the future. Do we see what God sees, or are we too focused upon what we want to see? As the pastor, I see a body of Christ who is becoming more and more accepting of others. I see possibilities of working more closely with each other and with several other denominations in the area. I see a people who have taken responsibility in the community, and now take responsibility to work toward unity in the church. I am impressed with those who share so freely.

This past month, our food pantry graciously and willingly shared food with food pantries that did not put in the hours of work. Without bulking or complaint, we realized that the hundreds of hours to procure food was not about stocking our shelves, but was about helping those most in need. We realized that we were doing God's work for the hungry and not just for the hungry in Conway Village. Hundreds of boxes and hundreds of dollars went to the needy elsewhere because the need was great and the hearts of those in this congregation were so open and giving. Conway Village Congregational Church is forging ahead in Christian love and giving!

This past month, I witnessed the growing communion of faith as we shared in services with other denominations. We celebrated with Baptists, Episcopal and Methodist in an Ash Wednesday Service. The evening brought a word of hope and communion. It was beautiful. In the next few weeks, we will see similar things happen as we host the Madison Church here for a Maundy Thursday Service. Christ Episcopal Church will host a Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 12:00 Noon and the Lutheran Church of the Nativity will host an ecumenical service that same evening at 7:00 PM. On Easter morning, the Madison Church will host us for a sunrise service and breakfast on Silver Lake. Conway Village Congregational Church is taking its place within the greater church -understanding the call to be one Body of Christ.

Yes, spring and warmth is here. Change and growth is coming. It is good to be in this place where we look toward potential and possibility even if we can only get a glimpse of how wonderful it all could be as we live God's will.

Blessings,

Martell

Note from the Secretary

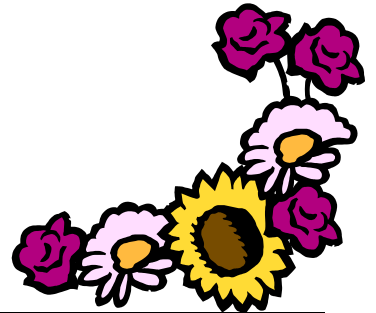
With the arrival of spring, we look forward to brighter skies, blooming flowers and the feel of a lush carpet of green grass under our feet. It brings us new hope each and every day.

We can see the glorious miracles of God everywhere. He is in the tiny buds on our trees, in the delicate flowers as they bloom, in the sparkle of the dew on a blade of grass, in the radiant sunrise and sunset, in the brilliant colors

that surround us and in the fresh crisp air we breathe. In so many ways God is showing us just how much he truly cares.

Publicist

The Cabinet is seeking one person in charge of a person to be the publicist for CVCC. With publicity. You will be our growing events and placing ads in the newspaper, plan posters for happenings at the the events, and help co- church we need to have ordinate the church calendar. We will be discussing this at the Annual Meeting in February. If you have any questions please see a Cabinet member.



Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

PO Box 333 - 132 Main Street
Conway, NH 03818

Phone: 603-447-3851/ Fax: 603-447-3852

Email: info@thebrownchurch.org

Website: www.thebrownchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Martell Spagnolo

Minister of Music: Roger Miklos

Secretary: Bev Shelton

Church Sexton: Sandra Bridges

Deacon for Month of April

Dawn Vitters

April Trustees of the Week

1st— Carl Vitters

8th— Peter Klomp

15th — Carl Vitters

22nd— Ed More

29th—Carl Vitters

Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9-11 and 5:30-7:30 by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call Bev in the church office Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 and 1:00.

Moderator's Moment

Here we are three months into a new year, where is the time going. As I am writing this, I am thinking ahead to this week's Cabinet meeting and all the work we have to do. I am hoping that all the committees have met and selected their chair person. We will be looking at the organization of the church, structure and planning.

I am excited about all the people who are stepping up and offer-

ing to help with all that is happening in the life of the church, but we still need help with different events. When a plea is put out for help, it is to just give a small amount of time whether it is during the day or evening. There is so much that can and needs to be done here at "The Little Brown Church".

