

May 2012



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATION CHURCH

The Good News

The Pastor's Ponderings

Every Monday afternoon from five to six o'clock, the Dinner Bell volunteers serve over one hundred meals to local clients. It is one of my favorite places to be in the valley, and I try not to miss it. Standing beside the likes of Barbara Hoyt and Bob and Deb Howe is an experience that I wish we could all share. The compassion that pours forth from these and the other volunteers is amazing. From the earliest hours each Monday morning, they spend the day cooking, cleaning, and preparing. It is an act of love, and I am impressed with the lived Christian message.

I am also impressed that these volunteers have built relationships with many of the guest who walk through the doors to eat. The volunteers know many of the guests' names as well as certain food likes, dislikes and allergies. Their service is a familial one. Their service is relational. Truly, their service is sacramental.

So, during this past evening, as I was serving the freshly baked haddock and potato au gratin, I became acutely aware of how devastating hunger really is. Some of these people go without food for days. Others are horribly overweight because they cannot afford healthy food and are reliant upon processed carbohydrates for their primary diet. Hunger is killing these people not only by 'lack of food' but by 'lack of "good" food'. As I have been told by one of the guests, the only time that her children have a balanced meal is on Mondays. She cannot afford it otherwise as a single parent with part-time employment.

When I returned home this evening, I went on line and researched hunger in the United States of America. The statistics are appalling. The reality of hunger affects one in six people in the USA. I could go on. But please read the statistics for yourself on sites like www.feedingamerica.org and others.

What I found most compelling (in the research) was not just the tragedy of hunger, but the emotional and psychological ramifications of it and how people, especially children, live in fear because of hunger. It also was made evident that one of the ways to help children and others cope with this issue is by eating with them. It is in part about supplying the good of food, but also supplying the company and family with whom to eat. Hence, that is the true beauty of the Dinner Bell; it provides the food for and the culture of dining. It fills the belly and the soul. It builds community.

That is why it is so important to have a community come to dine together. One will not only receive a delicious and well-balanced meal prepared with love, but one could serve the needs of the community by supping with others who would eat alone or not at all.

Please join us Mondays at 5:00 PM.

Blessings,
Martell

Moderator's Moment

The Cabinet is very busy we are in the process of studying the structure of the Church to see if there is a need for improvement in the operations of the church. This is only in the beginning phase which is going to take time. If anyone has, any questions, please feel free to talk to a member of the Cabinet.

Other Cabinet happenings are the men of the Cabinet, along with some help of the men in the

Church will be hosting a Mother's Day Brunch on Mother's Day. The women, in turn, will be hosting a Father's Day brunch on Father's Day in June. Another event planned is a Turkey Dinner on Friday June 2 at 6:00 PM. It will be a social event intended to be a gathering for fellowship and good times. More info will be forthcoming.

Lots of exciting things will be

taking place here at the Little Brown Church over the next coming months. Stay tuned!

Paul Weld

Moderator



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 May

Suzanne Rancourt

May Trustees of the Week

6th— John Edgerton

13th— Carl Vitters

15th — Carl Vitters

20th— Peter Klomp

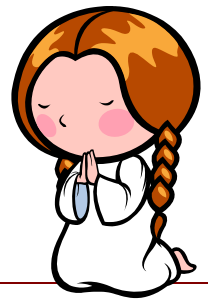
27th—Carl Vitters

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

Our church participated in One Great Hour of Sharing on April 15th. The Pantry still remains very busy with our numbers increasing. We are still looking for volunteers to help 9 to 11AM and 5:30 to 7:30PM. Anyone interested can speak to Anne Getechell or Sylvia Weld. Outreach is also sponsoring the Prison Ministry again this year. As all of you know, Curt and Jill are very involved in this wonderful program. We are looking over the next couple of months to have a Volunteers Recognition luncheon, to thank all who have helped out in the Food Pantry, as well as providing information to anyone that is interested in helping. God bless all who helps!

