

August 2012



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

I remember watching the Cary Grant movie, "Room for One More," with my cousin when we were just children. I was quite taken with the line of one of the adopted children when he garnered an award. He said something to the effect of, "I had a head start on most kids; I got to choose my parents." At the time, my cousin, who was one of four ... all adopted ... reminded me that she did not have the option to choose as she was an infant when Joanne and Duane picked her up. I remember at that tender age of five or six thinking how lucky she was. They chose her. Many of us did not have that opportunity.

The reason I am bringing this up is that one of my family, (not by birth,) has come home for hospice care with inoperable cancer. My mother and sister have been up to visit and to do what they can. Having heard them speak, they are feeling loss and grief. This man sat at the 'family table' with a small coterie at my siblings' weddings and my ordination. He, Ron, Tom and Patty had vacationed with us for twenty-five years. We have shared much of the world in his company. He has sent more gifts and cards than most. He is faithful, funny, (although a bit raunchy,) talented and educated. He is demanding and forgiving. And without sharing any DNA, he is family.

What constitutes a family? With all of the political rhetoric about saving a family, I am really wondering how to define this institution. In scripture, 'brothers' and 'sisters' often included cousins and distant relatives. In the Pentateuch, a family was being a member of a tribe ... hundreds of people at a time. Adoption has included outsiders' equal footing with the natural born since the earliest of times. Soldiers in the same platoon and members sharing the military base become "family."

And in the Spagnolo household, Chuck, Ron, Tom, and Patty are just as much family as they would be with the same gene pool. Maybe it would be a better world if we realized how we are related rather than informing others that their loved ones are not. Maybe it would be better for all of us to be more inclusive and less exclusive when bringing others to our hearts and homes. Maybe a family should be defined by the love of its members and little else.

Blessings,

Martell

Moderator's Minute

The cabinet is still hard at work on the reorganization of the church structure. The playground equipment has been taken down and waiting to be hauled off to the dump. There is no fee where it is pressure treated wood. Any help would be appreciated.

As the apples are ripening, the Fryeburg Fair Committee is preparing for this big event. The sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall, so you can start planning your times to volunteer either

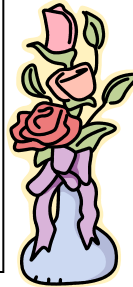
at the church or at the booth. In order to make this a successful event, we need everyone's help. Please make some time in your busy lives for helping.

Thanks to all for what they do for the church.

GOD BLESS,

Paul Weld

Flowers are needed for the month of August. Please contact Marcia Hill @ 356-3190, if you can supply flowers for the service.



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 July

Nancy Wiggin

July Trustees of the Week

5th —Pete Klomp

12th — Carl Vitters

19th — Ed More

26th— 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.

Outreach

The Volunteer luncheon went well. It was very warm in Fellowship Hall, but everyone seems to enjoy the meal and fellowship. Again the Outreach Committee thanks all who help. Without you, we could not do what we do for those who access the Pantry. We gained two more Volunteers to help out. Welcome aboard Cathy and Jane. We will be conducting a Food Drive August 25th at Shaw's. If you can help, let Anne or Sylvia know. Hope all are having a wonderful summer with family and friends.

God Bless to all!
The Outreach Committee

Diaconate

Your Diaconate hopes that you are enjoying the summer, and the many blessings and beauty of God's creation that is all around you.

In the words of NH-born poet William Plumer,
*Thy varied scenes blend grace, my native land!
With grandeur: here the tranquil lake,
And there the roaring torrent, -streams that break,
Impetuous rushing, from thy mountain strand,
With headlong force, that scoops the yielding sand,
And wears down granite, where mountains tower high.....*

We also hope that you will take time out of your busy schedule with family and friends to join us for praise, prayer, and worship on Sunday mornings.

We offer special acknowledgment and thanks to all who have been providing special music, ushering, greeting, and coffee fellowship for all to enjoy this summer!

There are a few remaining vacancies if you would like to participate in any of these areas.

Faithfully yours,
CVCC Diaconate



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

August 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Food Bank Delivery	3	4
5 Sunday Service 10:00	6	7 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday Service 10:00	13	14 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday Service 10:00 1:00 Mineral Springs Service	20	21 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday Service 10:00	27	28 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	29	30	31	

JUNE ATTENDANCE

Date	Total in Attendance	Weather	Special Day
7/1/2012	102	sunny/warm	
7/8/2012	70	sunny/warm	
7/15/2012	42	hot	Hymn sing
7/22/2012	61	sunny	
7/28/2012	61	Cloudy with drizzle	



Coffee Fellowship



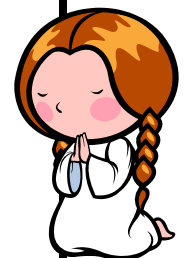
We still need people to sign up for August




 Prayer
 Requests

Laurel Atwood
 Evelyn Behnke
 Gary Cole
 Donna Danielson
 John Eglit
 Helen Garant
 Thomas Garrity
 Scott Hayman
 Anna Hill
 Gerald James and family

