

December 2012



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

Another Christmas shopping season is upon us, and the traffic on the strip seems to indicate that the economy is not as bad as my empty wallet shows. It brings me back to the days of my childhood when this season was filled with creating gifts made mostly of love and labor. It reminds me of a household of children, who feverishly sawed, glued, and painted gifts that are still in use today. Chairs were refinished, reupholstered, bookcases were built, pillows were embroidered, and even the stockings that hung by the chimney with care were hand knitted. Money was spent, but not much.

My mother was a believer in modest gift giving. All of her children would receive three gifts each Christmas. Her logic was, "If Jesus only received three, why should anyone else receive more?" Although we did not get gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we got something practical (clothing,) something fun (game or sports equipment,) and something to treasure (tie pin or wristwatch.) Much of the shopping energy went into creating and or sharing.

Our family was big on the church giving tree and visiting nursing homes. One of my fondest memories was when my youngest brother got his first adult (out of college) job. He took his paycheck and spent it all on a family with a single mother and three boys. The only reason I knew about it was that Matthew needed help lifting the large TV into the family's house. I was sworn to secrecy about the truck full of sports equipment that made it through the family's front door. His logic was that our family did not need much, but other families did.

So, as I take my drive down the strip, I wonder how many of us really need to purchase that extra sweater or diamond pendant. I wonder how our Advent would look if we baked Christmas cookies for the aged widower who lives alone. I wonder if we spent the time teaching our children and grandchildren how to knit, quilt, or crochet, if that would become a fonder memory than receiving a gift card or video game. I wonder how much better it would be if our nursing home parking lot were as full as Settler's Green. I wonder what Advent would look like if we really had the Christmas spirit.

Enjoy the season as it was meant to be ... with love and generosity of heart.

Blessings,

Martell

Moderator's Note

We are entering one of the most exciting times of the Church year; the Advent season. The festive decorations will adorn the sanctuary and other areas of the church. While all this is happening, we need to remember what this season is all about. It is not about the giving or receiving of gifts, but the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

This is also the time that the church begins to prepare for the annual meeting. All the

committees are preparing their annual reports and the annual budget. I want to remind everyone of the SPECIAL MEETING on Sunday December 2, 2012. The Trustees will present the 2013 budget to the congregation providing all the information needed as you make your decision on what you will pledge to support the Church financially.

We are blessed to live in such a generous community. It is remarkable how it has stepped up again this year in support

of our Food Pantry. I want to thank everyone here at "The Brown Church" and those from the community at large who help with the distribution, stocking of the shelves, and picking up of food in Osippee.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

GOD BLESS

Paul Weld



Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Website: www.thebrownchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Martell Spagnolo

Minister of Music: Roger Miklos

Secretary: Bev Shelton

Church Sexton: Sandra Bridges

Deacon for Month December

Jill Reynolds

December Trustees of the Week

Dec. 2— Carl Vitters

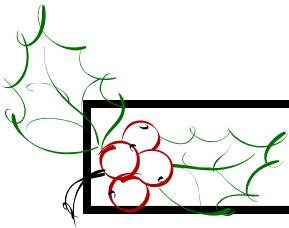
Dec. 9— Peter Klomp

Dec. 16— Carl Vitters

Dec. 23— Ed More

Dec. 30—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.



Diaconate

The Diaconate has been working diligently with Martell with preparations for this Advent season. We hope that you will be able to join us for worship, praise, prayer, and celebration of the Advent season during our Sunday morning worship services. We also invite you to our Christmas Eve services- our Family Service will be celebrated at 6:00PM, and our Candlelight Service begins at 10:00PM. Again this year, we will gather together to worship on Christmas morning at 10:00AM.

We continue to have the new Bibles available for your purchase. This New Revised Standard Version will make the perfect gift for everyone on your gift list this

year! Remember to purchase one for yourself as well, and to bring it with you every Sunday to worship.