The Outreach Committee



Prayer List

- Friends and family of Doreen Tabor
- Arlene McCarthy
- Laura Keim
- Anna Hill
- Scott Hayman,
- Donna Danielson
- Evelyn Behnke



May 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Cabinet 7:00 Special Meeting	3	4	5 Fun raising dinner for Megan Vit- ters
6 Sunday Service 10:00	7 Diaconate 6:30	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day Sunday Service 10:00	14 Trustee 6:30	15	16 Cabinet 7:00	17	18	19
20 Sunday Service 10:00 Mineral Springs 2:00	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday Service 10:00	28	29	30	31		



APRIL ATTENDANCE

Date	Total in Attendance	Weather	Special Day
4/1/2012	79	Sunny	Palm Sunday
4/8/2012	120	cloudy	Easter
4/15/2012	62	sunny/warm	2nd Sunday of Easter
4/21/2012	68	overcast, 62 with calm wind	3rd Sunday of Easter
4/29/2012	90	sunny/windy	4th Sunday of Easter

Coffee Fellowship for May

May 6 — Brad & Faylene Bemis, Gwen Small

May 13 — Cabinet Brunch

May 20 — Ladies Bible Study

May 27 — The Edgertons and Campbells



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

From the Diaconate

Your Diaconate hopes that you were able to participate in the many opportunities for prayer, worship, and spiritual growth afforded during this Lenten season.

We have been working diligently with Martell to inspire you and to offer a variety of worship experiences.

Many thanks to Martell for his continued leadership and dedicated efforts to meet the spiritual needs and requests of our congregation!

As our "Little Brown Church" attendance has been growing, so too, have the numbers of prayer requests. This is a wonderful thing, and your Diaconate wishes to be respectfully responsive to these spiritual needs. Thus, to accommodate the many inquiries for prayer that we have been receiving, we will soon be initiating a new Prayer Request program. You will be asked to complete a Prayer Request card to relate the need for prayers, and to place the person's name in the Sunday bulletin on the Prayer List. These cards may be placed in the offertory plate during Sunday worship, or dropped off in the Church office week days (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM- 12:30 PM). Personal and collective prayer will continue to be components of our worship service, with reference to the weekly Prayer List in the bulletin as being our primary source of information

for church-wide prayer. The Diaconate's hopes that these Prayer Request cards will promote the most active and updated prayer list each week, as the weekly bulletin will directly reflect the names procured through the Prayer Request cards received during the week. Thank you in advance for your contributions to our Prayer Request list, and for your continued prayers for those in need.

We are excited to report that another fabulous CVCC brunch is coming your way! The men of the church will be hosting brunch after church on Mother's Day (May 13th), and everyone is invited. Not to be outdone, the women of the church will be hosting brunch for Father's Day (June 17th). Both brunches will require a number of volunteers and ideas; please consider helping out if you can.

You may have noticed that, on some Sunday mornings, fresh flowers have been noticeable absent from our sanctuary. This is due to a void in volunteers to provide these flowers. Graciously, Marcia Hill has consented to coordinate the Flower Program for the Diaconate. Please contact her at 356-3190 if you would like to place flowers in church. As previously noted, you may continue to purchase flowers through the florist, you may bring in flow-

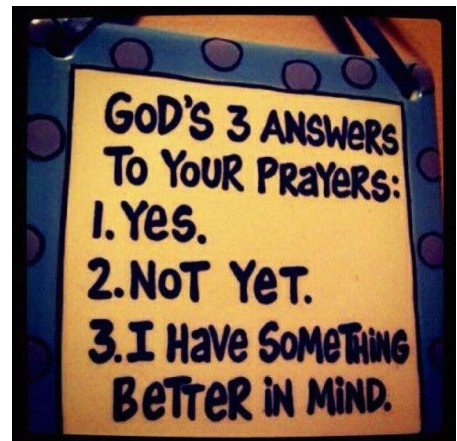
ers from your garden (in the near future), or flowers that you have purchased from other vendors as well. We appreciate Marcia's willingness to support the Flower program!

