



## The Reverend's Ramblin's

Sometimes help comes from the most unexpected places. After the flooding that occurred in late August and after the loss of property due to that flood, many of us have been trying to figure out how to acquire the necessary assistance to feed, clothe, and shelter some of the hardest hit. Some of us have been trying to crunch numbers to find the moneys to repair damaged water heaters and furnaces. Some of us have been scratching our heads wondering how we could have not been prepared for flooding in a flood plain. Some of us have been angry that organizations have been lax or passing the buck.

But, in Laconia, NH, a young man, a teenager, in fact, decided to take matters into his own hands. After hearing of the flooding of the Conway Village Congregational Church's basement and learning of the many fine services that the said church does for the community, this young man, (who wishes to remain unnamed,) took charge and did two things. Firstly, he spoke with his peers and had a food drive to help stock the shelves of our food pantry. Secondly, he stood up in front of his congregation and gave an impassioned plea to his church. This teen's efforts raised some four hundred dollars and much food.

Wonderful, isn't it, that there are people in the world who actually care enough to take a stand and make a difference. Without compensation of any kind, some people understand that to be a church, the Body of Christ, there are times to roll up one's sleeves and pitch-in. What a blessing to give without desire to receive. What joy to share a selfless love that finds its origin in the love of God! What comfort it is to see Jesus in others and be Jesus to others.

Our lives have been filled with stories of those heroes that have made a difference. We read our history and learn of American greats who worked diligently for equality and human dignity. We have heard of firemen, police and military who have sacrificed their lives. We have heard of modern day saints who care for the poor and fought for others' freedoms and rights. We know of family members who bore calluses and bent backs to give the next generation a better education and more opportunities. The many examples have been all around us all of our lives. Hence, the many examples are part of our personal make-up now.

And then the next questions need to be asked. Why do some people have the initiative to make a difference and other do not? Why do unknown strangers care while some of those with whom we share our lives do not? How much giving is not enough? Finally, what type of person am I and how do I fit into this beautiful church of ours?

Sobering questions, aren't they? Sobering, because they are provoked by the actions of an unknown teen in a town far away. Sobering, because this teen has actually made a difference. Sobering, to think that maybe, just maybe, we can be and do the same.

Live Jesus,

Martell

## Thank You!

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee would like to say a BIG Thank You to everyone who participated in bringing food, setting up tables, battling Tropical Irene, and most of all being there to help us celebrate this important event in our church's history. The day was a huge success despite "Irene". We had 114 in attendance for the 10 am service, around 65 for Martell's Installation, and around 70 for the wonderful concert that night. We have some mementos from the day left. If you would like one please contact Bev at the church office. She will pass on the information to a committee member. We will make sure you get one. Again, thank you to all who participated in the celebration.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee



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](mailto: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

#### United Church of Christ

PO Box 333 - 132 Main Street  
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Phone: 603-447-3851/ Fax: 603-447-  
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*Email: [info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:info@thebrownchurch.org)*

*Website: [www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)*

**Pastor: Rev. Martell Spagnolo**

Minister of Music: Roger Miklos

Secretary: Bev Shelton

Church Sexton: Sandra Bridges

### Deacon for Month of August

Dawn Vitters

### September Trustees of the Week

4th Carl Vitters

11th John Edgerton

18th Peter Klomp

25th Curt 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.

## Nominating

As mentioned previously, we have 16 openings to fill on the boards this year. If anyone would like to serve on any committee, please speak to any member of the Nominating committee and let them know you are interested.

Members are needed for the following boards:

- Board of Diaconate,
- Trustees,
- Christian Education
- Christian Outreach
- Nominating
- Music
- Delegates to the NCA .

The Committee thanks all who have served and will serve.



## Moderator's Moment

We are entering the month of September, which begins the busiest season here at CVCC, the fund raising season. This time of year can be a fun and exciting time for us, but it will entail all of us working together to make this happen. The call for help will be loud and often. We will need help with the Fryeburg Fair, Holiday Fair, and the January Suppers. These events are all very important to the daily operation of the church. With these events, come lots of fellowship and fun. I would like to thank those who organized the Fashion Show and those that volunteered to be models.

Other happenings at the church are Christians starting to gear up for a new year and the choir

getting ready to be with us during worship. On a more serious note, the Trustees are working hard to get estimates on the damage done by TROPICAL STORM IRENE. They are working on the course of action needed to make repairs.

Thanks to everyone for all that you do to make our church a wonderful place to belong. All I am asking is when the call goes out for help with any project, PLEASE answer the bell!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Paul Weld Moderator

## From the Deacon's Bench

There was an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, 'Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?' The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, 'Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.'