Planning for different events is already under way; the Calendar Dinner, Fryeburg Fair, The Holi-

day Fair and The January Suppers. These are important fund raising events for the Church. There are also plans being put formulated for gatherings at the church that would not consist of fund raising, but to have fun and fellowship with one another. There will be more information to come.

To all, thanks for all your efforts to help the church grow in Christian Faith and Fellowship.

ZUMBA PARTY!!!!

Zumba Gold/ Jazzercise classes are held every Tuesday evening in the CVCC Fellowship Hall @ 6-7:00 PM

Open to all; dance experience is not required. This Zumba class has been designed for "mature" individuals, to accommodate their needs.

There is no charge for the classes, but a free will offering, to benefit the CVCC, will be taken.

Come and join in the fun!

Call Nancy Wiggin @ 520-6996 for further information.

ZUMBA!



April 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1 Palm Sunday Sunday Service 10:00 | 2 Diaconate 6:30 | 3 | 4 Food Pick Up | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Easter Sunday Sunday Service 10:00 | 9 Trustee 6:30 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Sunday Service 10:00 Mineral Springs 2:00 | 16 | 17 | 18 Cabinet 7:00 | 19 | 20 | 21 Calendar Dinner |
| 22 Sunday Service 10:00 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Sunday Service 10:00 | 30 | | | | | |

MARCH ATTENDANCE

| Date | Total in Attendance | Weather | Special Day |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 3/4/2012 | 59 | clear/cool | 2nd Sunday of Lent |
| 3/11/2012 | 65 | sunny/cool | 3rd Sunday of Lent |
| 3/18/2012 | 91 | sunny/warm | Laetare Sunday |
| 3/25/2012 | 71 | Rain | 5th Sunday of Lent |



Next month's Newsletter deadline will be on April 25.
 If you have anything to submit please see Bev or email
 your info to bshelton@thebrownchurch.org

From the Diaconate

The Diaconate welcomes our new members: Jean Hamilton and Laura Sorenson.

The Diaconate of the CVCC has been working to offer you a variety of Lenten communion and worship experiences throughout Lent this year, with our focus of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday services this year were held at the Madison Church. Special thanks and appreciation to Rev. Martell for his guidance and support of our Diaconate Agape Feast Sunday services of February 26th! The Diaconate also sponsored a pancake brunch in February in celebration of Fat Tuesday. Thanks to Jill Reynolds for initiating and coordinating this brunch, and thanks to all who supported and attended this event! We hope that you will join us for our Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM at the CVCC on April 5. This year's Good Friday services will be held at the Lutheran Church. Sunrise service on Easter morning will be held on Silver Lake, with a pancake breakfast to follow at the Madison Church, followed by our CVCC Easter service at 10:00

AM.

Your Diaconate is working diligently to coordinate ushers for worship services. We have listening to your requests and have amended some of the responsibilities to make the role more welcoming to you. The major duties of ushers at this time are to pass out bulletins and collect the offering. Deacons are happy to assist you in any way possible, or usher with you. Please see Suzanne Russell to "reserve" your Sunday to usher.

We appreciate all who have volunteered to sponsor or host Coffee Fellowship after Church. This is a joyful time of greeting and visiting with fellow church members and visitors! Please see Nancy Wiggin to sign up.

Organization of the flowers that are in Church is another focus of the Diaconate. You may "sign up" to have flowers in Church on Sunday that have been ordered through the Flower Drum, (as you have done in the past), or you may purchase flowers from other vendors (such as the grocery store, or other florists).

We are hopeful that some of you may share flowers this summer from your gardens. In preparation for Easter, envelopes may be found in the back of the Church to order Easter lilies. Suggested donation this year is \$10.00. Please return your order form and check to Dawn Vitters by April 1, 2012.