Please look for the order form in this newsletter, and in the Sunday bulletin to order your holiday poinsettia plants for church.

As noted every month in this newsletter, we continue to thank those who have ordered flowers for Sunday worship services, as well as those who have ushered and/or served Coffee Fellowship. Our church depends on your involvement, and participation to continue with these aspects of worship and fellowship. Please see Marcia Hill (for flowers),

Suzanne Rancourt (for ushers), and Nancy Wiggin (for coffee fellowship).

A reminder for all: we continue to utilize the prayer cards for placing someone on our Prayer list; please find cards in the pews to complete and place in the offertory plate. This card will place a person on the prayer list for a month. We appreciate you calling Bev to notify her that someone may be removed from the prayer request list as well, to ensure accuracy and appropriateness for Prayer list inclusion.

Wishing you all peace and the most joyous of holiday blessings,

The Diaconate

Women's Bible Study Group

The CVCC WBSG is seriously considering a new name!! Any and all ideas will be graciously accepted!

We have sunken our teeth into the wonderful, yet challenging book of **Romans** beginning early this month. There is ample opportunity to practice our study skills and to explore the insights each person is finding as we meet this challenge. We are blessed with this time together, and we welcome new members to join us on this journey into God's word. We are taking a little holiday break

this first week of December for a cocoa clatch and cookie swap to celebrate the success of our team efforts at the Holiday Fair and to welcome in the festivities of Christmas. At this time we will be planning our next project to begin in January and perhaps a winter adventure.

We meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30AM to around 11:30AM. Coffee and tasty morsels are served. For info about joining us ask any one of us at Coffee on Sunday, or call Susan at 367-4330.

Next month's Newsletter deadline will be Dec. 28. If you have anything to submit please see Bev or email your info to bshelton@thebrownchurch.org



December 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Sunday Service 10:00	3	4 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00 Applebee's Night Food Pantry 4:00	5	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:00	8
9 Sunday Service 10:00	10	11 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	12	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00	15
16 Sunday Service 10:00 1:00 Mineral Springs Service	17	18 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Zumba Class 6:00	19	20	21 Men's Breakfast 8:00	22
23 Sunday Service 10:00	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:00 & 10:00	25 Christmas Service @ 10:00	26	27	28 Men's Breakfast 8:00	29
30 Sunday Service 10:00	31					















NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Date	Total in Attendance	Weather	Special Day
11/4/2012	64	cool	
11/11/2012	67	cloudy/cool	Veteran's Day
11/18/2012	65	sunny	
11/25/2012	54	Sunny/cold	Sunday after Thanksgiving



Coffee Fellowship

- 
Dec. 2—Faye Bemis, Suzanne Rancourt

- 
Dec. 9—Louise Saxby and Gwen Small

- 
Dec. 16—Cathy Hunter

- 
Dec. 23— Susan and Peter Klomp

- 
Dec. 30— Rev. Martell




There are openings to be filled for Coffee Hour. See Nancy Wigin or sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Donna Danielson
 John Eglit
 Thomas Garrity
 Gary and Laura Keim
 Melanie and daughter
 Kale Webster & his battalion
 Ward Young
 Dorothy Warren
 Helen Hutchins
 Maria Garrity



Monday's Ministry

Hundreds of people venture through the doors of the Conway Village Congregational Church each month, seeking to be fed at the Dinner Bell Program. Some arrive with such burdened hearts, weary with anxiety. Others bound in with joy, ready to share some piece of good news. Still others come in, simply hungry for whatever is on the menu.

This church has a wonderful opportunity to serve guests more than "daily bread". With this in mind, the sanctuary will be available every Monday evening from 5:45pm until 6:30pm for these people

and anyone else, to sit down, relax and enjoy God's presence. Bibles will be in the pews for reading and reflection. Several people will be available to pray with those who desire this interaction. There will also be prayer request forms for special intentions.