Please be checking in on our church website periodically, as Bev will soon be uploading pictures from services and church events. Also, we would appreciate your contribution of any pictures that you may have taken of our CVCC activities for inclusion on the CVCC page. Our church is active, and vibrant, and we want to share that with our community!

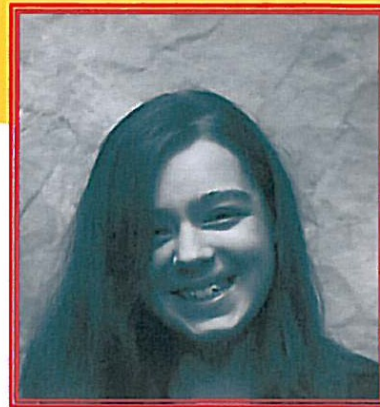
Faithfully yours,
The CVCC Diaconate



Kennett Middle School Food Collection Drive to benefit the Food Pantry.



Megan Vitters was selected to represent Fryeburg Academy and the State of NH as the youth delegate to the National Youth Summit on the Environment in Washington DC.



National Youth Summit on the Environment Benefit

Dinner & Concert

Saturday, May 5th 2012

WHERE: Conway Village Congregational Church

ADDRESS: 132 Main Street, Conway

Dinner: 5:00-6:00—Concert: 6:30

Dinner only: \$10 -Concert Only: \$10 -Dinner & Concert: \$15

Dinner Includes:

Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Garden Salad, Corn, Broccoli, French Onion or Butternut Bisque Soup & Dessert

Concert: 6:30 pm

*Soloists, Duets,
Instrumentals*

*Hosted by: Megan Vitters
Director of Music: Roger Miklas*

Note from the Secretary

We all love our mothers and want to give her something in return and a celebration of Mother's Day all over the world is a kind of tribute to her— to honor our mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving us life, for our upbringing and being our constant support and well wisher throughout our life.

But how many of us are aware of the proper History of Mother's Day? The early history of Mother's Day dates back to Greeks and Romans. Even the Christians started observing the Mother's Day as a special festival before the birth of Christ. However, the recent History of Mother's Day takes us to England where a Mothering Sunday is observed. Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent, this is a yearly celebration to pay honor to Virgin Mary. On Mothering Sunday, the servants would take the day return home in order to spend the day

with their mothers. For celebration, a special cake—the 'mothering cake', was brought to provide a festive touch. Even wheat grains boiled in sweet milk, sugared and spiced called 'furmety' was also served. However, in northern England and in Scotland, pancakes made up of steeped peas fried in butter called Carlings are served with pepper and salt. Hence, in some places this day is also known as Carling Sunday.

When the first English settlers came to America, they discontinued an English tradition called *Mothering Day* which was a carry over of the ancient Mother's Day observances. One reason was the lack of time, they lived under harsh conditions and were forced to work long hours in order to survive. Another reason may have been that Mothering Day conflicted with their Puri-

tan ideals.

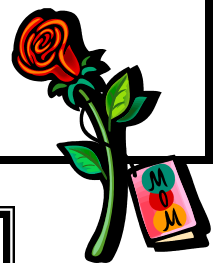
In 1872 Julia Ward Howe organized a day for mother's dedicated to peace. She was so distraught by the death and carnage of the Civil War that she called on mother's to come together and protest what she saw as the futility of their sons killing the sons of other mother's.

June 2 was designated as Mother's Day. In 1873, many cities observed this new Mothering holiday, but most of the celebrations were funded by Howe herself. When she decided to stop the funding of the celebrations the holiday died.

In 1907, Anna M. Jarvis, a Philadelphia schoolteacher, began a movement to set up a national Mother's day in honor of her late mother, Anna

Reeves Jarvis. The first official Mother's Day celebrations took place at Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia and a church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two white carnations (Anna's Mother's favorite flower) were given to every mother in the congregation. Today, white carnations are used to honor deceased mothers, while pink and red carnations pay tribute to mothers who are still alive.

