

Jan. 2012



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

People in all cultures and at all times had a time that was designated for rebirth and change. Sometimes it was in the spring and sometimes it was in the dead of winter, but whether cold or not, there is a human need to have hope in a future defined by some determined time change. In America, we have a big lit ball descend at midnight in Times Square in NYC. The church's New Year happened at the beginning of advent with the lighting of the wreath, and for many companies, the fiscal year starts often in July. It is a start of another year, and once again we are full of hope. Is it not funny that with a change in one digit, there can be a grand sense of change? 2011 becomes 2012 and *everything* is different.

Here at Conway Village Congregational Church, much will also stay the same. There will be friendly people to meet you at the door. There will be worship that shares the Word and the rafters will be filled with joy filled singing. There will be an outreach to the most in need among us. There will be community meals, children's ministry, pot luck suppers, coffee fellowship and dozens of other activities that will draw you into fellowship and honor your gifts and talents. This is a church alive with hope in the future because it has a faithful tie to the past. This is a church filled with spirit which allows us to springboard into the present due to, in part, a rich history.

That being said, I would like all of you to do me a favor. I am currently compiling a brief history of this remarkable place and I would like the bulk of the information to come from anecdotes of your time at the brown church. Would you please write or type your personal story of humor or inspiration and send it back to me either through the email that brought this to you or the mail that Mr. Postman delivers despite wind, rain, snow or hail. Naydene Drew has started by sharing a story of Pastor Morehouse's technique in getting the children in Sunday school memorize scripture. (I wonder if his educational methodology would work today.) I intend on writing about being coerced into playing Santa Claus for a Bernhardt party or how one Miss Vitters won herself a Wii but gave my prize away. The stories could be how you were touched, moved, or made to laugh. Let's have some fun with this!

Thank you for obliging me in this endeavor and have a blessed 2012!

In Christ,
Martell

Note from the Secretary

It is hard to believe how quickly the year 2011 has passed. I have been blessed to be a part of this church family and praise God for leading me into this community of faith. I look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming year and the activities of the church as

it stands as a beacon in the community.

“Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace

it with some pleasant memories. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look ten years younger. Don't be afraid to say, 'I love you'. Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world.” (Ann Landers)

Publicist

The Cabinet is seeking a person to be the publicist for CVCC. With our growing events and happenings at the church we need to have

one person in charge of publicity. You will be placing ads in the newspaper, plan posters for the events, and help coordinate the church cal-

endar. 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 January

Nancy Wiggins

November Trustees of the Week

1st—Curtis Reynolds

8th—Carl Vitters

15th—John Edgerton

22nd—Peter Klomp

29th—Curtis Reynolds

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

A very busy time of year is winding down at "The Little Brown Church". What a wonderful Christmas Season we have experienced; the colorful decorations in the Sanctuary with the Crèche scene on the alter, the beautifully decorated tree, and the colorful Poinsettias. Sharing in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services with so many friends and visitors was very exciting. It was nice to see so many people enjoying this special time.

The life of the church continues to stay busy. We are fast approaching the time for the annual meeting on Feb.5th. Which brings to mind, that all Committee Chairs should be completing their reports to turn in to Bev by Jan. 20th. She will be working on the annual report so it will be

available before the meeting.

The January Suppers will begin on Jan.7th with guest chefs preparing the dinners for the first two weeks. People have been stepping forward to volunteer to help with clean up and serving. It is nice to see this happening. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the suppers.

In closing, I would like to thank Martell for teaching us the true meaning of Christmas. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas .

God Bless!

Paul Weld Moderator

From the Deacon's Bench

The Diaconate would like to start a Lay Ministry Outreach program at CVCC. You may ask what a Lay Ministry program is well, in its simplest definition; lay ministry is the work of those who are not professional clergy. Some see it as a responsibility to serve in the faith community; others see it as the intersection of faith and life; still others see it as the ministry of the people of God through the everyday lives they

live.

We all as members have traditionally served in a variety of ways—as members of governing boards and committees, ushering, preparing worship space, instructing children in Sunday School, and supporting programs for those in need.

But lay people are sharing responsibility for ministry more customarily associated with clergy: pastoral care and visit-

ing, and leading worship.

If you would like to be part of the Lay Ministry Outreach program please contacted the church office or see Jill Reynolds. Further information will be given at a later date.



