

March 2013



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

Contemplating the philosophy of Saint Ambrose, a fourth century bishop of Milan, can be an eye opening experience. It was he who the saying "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" is attributed. The saying was first attested in medieval Latin *si fueris Rōmae, Rōmānō vīvitō mōre; si fueris alibī, vīvitō sicut ibi* ("if you were in Rome, live in the Roman way; if you are elsewhere, live as they do there.") Since Ambrose spoke classical Latin, his exact quote is not extant.

So, what has this to do with the Conway Village Congregational Church? In two words, "BEAN SUPPER." It has been my consideration that no one should have a bean supper. Yes, have a chicken, beef, pork, lamb or any other type of supper with an accompanying side of beans, but to have as the main course a choice of beans seems somewhat incomplete. Beans complement a meal, not showcase in one, so it seems.

But with the words of Ambrose ringing in my ears, I am looking forward to embracing what promises to be, a culinary delight. I am excited to share in what has brought smiles and joy to members of the deaconate. As they speak of the fantastic homemade pies and the mouth watering ham, as they share recipes and ideas on which beans to showcase and how to prepare them, when they get ebullient over how they will please their families and friends, the thought of enjoying the March 2, 2013 bean extravaganza has become contagious.

Sadly, it has become evident that your pastor has judged without experience. For this I apologize. It seems that I have done precisely what I have educated my nieces not to do. Flooded by memories of, "try the escargot, it is delicious!" and "how do you know you do not like sushi until you have tasted it?" or "does it really matter what you order? At the very least you have tried something new and at the very most you have found a new favorite," keep swimming in my mind. So, with a bit of shame, I intend to take my own advice and dive into beans, beans and more beans. I hope to see you there. Please revel in all things "bean" as I concede to the local flavor. When in Conway, do as the Conwayites do.

Blessings,
Martell

Moderator's Note

The last few days I have been thinking about what to write for the newsletter this month. First, I would like to thank you all for your prayers while I have been under the weather. Also to Anne and Peter for leading the Cabinet meeting this month in my absence.

When you are laying in the hospital not knowing what is wrong with you, the mind starts working in over drive thinking all kinds of things. You can only go that way for just so long, then you need to do something about it. I did a lot of praying and decided I needed to put myself in the hands of

The Lord to get me through this. Once I did, things started to improve. This illness was a warning given to me to start taking care of myself better and to start thinking about my faith journey.

I want to say in closing that no matter how troublesome our life journey gets, if we allow our Lord into our lives He will leads through it all.

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ALL

PAUL WELD

Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Pastor: Rev. Martell Spagnolo

Minister of Music: Roger Miklos

Secretary: Bev Shelton

Deacon for Month March

Laura Sorenson

March Trustees of the Week

March 3 -

March 10 -

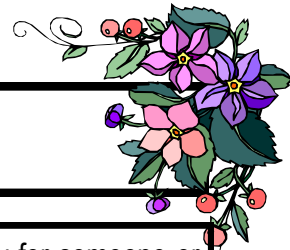
March 17 -

March 24 -

March 31 -

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



To start Lent this year, the Deacons hosted a simple supper before our Ash Wednesday service. At the service we were reminded that Lent is a time when we can draw closer to God. Of course we as individuals can do that at any time, but Lent is the 40 days before Easter, and the universal church uses that time to remind their congregations to imitate Jesus, by increasing their relationship with God through prayer, fasting and alms giving. In our modern times we know that doing something for 21 days can create a habit...and so perhaps our ancient church leaders were hoping for longer lasting results.

As a child I only heard about fasting during Lent. My school mates who attended churches where Lent was practiced used to give up chocolate...later in college they gave up beer, but discovered that Sundays are not included in the 40 days, and well really in the Jewish tradition, one day begins at sunset on the previous day, so Saturday nights in the dorms looked pretty much like non Lenten Saturday nights. I was more of a self righteous person in those days and did not think I had habits that needed to be broken, so I chose to start to do something rather than give something up for Lent. I decided to start to read the Bible every day. With this years Ash Wednesday sermon I finally realized that all those years ago, I was actually following one of the truer practices of Lent, Prayer, Fasting, and Alms Giving. Prayer (spending time in conversation with God), Fasting (giving something up, for a temporary time as a sacrifice, or breaking a bad habit), and Alms Giving (giving treasure, time, or talents for Gods glory and works).