In keeping with our mission statement to serve God, our neighbors and each other through worship, fellowship and ministry, the Diaconate and the Outreach Committee have collaborated for the purchase of a new digital camera. CVCC has so much going on within the life and ministry of our Church! We need to share this excitement with others so that they will want to be a part of that excitement. Thus, we hope to begin taking pictures of Church services, events and happenings which will then be uploaded to our website and Face Book pages.

Faithfully yours,
The Diaconate



Trustees

Spring house cleaning has lately been a topic of discussion among the trustees, perhaps due to the early onset of spring weather.

We must pay attention to the up-keep of the church, inside and out and although we have talked of Capital Campaigns and raising significant dollars, this is not the time to begin that process.

However, there are many things that our membership can do to support the things we have been discussing. Such as 1) refinishing the floor in Fellowship Hall and painting the walls as well. There has been discussion about removing the carpet and refinishing the floors in the sanctuary and doing painting as well. It is

important that we pay attention to the up keep and maintenance of our church, both inside and outside.

As we progress through our 'list' of things that will be accomplished this year we will provide you with a progress report and perhaps you will be good enough to offer your time, talent, and treasure to see that these things are completed. It is important that we present a welcoming appearance of our church. Our congregation is growing and as it does we must bring our physical plant into the 21st Century.

Now is the time to concentrate on the interior of our church; soon thereafter, we will attack the outside. First impressions . . . we all know how important that is.

If you have suggestions or if you would be willing to share your thoughts on how we can improve our 'house cleaning' duties please give me a call or share your thoughts with one of the trustees.

Respectfully,

Pete Klomp

Where is God?

Two brothers are terrible trouble makers. They are always breaking things, stealing things, lying, and making all kinds of general trouble. The parents have tried everything to get the boys to change, to no avail. Finally, out of options, they ask their pastor if he can help. He says he will talk to the boys, but only one at a time. The parents drop off the youngest and go home, promising to return to get him soon. The boy sits in a chair across from

the pastor's desk and they just look at each other.

Finally, the Pastor says, "Where is God?"

The boy just sits there and doesn't answer.

The pastor begins to look stern and loudly says, "Where is God?"

The little boy shifts in his seat, but still doesn't answer.

The pastor is starting to get angry at

the boy's refusal to converse and practically shouts "Where is God?"

To the pastor's surprise, the little boy jumps up out of his chair and runs out of the office.

The boy leaves the church and runs all the way home, up the stairs and into his brother's room. He shuts the door and pants, "We're in BIG TROUBLE. God's missing and they think we did it!"

One Sunday in a Midwest city, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour.

The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

April 1, 2012



Outreach

First I want to thank all the Committee members for giving their time and effort to this committee. Next, to all the volunteers who help on the Pantry, your work is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all and God Bless! The Outreach Committee will continue to make the Food Pantry its primary mission this year. We are hoping to apply for another grant to assist with up keep and the future goal is to purchase a walk-in freezer.

We were so blessed with all the food that was donated last year. The Fundraising that was done

helped to keep the Pantry stocked, and again thanks to you all.

As was mentioned, without the volunteers this wonderful outreach mission could not be as successful as we are. As all of you know, we are opened one day a week; Tuesday's 9:00 to 11:00 and 5:30 to 7:30 by appointment. If anyone could give two hours a month to help us out, we could sure use you. Our numbers have increased greatly during the first three months of this year compared to last year and I do not see these numbers decreasing anytime

soon! I know we are all very busy, but it is just two hours, once-a-month! It is such a joy to watch a family leave with tears in their eyes knowing that they have food to put on the table for a few weeks, or an elderly person saying, "God bless you". If anyone would like to help us out and get that warm fuzzy feeling just speak to anyone on the Outreach Committee.

Thank you all,
Sylvia Weld



Food Drive at Shaw's



Conway Elem. Student Counsel donated several boxes of food in March



Kennett Middle School 8th Grade Math students used a lesson on Pi to collect food and money for the Food Pantry.