Consider joining this ministry on Monday nights. You will be blessed.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

TO: All Members and Friends of The Conway Village Congregational Church

A Special Meeting of the Membership of The Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at approximately 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of The Conway Village Congregational Church after worship.

The purpose of this Special Meeting will be:

Trustees to present and discuss the proposed 2013 budget.

To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated in Conway, New Hampshire, October 28, 2012.

Anne Getchell

Clerk

Outreach Committee

This note was sent to the Food Pantry:

To ALL the good people at the Brown Church Food Pantry

My wife and I want you to know how thankful we are to be recipients of your generosity.

In this economy and being strictly reliant on Social Security, we like so many others, have to calculate how every penny is spent and, like many others, never thought they would be in the position of having to accept donations from a food pantry.

We just wanted you **ALL** to know how much we do appreciate the food and your willingness to volunteer your time each month.

Bless you all!



Historian's Corner

A Tribute to Charlotte Altenbern

In this time of thanksgiving, we can indeed be thankful for Charlotte Altenbern. She has raised a family in Conway, been "instrumental" in musical events long before we were called "The Valley," and she has been a fixture at the Brown Church for decades.

Born in Haverhill, Charlotte was the second of four children born to Edward and Louise Janes. She had an older brother, Allyn, and two younger sisters, Elizabeth "Libby," and Virginia. Elizabeth would later become a member of our church. For years a schoolteacher, you may have known her as Elizabeth Newton Cosby. Virginia was the most musical of all and sadly she died at age twenty-six after repeated seizures. When Charlotte was just fourteen, her mother died. Louise played both violin and piano, and Charlotte always wished that she had been able to share their love of music.

Charlotte first learned to play the piano at the age of six. Her mother's sister, Elsie, was her first instructor. A graduate of Woodsville High, Charlotte was also a graduate of the University of New Hampshire where she majored in secretarial studies. At UNH, Charlotte took piano lessons for two years and had a recital there. Her most influential instructors were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gage of Woodsville. The Woodsville Universalist Church figures prominently in this narrative. Charlotte's family lived right across the road from the church. One Sunday, when Miss Janes was about sixteen, the organist was away and Charlotte was asked to fill in. The pastor and his son were to do a duet. They started singing and young Charlotte played in the wrong key. She was most shy then

and cried the rest of the day. Around that time, during the Hurricane of '38, the steeple blew off the church.

A wonderfully positive thing happened at the Woodsville Church, however. The very next minister was a Mr. Altenbern from Kansas. He had a son named Tom, but Tom was attending a junior college in Kansas. Their parents always said that the two would have to get together because they would be so fond of each other. Naturally Tom and Charlotte hated each other because of the scheming of the parents. Tom and Charlotte met in 1939 and it was, despite this, love at first sight. Furthermore, Tom's brother Bob, was in Charlotte's class at UNH. Tom was in the Army while Charlotte was attending college. While he was stationed in Georgia, the two got married there. Married for just a few months, Tom was sent overseas to Europe and then the Pacific Theatre. Although married, Charlotte was very lonely even with family around in Conway. Such was the plight of so many young women at this time!

What prompted the Conway move? Mr. Janes had been the Superintendent of the Woodsville School District. He accepted a teaching offer at Kennett High in the Science Department. Mr. Janes became a prominent member of Second Congregational Church and became its treasurer for several years. Charlotte was a senior in Durham when this transpired and so she moved to Conway after graduation.

After the war, the Altenberns would have four children: Richard, David, Charlie, and Mary. Mary was named for her grandfather's oldest sister, who was like a grandmother to Charlotte and her siblings. The four all attended Sunday School, were prominent in the youth groups, and the

boys all served as acolytes. Tom was a tenor in the Chancel Choir. Charlotte served as the organist frequently during the Golden White years. From 1963-1969, she was organist not only at our church, but for three of those years was also organist in Madison! She estimates that she has substituted in nineteen local churches. She was the organist at the Madison Baptist Church for three decades. She served as accompanist for two decades for Frank Petillo's Eastern Slope Choral Society and later for the Mount Washington Choral Society. She was a fixture also at Kennett High School music festivals and holiday concerts for years and was especially close to the late Jean Fickett. When Charlotte retired from that, she was rather at loose ends. It was June Wiggin who suggested that she play as a duet with Petrina Paoletti at the church's Christmas Concert. Petrina called her up that day and the two became fast friends. "The atmosphere of those concerts and playing along with Petrina was the highlight of my musical life." The concerts were televised, the sanctuary was overflowing and it indeed became a Valley tradition.