Over the years, I have had problems with my perception of prayer. I thought that I would have rise early in the morning to spend an hour a day, on my knees. I am not a morning person...and found myself falling back asleep, even on my knees! I thought that I was a failure at prayer. Over the years I have learned that prayer, conversation with God, is many things. I have found ways to incorporate some into my life so that I can spend time with God, not just once a day, but to try to make each day a prayer without ceasing. My family has always prayed before meals. Now Curt and I do not recite a memorized prayer, but speak to God offering thanks for the day, the food, each other, our families, our jobs, the beautiful surroundings of our valley, and also offer prayers for those who are in need.

When I want to remember to pray for someone or something, I use everyday things to remind me. My grandfathers' clock rings on the half hour. Curt and I say thanks to God on days when we are not praying for something specific. I have a vest that I wear, and people always comment on it. I now call it my prayer vest. When I want to pray for something, all day, I wear the vest, and every time I see it, or am complemented on it, I pray. When I drove the bus at the nursing home, I was always more aware of my inadequacies, what a thought to be responsible for 30 lives! I prayed more at those times, unceasingly. One day, after a yard sale, I found a cross on the floor of the bus. I put the cross in a dimple on the dashboard as a reminder to rely on God.

Some years, I try to start the habit of daily exercise. It has not been overly successful as a life time habit. Curt got me a Wii, so that I might be encouraged to pursue this goal of mine. I have discovered that by creating Miis of my family and prayer partners, that I am more likely to use the Wii, thus exercising, and spending time praying. I actually used this practice this weekend, I was driving a small bus of people, and the weather report was not great. I was fretting, and cursing myself for planning trip when the weather can be challenging. I finally decided to use the Wii, and after a half hour of exercising, and praying for others, I was ready to leave the house and start the trip. This put me in the right frame of mind, concentrating on God and not me. I spent the whole trip singing (to my self) words of hymns, thus continuing my conversation with God; (for me, music is another way that I bring myself into closer relationship with God).

Recently I heard of a person who was in a challenging situation. I wanted to pray for her. Again, sitting or kneeling and praying, I find my mind wandering to "to do" lists and worse, so I choose to do mindless repetitive tasks, and this allows me to concentrate on my prayers, and also opens my mind to what God might be saying to me. That day, I chose to bake, but I also use gardening in the summer, as well as skiing, or walking.

I try to incorporate daily tasks as a way to remember to pray. Washing dishes is a reminder that I have food to eat, and more then one dish means I am not eating alone, what wonder!

Diaconate (continued)

These are a few examples of how I have tried to incorporate prayer into my everyday life. I hope to continue beyond Lent, but every attempt is better than nothing at all. If I fall, I must brush myself off, and start again. Perhaps you might find an idea that you could use to include prayer in your everyday life, (or maybe you realize you are doing more than you thought). This Lenten season, every day is a new opportunity to draw nearer to God.

The last week in March is Holy Week. See the calendar to find opportunities to join in this special time.

We look forward to seeing you at the Ham and Bean and PIE supper, Saturday, March 2nd from 5-7. Should be delicious!

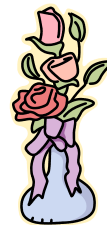
Flowers for Sunday morning worship.....

Please consider the donation of flowers for the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Perhaps you have a beautiful house plant that might be suitable to grace the church for worship services.

Perhaps you would like to purchase flowers yourself from your favorite vendor or grocery store.

Perhaps you and your friend might decide to chip in together to purchase flowers. Your donations of flowers are greatly appreciated!

Please contact Marcia Hill to "reserve" your Sunday.



CVCC Spring Festival!



May 11, 2013

The Trustee Challenge to raise \$10,000 in this fundraiser is a wonderful opportunity to bring all members and friends of the church together in a project that has something for everyone to do! We are looking forward to the great fun of welcoming the Conway community to our festival with a wide variety of events We welcome your ideas, your expertise, your hard work to make this happen!

We have the following areas we are working on:

Yard Sale: Start bringing items into the Henderson Room for tagging. Please make sure the items are clean, fully intact, and usable. We need a chairperson for this section. There are 5 people who have volunteered to help.

Silent Auction: Ellen Andreano and Nancy Irving are chairing this. We need your jewelry, better yard sale items, etc. This will be a more upscale section and hopefully yield better prices for better items. Look through your attic, drawers and closets for these nicer things you no longer use.