Outreach in the Prison

Conway Village Congregational Church has been very active in the State's Kairos Prison Ministry these past few months. Did you know that? Are you asking yourself....." what have I done for this Ministry?"

You have been supporting me with your prayers and supporting the Ministry with our annual donation and by supplying a publication to the Berlin Prison called 'Prisoner to Prisoner'. It is a national publication that the inmates scramble to get copies of as it relates to what they are going through while being incarcerated.

Our Church is the northern-most Church in New Hampshire that serves both Berlin and Concord prisons. Do not be surprised when you meet another Christian in this State that has heard of the 'Brown Church' and greets you with the utmost regard. They know how much outreach means to our Congregation.

I have been going into the Berlin prison about every Saturday; and have been blessed with volunteers from as far away as Milford, NH, to make sure the inmates can have a time to pray and share together. If an outside volunteer does not show up on a

Saturday, the prison will not let the inmates gather to sing, pray, and share Christ with each other.

I thank each and every one of you for your prayers as I enter the prisons. This spring I am going to be on a team of 30 volunteers to share God's love with 24 inmates in Concord for 3 days. Please continue with your prayers.

If you would like to become personally involved, please speak with me. The only requirement is that you allow God to work through you! How much better does it get than that?

"when I was in prison you visited me....."
(name that verse)

God Bless.....Curt Reynolds

Easter morn with lilies fair
Fills the church with perfumes rare,
As their clouds of incense rise,
Sweetest offerings to the skies.
Stately lilies pure and white
Flooding darkness with their light,
Bloom and sorrow drifts away,
On this holy hallow'd day.
Easter Lilies bending low
in the golden afterglow,
Bear a message from the sod
To the heavenly towers of God.

-Louise Lewin Matthews



WHY JOIN A BIBLE STUDY?

While some people find reading the Bible on a regular basis, either through inspirational books, calendars or daily devotionals help keep at least a moment of the day focused on the power of God's love, there is great reward from actually studying the Bible. Most Bible study focuses on a specific topic of interest. A study guide is used to help understand historical background of the readings as well as to provide cross references to deepen understanding of the topic and add commentary from biblical scholars. Often in the course of Bible study one can find the teachings challenging. Here is where the group serves as an encouragement by sharing resources, viewpoints and experiences that support the learning process.

In my experience I find the most value in belonging to a Bible study to be the opportunity to think about my life and its meaning in positive and constructive ways, guided by the scholars who write the book, and by the wisdom shared in the wonderful fellowship this provides. There is a sharing of the journey toward deeper understanding of what our relationship with God means that opens our hearts and deepens our commitment to becoming more mindful of God's

perfect love for us, and how that powerful love can influence everything we encounter.

Bible study groups offer a time to grow spiritually, to laugh, to struggle, to share our joys and concerns, to complain sometimes, and to encourage, to imagine, to deepen friendships, to sip coffee and relax and enjoy the company of others who walk this journey with you.

I encourage you to get involved in a Bible study. The Women's Bible Study meets at CVCC on Tuesday mornings @ 9:30AM. All are welcome! We are studying God's Grace right now. If you can't make that time I would be happy to help you start a group at a time that works better for you. Think out of the box! Meet at the church, in a home, daytimes or evenings, before the Sunday service, etc. Just do it!! You'll be so glad!

Susan Klomp



The newsletter will be available for pick up in the back of the church or through email. If you would like your newsletter to be emailed to you, please send your email to bshelton@thebrowchurch.org and I will add you to our email list. We are trying to cut costs and will only mail the newsletter to those who request it through the mail.