Outreach News

We have had a very busy few weeks, after the article came out in the Sun on how Food Pantries are struggling. We have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of the communities' help, from both the local supermarkets to private individuals. It certainly has been a blessing. Our pantry is bursting at the seams as the saying goes.

Our numbers are already increasing; on Dec. 20th, we had 20 people signed up for help. We have been blessed with volunteers who distribute the food as well as complete the shopping! For this the Committee say a BIG Thank you to all of you.

At this time several upgrades have been completed in the

pantry with some more upgrades to come.

To all have a very Happy 2012.

The Outreach Committee



The Starfish

Based on the story by Loren Easley...

I awoke early, as I often did, just before sunrise to walk by the ocean's edge and greet the new day. As I moved through the misty dawn, I focused on a faint, far away motion. I saw a youth, bending and reaching and flailing arms, dancing on the beach, no doubt in celebration of the perfect day soon to begin.

As I approached, I sadly realized that the youth was not dancing to the bay, but rather bending to sift through the debris left by the night's tide, stopping now and then to pick up a starfish and then standing, to heave it back into the sea. I asked the youth the purpose of the effort. "The tide has washed the starfish onto the beach and they cannot return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun rises, they will die, unless I throw them back to the sea."

As the youth explained, I surveyed the vast expanse of beach, stretching in both directions beyond my sight. Starfish littered the shore in numbers beyond calculation. The hopelessness of the youth's plan became clear to me and I countered, "But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference."

The youth paused briefly to consider my words, bent to pick up a starfish and threw it as far as possible. Turning to me he simply said, "I made a difference to that one."

I left the boy and went home, deep in thought of what the boy had said. I returned to the beach and spent the rest of the day helping the boy throw starfish in to the sea.

Holiday Fair 2012

It is hard to believe that it is time already to start looking at 2012 Holiday Fair. One of the major goals of the fair is having fun and fellowship while working together for the betterment of the church. The Holiday Fair is one of the major fund raisers for the church, next year's goal is to raise \$5,000, in that spirit we want to focus on the collaborative efforts of all tables toward those goals. In recognition of our limited space, and high demand for booth space, we will this year be promoting an early "sign up" for the table space early on so that we can appropriately plan and organize the new design for the Holiday Fair. There will a meeting on March 7, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the conference room downstairs to discuss a time line for next year and to accept requests for table space. Please see the following request/application for table space.

Guidelines for hosting a table:

- You must have completed the request/application form and returned it to Dawn or Nancy by March 7, 2012.
- The person requesting the table is responsible for ensuring that the booth has a person(s) "covering" it for all hours and all days of the fair operation; without exceptions.
- Please consider covering your table with no more than 2- with the "extra's" being listed as available for other table/booth coverage.
- It is to be remembered that this is a church wide event and not individual tables to see who can make the most money.

Request/Application

Name _____

Items to sell or craft

Would you be willing to have other craft items that other members have made on your table?

Yes or No

In the interest of involving the most people, we will only be able to designate one table per request.

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Service 10:00	2	3	4	5	6	7 Supper 5:00-7:00 Roast Pork
8 Sunday Service 10:00	9 Diaconate 6:30 Trustee 6:30	10	11 Outreach 6:00	12	13	14 Supper 5:00-7:00 Roast Beef
15 Sunday Service 10:00 Mineral Springs 2:00	16	17 Cabinet 7:00	18	19	20	21 Supper 5:00-7:00 Roast Tur- key
22 Sunday Service 10:00	23	24	25	26	27	28 Supper 5:00-7:00 Smorgas- bord
29 Sunday Service 10:00 Dorothy Vit- ter's Memorial Service 2:00	30	31				

Famous Congregationalists and UCC Members

You will be truly amazed at the sampling of famous individuals of our faith both past and present. Here goes:

Presidents: Franklin Pierce and Jane Pierce (South Congregational of Concord, NH); President and Mrs. Coolidge; President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland (while in Tamworth, NH); President and Mrs. George Herbert Walker Bush (when in Kennebunkport); President and Mrs. Barack Obama (until the Jeremiah Wright incident)

Vice Presidents: Adams, Coolidge, Henry Wilson (from NH under Grant); Hubert Humphrey (under LBJ)

Senators (partial list past and present): Judd Gregg of NH; Norris Cotton (NH); Styles Bridges (NH); William Proxmire (Wisc); Lowell Weicker (CT); Hiram Fong of Hawaii; Mark Kirk of Illinois; Max Baucus of Montana; Jon Corzine of New Jersey; Daniel Akaka of Hawaii; Bob Graham of Florida; James Jeffords of Vermont; Arthur Vandenburg of Michigan; Wayne Morse of Oregon; George Smathers of Florida; Scott Brown of MA as a child