Gary and Laura Keim
 Jane Olsen
 Jeanette Savalonis
 Jan Thompson
 Richard Wayman
 Gloria Yeaton
 Melanie and daughter
 Kale Webster and his battalion
 John Edgerton



Compassionate Friends Group

The Compassionate Friends of Mt. Washington Valley, a support group for bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings will hold their annual Balloon Launch and Potluck Supper on Wednesday, August 8th @ 6:30 p.m. This event will be held at the Madison Church on Rt. 113 in Madison, NH and is open to everyone who would like to participate. One of the most important parts of the grieving process is to be able to remember, talk about, and participate in rituals in order to keep the memories of those children who have died, alive within us. Our group meets the 2nd

Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is open to all parents, grandparents and siblings grieving the loss of a child, regardless of where you are at in your grief process. Grief has no set rules or time limits. There is no greater tragedy for a parent than the death of a child. Those of us who have been there are able to share understanding, compassion, and hope with each other when others don't understand. Time does not take away the pain, but helps us to learn how to manage it in our daily lives.

Information can be found on the National TCF website: <http://www.compassionatefriends.org/> and also our local website: <http://www.tcfofmtwashingtonvalley.weebly.com/>.
Contacts: Jackie Hayes 603-960-0198 or Joyce Elliott 603-367-9059.

Home Video Available

Brackston Henchey has graciously donated a four hour set of VCR tapes of the PBS Home Video, "From Jesus to Christ—The First Christians."

Frontline tells the real story of the rise of Christianity, challenging and upsetting conventional ideas. It is not a story of the golden age of consensus, but a story of people in conflict—wrestling with Judaism, con-

fronting the authority of the Empire and struggling among themselves to understand Jesus' message about the coming of God.

This video set is available to be checked out in the church library.



Historian's Corner

A SALUTE TO ALICE GRINDLE

Our third longest church member died recently in a nursing facility in southern Florida. Alice Grindle was a great woman of faith who contributed immeasurably to our Brown Church.

Alice married businessman Ralph Grindle during World War II days. Ralph's mother was a long-time member of our church and a friend of many. Mrs. Grindle (Ona) was a pillar of the Ladies Social Circle and was a friend of Effie Smith - an aunt who brought up my mother. The two had attended the Redstone Church as children - which was under the auspices of the North Conway Church. Ralph continued in the Congregational tradition and so did Alice. Many will remember that Ralph and Alice owned the Western Auto which stood at the "Four Corners" - which was beside the Conway Cafe - now Obama Headquarters. The store was huge by Conway standards. Whether you wanted tools, paint, wallpaper or a new bike, that is where you went to in the 1950's and 1960's. The building once was

the Conway Opera House back in the 1800's and it had been moved from a Washington Street location beyond the original liquor store.

Alice and Ralph raised two children - Peter and Susan. Both children were very personable and were loyal Sunday School students. Peter was frequently an acolyte. Peter married and had two girls but died at a young age. Susan married a local musical talent, Paul Sanborn, and moved south - all the way to Alton and had children too. Susan, with her fiery red hair, could not be missed. A group of her friends sang in the Chancel Choir while they were in high school. They loved doing things to make my mother laugh and jump - like putting a tack in her chair during Sunday Services. She'd jump and they'd laugh. She obviously couldn't get after them during services and they knew it.

Ralph and Alice were pillars of the Church. Ralph joined the Men's Group, spearheaded by George T. Davidson. Alice was a founding member of Litahni and appeared in many of its plays (including The Hat Pageant of 1946) and fundraisers. The Grindles were also leaders

of the Congo Club - a club established for couples of the Congo Church. They were both Sunday School teachers. Mr. Grindle taught fourth grade boys and Alice taught fourth grade girls. Classes were frequently gender separated then! The Grindles were also deacons - husbands and wives of long standing was the criteria then. Ralph was for many years the moderator of the Church. Alice was a fantastic cook and many of her recipes appear in the Church Centennial Cookbook.

We shall remember Alice fondly. her warm ingratiating smile masked a businesswoman's acumen. Nothing escaped Alice's eye and she possessed a great sense of humor. Alice formed many friendships and was one of the rare few who never had an enemy. We salute you, Alice Grindle and remember all of your good deeds.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian P. Wiggin

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@thebrownchurch.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.

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

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC August Events

Aug. 6—Diaconate Meeting @6:30pm

Aug. 13—Trustee Meeting @ 6:30pm

Aug.21—Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00pm

Every Tuesday – Food Pantry open 9:00am-11:00 & 5:30-7:30pm

Ladies Bible Study @9:30

Zumba @6:00pm

August Birthdays

2nd Celia Heller
4th Nancy Bryant
4th Marc Olson
5th Loren Davis
6th Garrett Moore
7th Bob Howe
14th Mariah Wilcox
17th Gail Peterson
18th Cynthia Saxby
19th Deb Knapp
20th Edwin More
25th Elwood McLlarky, Sr.
27th Cheryl Cole
28th Ralph Wiggin