Garden Sale: The Women's Bible Study Group is managing this with the expert help of Elise Edgerton. We are looking for potted perennials you may be dividing in your garden, any geraniums you may be able to start now so they will be in pots by May, any seed starts of herbs. We're also looking for garden ornaments, pretty pots and decent garden furniture.

Raffle: Pete Klomp and the Men's Bible Study group will run a raffle. We will need all hands on deck to push the sale of these tickets. We will keep you informed of the details as they come.

Kids: Jane Galloway will lead a group of volunteers (and hopefully high schoolers from the Key Club) in presenting children with craft tables, face painting and games to get them engaged in the festivities. We are hoping to have a bouncy house. The cost is \$200. Anyone want to donate this?

Whoopie Pie contest: Nancy Wiggin will head up the

contest and is inviting every one of us to create a Whoopie Pie "to die for!" and enter it into the contest. There will be a \$5 entry fee, and prizes! We need one more judge for this. Each participant will provide 12 Whoopie Pies and the remaining pies will be sold after the judging for \$1 apiece.

Crafters: Know any crafters? Spread the word that we will welcome them to display/sell their crafts at our festival. There will be a \$50 fee for a 12'x12' space. They are welcome to put up their own pop-up tents. There will be no electricity provided. Space is limited so have them call the church to reserve their spot. Bob Bernhardt will be in charge of this. He could use some help.

Food/Beverages: We need some experienced people to help with this. People love to snack at festivals, and this is a good income generator. We will need prep people on Friday, May 10 and servers on May 11. Please see Kathy or me if you can help with this.

Welcoming Table/Cashiers: We will need people to sit at a welcoming table to direct attendees to the various parts of the festival and to talk about our church. We will also need cashiers.

SO!

Start digging through your stuff, thinking about your gardens, scanning for cool recipes to bake and planning to have a ball at our Spring Festival!

This is a big undertaking, and we look forward to strengthening our congregation through the tremendous efforts we will all put forth to make it happen! Please come to the tables by the windows in Fellowship Hall every Sunday to see where we are and what we need to get done in the following week and how you can help. There will be sign-up sheets waiting for you. Please leave a phone number where you can be reached along with your name.

Thank You!

March 2013



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Men's Break- fast 8:00am	2 Diaconate Bean Supper 5pm-7pm
3 Sunday Service 10:00am	4 Diaconate Meeting @ 6:30pm	5 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Zumba	6 Outreach Meeting @ 6:30pm	7	8 Men's Break- fast 8:00am	9
10 Sunday Service 10:00am	11	12 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Zumba Class	13	14	15 Men's Break- fast 8:00am	16
17 Sunday Service 10:00am Mineral Springs Service 1:00pm	18	19 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Zumba Class 6:00pm Trustee Meeting @5pm Cabinet 7:00pm	20	21	22 Men's Break- fast 8:00am	23
24 Palm Sun- day Sunday Service 10:00am	25	26 Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Zumba Class 6:00pm	27	28 Seder Meal 6:30pm	29 Men's Breakfast 8:00am Good Friday Service @7pm Christ Church	30
31 Easter Sunrise Service Sunday Service 10:00am						

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

Date	Total in Attendance	Weather	Special Day
2/3/2013	72	clear/cold	Scout Sunday
2/10/2013	55	cold/sunny	Transfiguration Sunday
2/17/2013	58	cold/snow flurries	1st Sunday in Lent
2/24/2013	32	snow	2nd Sunday in Lent



Coffee Fellowship

March 3- Diaconate

March 10- Women's Bible Study

March 17- Bev Taylor & Cynthia Saxby

March 24- Bob Bernhardt & Martell

March 31- Open

There are openings to be filled for Coffee Hour. See Nancy Wiggins 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 and his battalion
 Helen Hutchins,
 Kathleen Wayman
 John Gray
 Gail Gray
 Christine Fournier
 Jannette Williams
 Charlotte Altenbern
 John Harriman
 Mel Robinson



Outreach

We are starting out the year very busy in the Pantry, as you will see by the figures below for the Jan. and Feb.

	Meals	People
January	2,856	66
February	3,318	79

We had our first meeting of the year on the 6th of Feb.. Next meeting will be March 6th.

OGHS will be coming up on the 10th of March, envelopes will be in the back of the Church on the table.