Anna worked tirelessly petitioning government officials to officially recognize Mother's Day. Her hard work paid off when, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as a national holiday in honor of mothers.



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.



Historian's Corner

THE CRADLE ROLL

Our Conway Church had a long tradition with the Cradle Roll until perhaps a decade ago. The tradition went back at least to the 1930's, perhaps earlier. My cousin Joyce Wiggin, who now lives in Georgia, still has her card from 1938! Let us look at it and its positive results. Perhaps it could be revitalized.

The nursery was located in the first room on the right downstairs. It had a couple of cribs and bassinets along with an array of toys for those wee ones who were not yet of Sunday School age. It also served as a Sunday School room when we had split session due to the 150 students enrolled. For years, my Aunt Ruth Hackett was in charge of the Cradle Roll. She took the job most seriously and gained great satisfaction from it. Almost always she had hand knit some booties or a sweater for the baby. Indeed half of Conway's children were at times attired in Hackett knitwear. Whenever the parishioner had a baby, Aunt Ruth would make sure that the mom received flowers from the church. Soon after the baby's arrival at home, there would be a visit by Ruth, who frequently was accompanied by the pastor. The

baby would be officially welcomed into the Church family. The child's date of birth would be entered on a blue or pink ribbon cradle roll certificate and entered on the bulletin board in the nursery. If the baby was in the nursery while the folks were attending services, that attendance was duly noted. By entering the date, the Sunday School teachers would know who would be entering the first four-year-old class and it provided a means that no child was overlooked or forgotten. If a baby moved into town, that name was entered as well. During the baby boom generation, the number of certificates was most impressive.

Mothers were the only ones allowed to be attendants. Fathers didn't want to and teens were not thought of as capable. This changed in the early 1970's when teenage girls were allowed to do the job - as long as there were two of them. If any boys attended, it has slipped my mind. My mother, June, attended one whole year instead of singing in the choir. It must have been for the 1958-9 session. My brother Craig had been born the previous July. He went every Sunday with his mother and was awarded a Sunday School pin. Ruth Henderson insisted on it because he

had had perfect attendance. It ruffled a few feathers though. My mother related to me the other day how she got teary-eyed watching Craig go up to the altar, barely able to walk, to receive that accolade. Craig had a wide mouth and he literally was grinning from ear to ear. Other little ones in the nursery that year included Nancy and Tom Hackett, Alan Potter, Mitchell Yeaton, Kimberley Barton, Russell Webster, Bobby Campbell, Darrell Seavey, Peter Goodman, Diana Stimson, Lorna Davis, Curt DeWitt, Russell Kennett, Terry Mason, Mary Altenbern, John Young, Brian Carpenter, Timothy Sheaff, Curt Gordon and Paul Seavey.

We are starting to see a resurgence of young ones in the church. Wouldn't it be fun to reinstate the Cradle Roll at some point? Perhaps there might be a parishioner out there would might be up to the task of swaying the cradle. And while we are at it - let us add their names to the birthday list in the church newsletter - after all, they still enjoy birthdays!

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Wiggin



Conway Village Congregational Church
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Conway, NH 03818

Monthly Calendar of Events

CVCC May Events

- May 5—Funraiser for Megan Vitters**
Dinner @ 5:00 Concert @ 6:30
- May 7—Diaconate Meeting @ 6:30**
- May 12—Shaw's Food Drive 9:00— 4:00**
- May 14 —Trustee Meeting @ 6:30**
- May 16— Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00**

May Birthdays

- 1st Bill Durkee
4th Ray Behnke
5th Beatrice McLarky
6th Beth Campbell
8th Josephine Saia
12th Meri Jones
17th John MacDonald
18th Celia Wilcox
26th Elise Edgerton
26th Paul Weld
26th June Wiggin
27th Dick Verus
29th Naydene Drew