Yes, Charlotte has been a "noteworthy" member of our community and we thank her for all of the precious moments she has given us!

Sincerely,

Brian P. Wiggin

Kairos Prison Ministry

As most of you know, I go into the State Prison in Berlin most Saturday mornings for a couple of hours to facilitate a prayer and share time for the inmates. The Department of Corrections will not allow this time of prayer unless there is a volunteer from the outside representing Kairos. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to serve in this role. I also feel blessed to have my wife, Jill, join me several times throughout the year. We sing, share, and pray together. It is always such a rewarding time for me listening to the residents share; I get so much out of this sharing.

I would like to share with everyone an example of what these couple of

hours are like.

A few Saturdays ago, we had an inmate attend that wanted to share with the group a joy in his life. He stood at the podium and thanked God for where he was! He understood that God put him into this prison for a reason and that he only needed to follow Jesus' light. He admitted that he would not be alive now had it not been for him being sent to prison. He was pulled out of the life he was living to take a 'time out' with God and really see where he was going.

This talk was followed up by each inmate coming up to the podium on their own and sharing how God has

blessed them by being in prison.

I could only think to myself how blessed I was with having a such caring and loving family when I was growing up, having such a caring and loving family now, and having such a caring and loving Church family that I now enjoy.

And I pray that I will never take these for granted!

Thank you for your prayers while I am "visiting Jesus when He was in prison". It is such a great outreach from our Church.

Curt Reynolds



CVCC Food Panty Dining To

Donate:

Enjoy a delicious meal that is filling...and fulfilling. Come to Applebee's in North Conway to help raise money for the Food Pantry. From 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday Dec. 4, 15% percent of all purchases accompanied by this coupon "Dining to Donate" will be donated to the Food Panty. Cut out the coupon and present it with your order for the CVCC Food Pantry to receive credit for your meal. You may also print copies for your friends and family.

Applebee's Dining to Donate

Enjoy a meal that's filling – and fulfilling.

Dine at Applebee's® and **15%** of your bill will be donated to **CVCC Food Pantry**

Present this flyer to your server on **Dec. 4, 2012 4:00 to close** at **North Conway**

You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted.

Applebee's COMMUNITY connections

applebees.com
©2005 Applebee's International, Inc. Donation percentage excludes tax, tip and alcohol sales. Valid at participating restaurants during specified hours. Must present flyer in order for organization to receive credit for purchase. Flyers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking lot.



Trustee Report

Thank you for the many commitments you have already made to our Conway Village Congregational Church and for the one you will be making by accepting and returning your pledge card. Your pledge and contributions enable our church to continue the mission of spreading the good news of God's saving grace and Love, and it will also enable the officers of the church to better plan and budget the church's finances. When you review your pledge card, please keep in mind the many ministries you will be supporting. To name just a few:

- **A wonderful music, praise and worship program will benefit from your continued support**
- **A growing children's program**
- **Men and women's Bible studies to grow spiritually and strengthen the bonds of fellowship throughout the church and community**
- **Our local outreach, through the food pantry and Dinner Bell will continue to help members of our community in a tangible way with your continued support**
- **Many behind the scenes ministries serving the sick and needy, supporting those who need uplifting and en-**

couragement through prayer and visitations

The month of December is the annual Pledge Campaign, where we the parishioners of The Conway Congregational Church indicate the expected level of our financial support for 2013. We do this by praying, giving thanks for all we have and considering our own commitment to the Brown Church; determining the financial giving we hope to make in 2013; indicating it on a pledge card; and returning the pledge card to church on December 16.