Historian's Corner

Children's Sunday - June 13, 1968 at Second Congregational Church

It was June 13, 1968. The Reporter Press was printed that day. Grant's Red and White offered Chuck Steak for 45 cents a pound. Cherries were 39 cents a pound. Minuet French Fries were on sale for 10 cents a box. Pillsbury Brownie Mix were 2 for 59 cents and Instant Sanka was just 69 cents and remember to collect those S&H Green Stamps! Meanwhile, Vacation Bible Schools were starting at the Methodist Church on June 17th as at the White Mountain Chapel. First Communion was held at Our Lady of the Mountains. Viola Sutton and Ruth Schurman of Colebrook were visiting the Dave Schurman's and the Shumway Marshall's. Maurice Frechette was offering Jellison coal. Craig Wiggin, just ten, was pictured with an eleven inch native trout. The Frank Moores celebrated their 50th anniversary with a three tier wedding cake decorated by Mrs. Ellsworth Russell. The annual steak and lobster dinner for the Congo Club was going to be held at the Burnell Camp on Lovewell Pond on the 19th and free admission to Story Land was offered by Ruth and Bob Morrell to residents of Carroll, Coos, Grafton and Belknap Counties for the entire week. New this year was a large train, candy shop

and general store. AND,

"An overflow congregation was present last Sunday in the Second Congregational Church in Conway, which this year was combined with Youth Sunday. The entire service was conducted by pupils of all grades of the church school, under the direction of Mrs. Alden Henderson, Forrest C. Barton and the teachers.

The Youth Choir, led by Miss Gyme Dufault, sang several selections, including "The Children's Jubilee" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Mrs. Roger Burnell was the organist and Mrs. Samuel Ferguson piano accompanist. At the conclusion of the service, the Reverend W. Wallace Downes spoke of Sunday being a national day of mourning, as proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, in honor of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and called for each one to re-appraise the individual's "share of guilt" for having allowed the atmosphere of violence," so evident in our culture today, to be created.

Perfect attendance awards were given to Audrey Goodman, Catherine Gordon, David Sheaff, Russell Webster, Nora Gilpatrick, Merton Sterns, Cheryl Webster, John Young, Timothy Sheaff, Curtis Gordon, Peter Goodman, Mitchell Yeaton, Leann Sheaff and Janyce Young.

Special appreciation gifts in the

form of mustard seed brooch pins were given to the following aids of the primary department: Cathleen Holmes, Lee Kennett, Stephanie Marshall, Katherine McCrillis, Verlene Ohlson, Terry Mason and Althea and Karen Sheaff.

Inscribed personal Bibles were presented to Karen Barton, Nancy Brown, Barbara Cox, Cherly Gordon, Darlene Gray, Beverly Holmes, Cheryl Hutchinson, Jonathan Kennett, Timothy Light, David Sheaff, Lorraine Yeaton, and Harold Smith, all of whom were promoted from the primary department to the third grade.

During the service the following children were baptized by the Reverend Downes: Karen Allin, daughter of Philip T. and Ann Reny Allin; Sara Louise Cox, daughter of Gilbert E. Cox and Beatrice Adams Cox; Jeffrey Currier, son of Robert L. and Gail Thibodeau Currier; and Karen Sue Mason, daughter of Preston H. and Dorothea Chase Mason. David W. Ferguson assisted as acolyte.

At the conclusion of the service all of the children of the primary department received potted petunia plants."

Brain Wiggin,
Church Historian

Conway Village Congregational Church
132 Main Street
P.O. Box 333
Conway, NH 03818

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC April Events

April 1— Palm Sunday
April 2—Diaconate Meeting @ 6:30
April 4—Food Bank Delivery @ 11:00
April 8— Easter Sunday
 Sunrise Service @ Silver Lake
 Pancake Breakfast @ Madison Church
April 9—Trustee Meeting @ 6:30
April 15— One Great Hour of Sharing
April 18— Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00
April 21— Calendar Dinner

April Birthdays

2nd Robert Newton
2nd Sally Baldwin
6th Gail Kinney
8th Kristin Burnell
14th Dana Jones
15th Lewis Busell
18th Jennifer Thibodeau
18th Bayard Kennett
20th Megan Vitters
21st Jean Wilcox
24th Ciarra McLlarky
26th Anne Getchell
30th Suzanne Rancourt