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, 'You will have to move a little faster next time,' and sent him

back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was 'impossible to carry water in a basket,' and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, 'I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough,' and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, 'See Papa, it's useless!'

'So you think it is useless?' The

old man said, 'Look at the basket.'

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean.

'Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible.. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.' Moral of the wicker basket story: Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't retain a word.

Thought for Today: God's Love is like the ocean, you can see its beginnings but not its end.

I really like this story because I don't remember things like I used to.....but then I think God isn't concerned about my brain anyway, He's more concerned about my heart.



## Outreach News

We have had a quiet summer but now as we approach the fall months things will start to kick back into gear! We are scheduled on the 24th of September to participate in another Food Drive at Shaw's. This will help to stock the Food Pantry for the months to come when we know that our family totals will increase.

We are also looking at a recognition dinner for all the Volunteers

who help at the Pantry. Without their help the pantry could not run as smoothly as it does it each month.

The construction work continues to improve the Pantry's looks and setup. Paul Weld has been working hard on this project.

If anyone would like to help either Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11 or Tuesday evenings from

5:30 to 7:30, please contact anyone on the Outreach board. Thanks again for everyone's help on the very important Outreach program the church has.

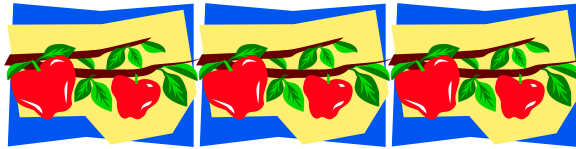


## Apple Crisp Booth at Fryeburg Fair

The apples are ripening on the trees and plans are being made for our annual Apple Crisp fundraiser at the Fryeburg Fair. There is a job for everyone to do as we need apple peelers, bakers, booth volunteers to sell the crisps, booth set-up crew, clean-up crew, dish-washers, and these are just to name a few! This is our major fundraiser of the year, so please plan on helping in any way you can.

This year you may see two members of our Church recruiting help in a way that was done a few years ago. Anyone ever hear Paul and Curt sing a duet? If so, you know what you are in for! You will hear more about this in the coming weeks. In the meantime, keep the latter weeks in September free for our Apple Crisp Fundraiser!

Curt Reynolds



## Fryeburg Fair Apple Crisp Job Descriptions

### What do the people in the kitchen do?

- Peel and core the apples using a commercial apple peeler/corer.
- Slice the apples into sections and finish coring/peeling.
- Measure and package dry mix ingredients for each crisp pan.
- Prepare apple crisp for baking.
- Bake apple crisps for 30-40 minutes.
- Store in refrigerator for pick up the next morning.



Then number of apple crisps needed each day varies due to the weather. The goal is to have a total of 200 apple crisps ready at the booth and the kitchen every day.

### What do the people in the booth do?

- Someone bakes off the apple crisps in the oven at the booth.
- Someone fills the crisps cups with apple crisps
- Someone scoops the ice cream on the apple crisps. Also gets to have fun with the people.
- Someone talks to people, yells out the order for all to hear, and takes the money. (This person has all the fun.)



Working in the booth can be done with two people in the morning, four in the afternoon, and three at night, except on the weekends. We really need 5 people in the both Saturday and Sunday of both Weekends.

## Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 16, supports the USS's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's and direct service projects. Through UCC-TakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, new updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousand of UCC justice and

peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa,

Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other USS congregations in the U.S.



## Food Pantry Stats

August has been a busy month here in the Food Pantry! We served 63 people, which provide 2,646 meals for those in need.

We are grateful to Sherman Farms for all the generous donations of vegetables that they provided for our Food Pantry members this past summer. There will also be a food drive at Shaw's to help stock the shelves for the upcoming season.

We are also thankful to all the people who made the Fashion Show and Sliver Tea outing a success. The proceeds will go towards helping the Pantry.

We are so pleased to be able to show God's love through the distribution of food in the community.