The Pledge Campaign will conclude at the end of the year but we ask you to bring them to the service on Sunday, December 16 when all the pledges will be received. We are looking forward to an exciting Pledge Campaign; we hope you are too.

Many churches are struggling because they have large facilities and fewer members. Some churches have had to cut their mission giving by as much as 90%. We have stayed true to our commitment to outreach. We should celebrate that. Last year we began encouraging everyone to look at our giving to the church so that we can keep this amazing community of faith going...and going in the way that most fits our needs.

Please begin thinking prayerfully, progressively, and proportionally about your giving. In the current uncertainty of our financial times, you may have pause about declaring a pledge, but we would encourage you by writing that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, this is my church family and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges me to live beyond the voice of culture to the freer life of faith.

Our budget totals \$167,500 for the year 2013. Of that number, \$60,000 is the pledge goal; \$20,000 from our trust fund; \$11,000 from the general building fund and \$60,000 from the various fundraising events held during the year.

You are a congregation of generous people. May you give generously of your time, talent and treasure to the church's ministry and mission this year. As you give, may you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence this church is to each of us personally and to our community.

Thanks be to God,
The Trustees



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

A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves surrounds the text.

CVCC 2012 Poinsettia Orders

Please complete the following order slip if you wish to place a poinsettia plant in church this year for the holidays.

The suggested donation for each plant is \$10.00. Orders must be received by 12/9/12.

You may place your check in the offertory plate on Sunday, or you may drop it off at the church office weekdays between 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Please make your checks out to the CVCC, and note on the check that it is for the holiday poinsettias.

Also, please note that plants this year must remain in the church sanctuary until after the Christmas day (12/25) worship service (to be held at 10:00 AM).

(Please print legibly)

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Plant(s) in memory of: _____

Plant in honor of: _____



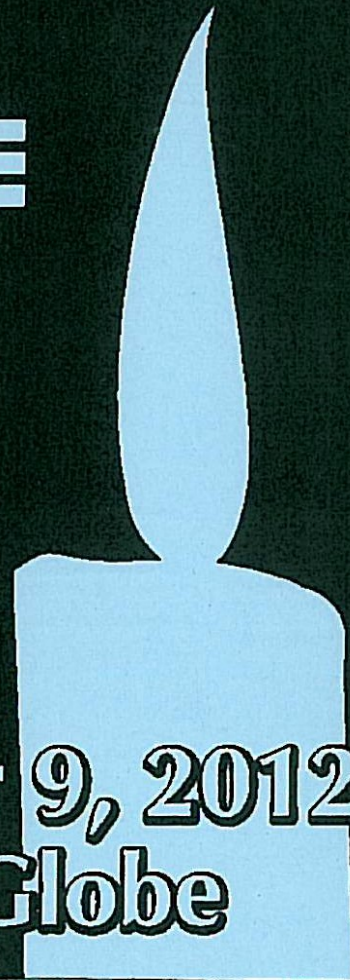
THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

Worldwide Candle Lighting®

*... that their light
may always shine.*

Sunday, December 9, 2012
7 PM Around the Globe



The Compassionate Friends of Mt. Washington Valley

Madison Baptist Church

Rt 113 Madison/Conway Road

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

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC December Events

- Dec.4— Dining at Applebee's to benefit the Food Pantry 4:00pm to close.
- Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Services
Family Service @ 6:00pm
Night Service @ 10:00pm
- Dec. 25—Christmas Day
Service @ 10:00

December Birthdays

- 2nd Carolyn Busell
3rd Lori Jardine
7th Mary Henn
22nd Evelyn Behnke
23rd Ellen Farrington
29th Jennie Buckley
29th Errol Wiggin
30th Prudy Shackford