Congressmen: Pat Schroeder of Colorado; Louis Wyman of New Hampshire; Wallace White of Maine; James G. Blaine of Maine; Ron Clink of Pennsylvania; George E. Sangmeister of Illinois; Harry Woodring of Kansas; Nick Smith of Michigan; Thelma Drake of Virginia; David Skaggs of Colorado; Perkins Bass of NH; Charles Bass of NH

Governors: Hugh Gregg & Judd Gregg of NH; Howard Dean of Vermont; Tagola Tulaforo of Samoa

Other Politicians: Robert Hawke: Prime Minister of Australia; Malcolm Baldrige: U.S. Sec. of Commerce; James G. Blaine: twice Presidential candidate and Sec. of State; Daniel Webster: presidential candidate of NH

and Secretary of State and famed U.S. Senator; William Whiting: U.S. Commerce; Andrew Young: U.N. Representative & Mayor of Atlanta; Sun Yat-sen of China

Entertainers: Oscar winner William Holden; Oscar winner Meryl Streep; Oscar winner Lyn Redgrave; Mr. & Mrs. Walt Disney; The Carpenters; Lyn Harding (Welsh actor in Sherlock Holmes); actor Wendell Corey; Rapper "Common"; Paul Peterson (of Donna Reed)

Educators: Booker T. Washington; Ray Wilbur - President of Stanford; Henry Ward Beecher

Sports: Jackie Robinson: all time-baseball great

Activists: John Brown of Harper's Ferry; Lewis Tappan - merchant and abolitionist; John Howard: prison reformer; Julian Bond: Chair of the NAACP

Scientists: Thomas Edison; Lewis W. Edson - fountain pen; Charles Hard Townes: maser; Ben Franklin before becoming a Quaker

Religion: John Cotton: founder of American Congregationalism; Cotton Mather; Timothy Dwight Yale University President; Mary Baker Eddy of NH (before founding the Christian Science faith); Richard Niebuhr

Literature: Harriet Beecher Stowe: Uncle Tom's Cabin; Thornton Wilder: Our Town; Marvyn Peake: science fiction; John Milton: Paradise Lost; Connie Welles: science fiction; Theodore Dreiser: An American Tragedy; Ernest Hemingway: For Whom The Bells Toll; Alex Ross: comic book artist; Noah Webster: dictionary; Dean Koontz; Bill Moyers: journalist

Hymn Writers: Isaac Watts; Phillip Doddridge

Supreme Court Justice: Oliver Ells-

worth of Connecticut

Entrepreneur: Bill Gates of Microsoft

Signers of the Declaration of Independence: Samuel Huntington of CT; Roger Sherman of CT; William Williams of CT; Lyman Hall of GA; Bulton Guinett of GA; Samuel Adams of MA; John Hancock of MA; Robert Treat Paine of MA; John Adams of MA; Josiah Bartlett of NH; William Whipple of NH; William Ellery of RI

Signers of the Articles of Confederation: Samuel Huntington of CT; Roger Sherman of CT; Oliver Wolcott of CT; Andrew Adams of CT; Samuel Adams of MA; John Hancock of MA; Josiah Bartlett of NH; Richard Hutson of SC; William Ellery of RI

Signers of the U.S. Constitution: Roger Sherman of CT; Abraham Baldwin of GA; Nathaniel Gorham of MA; John Langdon of NH; Nicholas Gilman of NH; Oliver Ellsworth of CT; Caleb Strong of MA

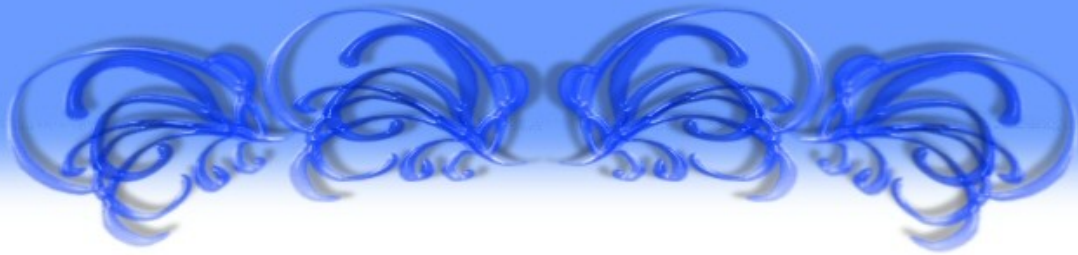
First Congress (1789-91): Abiel Foster of NH; Benjamin Huntington of CT; James Jackson of GA; Abraham Baldwin of GA; Roger Sherman of CT; Jeremiah Wadsworth of CT

First U.S. Senators: Oliver Ellsworth of CT; John Langdon of NH; Paine Wingate of NH; Caleb Strong of MA.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Wiggin





January Suppers Are Back!