# September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Food Bank Delivery 11:30	2	3
4 Sunday Ser- vice 10:00	5 Diaconate Meeting 6:30 Dinner Bell 5:00-6:00	6 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 / 5:30 -7:30	7	8	9	10 Fashion Show and Silver Tea 1:30
11 Sunday Ser- vice 10:00	12 Outreach Meeting 6:30 Trustee Meeting 6:30 Dinner Bell 5-6	13 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 / 5:30 -7:30	14	15	16 Youth Puz- zle Marathon through the 18th	17
18 Sunday Ser- vice 10:00 Sunday School Begins Wii Night	19 Dinner Bell 5:00-6:00	20 Cabinet Meeting 7:00 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 / 5:30 -7:30	21	22	23	24 Shaw's Food Drive 8:00- 4:00
25 Sunday Ser- vice 10:00	26 Diaconate Meeting 6:30 Dinner Bell 5:00-6:00	27 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 / 5:30 -7:30	28 Prepare for Fryeburg Fair	29 Prepare for Fryeburg Fair	30 Prepare for Fryeburg Fair	

## Trustee Talk

last

Next month we will present our budget to the congregation for the 2012 fiscal year. As you all know it will be a challenging year for everyone. Just a visual look around the church, inside and outside, demands our attention. The annual budget that will be presented will be to cover the basic operating expenses for the year. Everything else must be funded in a gift campaign. We are running out of the endowment, it's time to rebuild it, not continue to draw it down. The plan for the campaign will be presented late this calendar year or early next year. Please be patient with our progress as we will get there, but it's not a quick fix. I would welcome any questions or suggestions you might want to share with me or any of the trustees and believe me when I say that we are your representatives and we are all doing our best to serve God and our church.

I concluded with the following story; perhaps we should invest in a few boxes of bibles.

### Selling Bibles

A pastor concluded that his

church was getting into very serious financial troubles. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new Bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the Bibles door-to-door for \$10 each to raise the desperately needed money for the church.

Jack, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task.

The minister knew that Jack and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some Bibles. But he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment.

Poor Louie stuttered badly. But, **NOT WANTING TO** discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway.

He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with Bibles. He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday.

Anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Jack, "Well, Jack, how did you make out selling our Bibles

week?"

Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Jack replied, "Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 Bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Jack!" The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand... "You are indeed a fine salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Turning to Paul, "And Paul, how many Bibles did you sell for the church last week?"

Paul, smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I am a professional salesman. I sold 28 Bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected."

The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any Bibles last week?" Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope.

The minister opened it and counted the contents. "What is this?" the minister exclaimed. "Louie, there's \$3200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 Bibles for the church, door to door, in just one week?"

Louie just nodded.



## Trustee Talk—Con't

"That's impossible!" both Jack and Paul said in unison. "We are professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many Bibles as we could."

"Yes, this does seem unlikely, "the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged.. "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, Peter interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!"

"A-a-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wa-was," Louis replied, "W-w-w-would y-y-y-you I-I-I-I-I-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-th-this B-B-B-B-Bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks---o-o-o-or--- wo-wo-would yo-you j-j-j-just I-like m-m-me t-t-to st-stand h-h-here and r-r-r-r-r-read it t-to y-y-you?"



## Note from the Secretary

I can't believe how quickly the summer has flown by. There has been so much activity buzzing around the church during the past month.

We had a fun week during Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all the people who donated their time and efforts that week.

The front of the building is all in bloom with mums and the railings received a new coat of paint just in time to celebrate the church's

125th anniversary. It was such a great day with all the activities, Rev Martell's installation and concert that not even a tropical storm could dampen the day!

Now as we head full steam into the month of September, we feel Fall starting to creep into the days. The air is becoming definitely cooler and we see the leaves transform into beautiful colors that remind us what an amazing artist God is.

A fashion show which will benefit the Food Pantry has been carefully planned for September 10. And I am anticipating the wonderful aroma of apple crisp baking in the kitchen as we get ready for another Fryeburg Fair Week.

The church website is also under going a transformation. Right now it is the barebones development process, but will grow with time. Please check out the new look at [www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org).



Conway Village Congregational Church  
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 Conway, NH 03818

## Monthly Calendar of Events

### CVCC September Events

September 5 Diaconate Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
 September 6 Day School Program Starts  
 September 10 Fashion Show and Tea @1:30  
 September 12 Trustee Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
                   Outreach Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
 September 20 Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
 September 24 Shaw's Food Drive @ 9:00- 4:00

### 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

## September Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Christina Sell  
 5<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Vitters  
 6<sup>th</sup> Russell Hunter  
 9<sup>th</sup> Anna Hill  
 9<sup>th</sup> Alice Grindle  
 14<sup>th</sup> Margaret Marshall  
 15<sup>th</sup> Brian Wiggin  
 17<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Pratt  
 18<sup>th</sup> Peter Klomp  
 19<sup>th</sup> Richard Bryant  
 19<sup>th</sup> Louise Saxby  
 21<sup>st</sup> John Edgerton  
 24<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Hackett  
 27<sup>th</sup> Marcia Heath