More help is needed for the night shifts both in March and April. If anyone can help see Anne or Sylvia. Morning shifts seem to be okay but if anyone would like to help on either shift, again see Anne or Sylvia. We can always use help. Without the volunteers we could not serve the people the way we do. God Bless all of you.

I would like to share a couple stories!

Ellen was shopping for the Pantry and while standing in the check out line a lady behind her said you must be making a lot of pancakes. Ellen replied no, this is for our Food Pantry. The lady asked where the pantry was

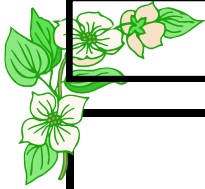
located and Ellen's reply was the Conway Village Church, she then in turn handed Ellen a \$20.00 bill.

Then Ellen was unloading the food from her car at the Church, when she noticed a couple of people taking pictures of our church. They stopped what they were doing and helped Ellen take the items into the Church and down to the Pantry. Just a couple of God's miracles at work.

God Bless.

Outreach Committee





Legend of the Dogwood Tree

At the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood had reached the size of the mighty oak tree. So strong and firm was the wood that it was chosen as the timber for Jesus' cross.

To be used for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the dogwood. While nailed upon it, Jesus sensed this, and in his compassion said. "Because of your pity for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used for a cross. Henceforth, it shall be slender, bent, and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross—two long and two short petals.

"In the center of the outer edge of each petal will be the print of nails. In the center of the flower, stained with blood, will be a crown of thorns so that all who see it will remember."



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



Tres Dias

“Can we, as Christians, be a part of God’s plan to transform the world? YES! Tres Dias, a lay Christian movement, proposes no new type of spirituality; it is simply a method through which one’s spirituality may be further developed, lived and shared in all areas of life.

The first Tres Dias weekend held in New Hampshire was in 1981. Since that time, we have conducted over 100 weekends, half for men and half for women. Our membership consists of loving folks from all over, and from nearly every denomination! Being interdenominational, we strive to emphasize the common beliefs of all Christians.

The key to Tres Dias is the Weekend. It is three days (Tres Dias) starting on a Thursday evening and ending on Sunday evening. Real 24 hour days. The attendees are sequestered to screen out the distractions of everyday life. There is absolutely nothing to worry about; no meals to fix, no phones to answer, just

great fellowship, discussion, praying, sharing and lots of fun. We sing, laugh, cry, love and have a joyful time!

Weekends can only happen once in a lifetime. Most people find them transforming, and often refer to the weekend as a “mountain top” experience. You will meet some really great people, and hopefully make some new life-long friends.”

Scheduled Weekends in 2013:

Men’s SpringApril 18-21

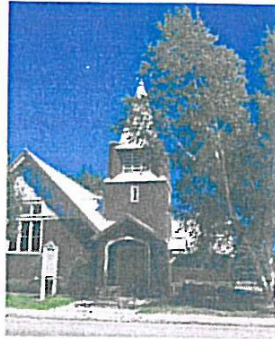
Women’s Spring.....May 2-5

Men’s FallOctober 24-27

Women’s Fall.....November 7-10

Are you interested? Do you feel God nudging you? Do you have questions? Laura Sorenson, Jill Reynolds, Deb Howe, Dick Vierus and Curt Reynolds are a few of the people who have participated in this program. They’d love to talk to you and help you with the next steps in experiencing this life-changing event. De Colores.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DEACONATE FUND



Ham & Bean Supper

Homemade Pies

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND
5-7 P.M.

CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
132 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, NH 03818

ADULTS: \$8.00
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: \$5.00
5 & UNDER FREE

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

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC March Events

March 2 - Diaconate Bean Supper 5pm-7pm

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28— Seder Meal 6:30pm

March 29— Good Friday Service 7pm @The
Christ Church

March 31 - Easter Sunrise Service

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

Ladies Bible Study @9:30am

Zumba @6:00pm

Every Friday – Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
@ 8:00am

March Birthdays

1st Wardell Young
1st Faylene Bemis
2nd Adrienne Robbins
3rd Susan Klomp
4th Peter Hall
5th Barbara Freeman
19th Sam Baldwin
19th Ben Wiggin
21st Karen MacDonald
21st Michael Tilton
24th Gary MacDonald
25th Dennis Wile
31st Becky Sanphy