1/7/12 Roast Pork
1/14/12 Roast Beef
1/21/12 Roast Turkey
1/28/12 Smorgasbord

Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm
Cost: \$12.00 per person
\$5.00 for children 6 - 12
Under 5 -free



Conway Village Congregational Church
132 Main St. Conway, NH

“The Brown Church”

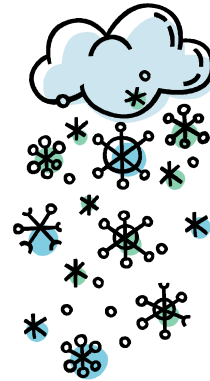
Nominating Committee

If anyone is interested in serving on any committee, we still have a lot of opening, Please contact any of the committee members: Suzanne Rancourt, Barbara Barker or Sylvia Weld

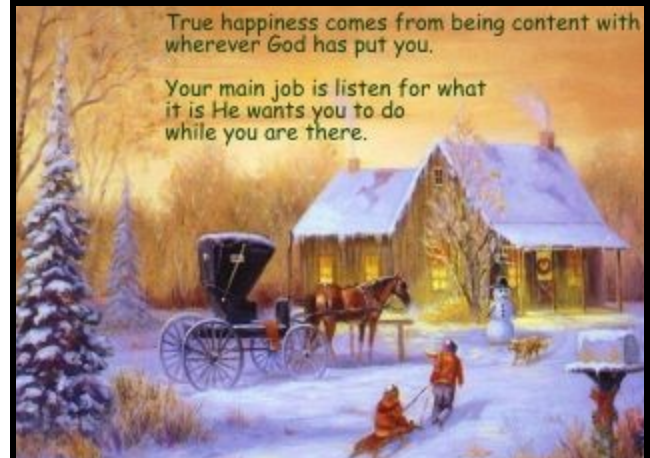
Christian Alphabet

A lthough things are not perfect
B ecause of trial or pain
C ontinue in Thanksgiving
D o not begin to blame
E ven when the times are hard
F ierce winds are bound to blow
G od is forever able
H old on to what you know
I magine life without His love
J oy would cease to be
K eep thanking Him for all the things
L ove imparts to thee
M ove out of "Camp Complaining"
N o weapon that is known
O n earth can yield power
P raise can do alone
Q uit looking at the future
R edeem the time at hand
S tart every day with worship
T o thank is a command
U ntil we see him coming
V ictorious in the sky
W e'll run the race with gratitude
X alting God's Most High
Y es, there will be good times, and yes some will be bad, but...
Z ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad.

Author Unknown



See the snow
It's a blanket of white
Falling slowly,
And making the world so bright!



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.

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

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC January Events

January 8 Diaconate Meeting @ 6:30 pm
 Trustee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
 January 16 Outreach Meeting @ 6:30 pm
 January 17 Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00 pm
 January 7, 14, 21, 28 Suppers

Regular Happenings.....

Sundays - 10:00 am - Worship Service
 7:00 pm - AA Meeting
 Mondays - 5:00 pm - Dinner Bell
 Tuesdays- 9:00-11:00 am/ 5:30-7:30 pm
 Food Pantry open
 Wednesdays - 4:30 pm - Weight Watchers
 Thursdays - 12:00 pm - Al-Anon
 6:00 pm - 12 Step OA

January Birthdays

2nd Deb Howe
 5th Charlotte Altenbern
 5th Elwood McLlarky, Jr
 10th Alice Vierus
 14th Chris Wiggin
 16th Dwight Smith
 18th Nancy Wiggin
 20th Alexandra Kovalik
 21st Sylvia Weld
 22nd Sharrene Bernhardt
 24th Patty Tilton
 26th Andrew Kennett
 28th Jill Reynolds
 28th Peter Sell
 30th Cheryl Kovalik

