



WINTER

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM, UCC

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

THE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 42 NO. 1

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SEASONAL REFLECTION AND GRATITUDE, FROM YOUR PASTOR

By the time you read this, most of the decorations will have been packed away, the radio will be back to playing something other than Christmas music, and the icy days of January will be upon us. But as I write on this sunny December day I am still surrounded by a very different season. This Advent I have watched stars taken from the Giving Tree turned into gifts of gas cards, children's toys, winter gloves and Walmart certificates that will make their way to homeless families, women and the children fleeing abuse, neighbors living very close to the edge economically. Daily, people are dropping by the church office to sign-up to take cookies to the elderly or those who are homebound. The baskets that sit near my office continue to be filled to the brim with warm winter clothing for the Strafford Homeless Shelter and items for Cornucopia Food Pantry. Members and friends of the church have been cooking for Families First, caroling with the elderly at Church Hill Apartments, working with our children to create a meaningful and engaging pageant, preparing special music for Sunday and additional worship services. A steady flow of traffic moves in and out of the Thrift Shop, as volunteers and customers greet and converse with friendliness and warmth. Holiday cards reach my desk, often with a check intended to go toward the needs of some local family or individual, while person after person asks me if there are unmet needs they can help with.

During worship we have listened together to the words of the prophets proclaiming the coming of a new day, and we have held each other tenderly as losses are recalled and illnesses are faced. We have leaned together into the promise of this season, despite the noise around us that speaks of brokenness and human greed. We continue to light candles and dream of a time of shalom when all will have enough and none will be afraid. Through tears and laughter we continue to walk together seeking to prepare for the birth of holiness, awaiting the songs of joy.

While the weightiness of human suffering can challenge the message of hope and the promise of peace, during these days of Advent I have been lifted and inspired as the message of God's love is made visible through your generosity and kindness. Into complexity and frenzy flows the joy of giving. Into all that would be dark and despairing streams the light of compassion.

On this December day, even as I continue my Advent waiting, I am aware that the Holy One has already come and is here among us, stirring us to acts of love, justice and compassion, making it possible to practice shalom and live into that dream foretold by ancients, embodied by so many like you. It is with deep gratitude I send each of you my warmest wishes as you move into a new year. Thank you for helping to create a faith community where Love is born again and again, and hope is restored through bold and tender actions toward neighbor, friend and stranger. Wherever you are as you read this, may you pause for a moment to recall what matters most and to give thanks for this life we share. I look forward to our continuing journey in the New Year and the ways we will, yet, bear witness to good news.

Blessings and much peace to you!

~ Pastor Mary Westfall



GIVING TREE WRAP UP

A big thank you to Carla Wilson and Maggie Morrison who helped sort, load and deliver Christmas gifts this year. One hundred and fifty three gifts were given to A Safe Place, My Friend's Place, CrossRoads House, Waysmeet and The Pastor's Fund. This was the highest "star count" in the three years that I have been coordinating the Giving Tree! Thank you to each of you who donated so generously to enable strangers to have a merrier Christmas and a happier New Year!

~ Mandy Armstrong, Home and World Mission Board



Why is the Community Church of Durham a consistently proud sponsor of RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara? Please come on February 5th to the 10:00 service to hear Beth Palmisciano, RAIN's founder, talk about this vibrant, life-changing program for the nomadic people of West Africa. Until then, read on to whet your appetite for what is to come when Ms. Palmisciano speaks to our congregation.

The organization RAIN endeavors to improve the lives of nomadic people in West Africa by providing education that leads to self-sustaining and "income-producing" activities that preserve the nomadic traditions of this culture and its people. Community women partner with at-risk girls to discuss issues of hygiene and health, while teaching them traditional skills. Local schools are infused with agricultural skills and animal husbandry, promoting literacy and "building livelihoods." In essence, those involved with RAIN live their motto, "Giving a Leg Up To All through LEARNING AND EARNING."

~Jane Pollard, Home & World Mission Board

HOME & WORLD MISSIONS: HOW CAN I HELP?

I can make a difference by:

- Providing a dinner dish for Families First, February 6, 2012. Call Mandy at 431-2406 to sign up to make part of the meal.
- Dropping off the no longer needed winter coat in the basket outside the church office for the Strafford County Homeless Shelter.
- Deepening my understanding of immigration issues by coming with Maggie and Jane to attend a church service at the Maranatha Indonesian UCC Church in Madbury on February 5th at 12:45. Call Maggie at 659-6355 or Jane at 868-6907 to RSVP.
- Having great conversations and enjoying dinner with college students on February 3rd. Dinner starts at 5:30 at Waysmeet on Mill Road. Call United Campus Ministry at 862-1165 with questions.
- Volunteering for two hours at the Thrift Shop. Call Diana at 207-439-9968.

ECHO COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP HAPPENINGS

FROM GRAND OPENING TO END OF 2011 HAPPENINGS

ECHO was envisioned when Community Church of Durham, UCC decided to undertake a strategic plan to see where and how we were going for the next 5—10 years. We wanted to have an impact on the community and find a way to get people through our doors. An idea of a thrift shop was an opportunity to do that. After many months of vision statements, business plans, town meetings and congregational

meetings, ECHO became a reality. Today a steering committee oversees the policies, daily processing of volunteers, bookkeeping, collecting, sorting and distributing donations. The steering committee consists of Jamie Willett, Margo Pennock, Alicia Sawtell and Diana Marzinzik. Monthly reporting is presented to the Mission Board and then brought to the Church Council.

and the Christmas Fair not only gave us great exposure but were our highest days of sales!

A concern was expressed regarding donated items for ECHO. During the short time we have been open and with no soliciting of donations, ECHO averages 4 or more drop offs during the hours of operation. Many times we find items left at the door for us to sell. And of these donations, 3 out of 4 times, they are coming from someone in the community.

Volunteers were another area of concern. We average about 15 volunteers a week with some working once a month to once a week to twice a week. And we have an on-call list of about 25 to help fill in as needed.

We hope to add the last Sunday after worship as time to shop and with the onset of winter are adjusting our Thursday night hours to coincide with the other weekday hours, 10—5.

Come check out the gem in the basement!!!

WEDNESDAYS	10-5
THURSDAYS	10-5
FRIDAYS	10-5
SATURDAYS	10-2
LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH OPEN FOR AN HOUR AFTER WORSHIP ECHO OPEN	

ECHO—The economical and environmentally friendly way to shop!

When a budget was created for 2011, a \$6,000 amount was figured for the first year of operations. This was to take into consideration start-up expenses and not opening until mid September. At the end of 2011, we can proudly say that total sales for the past 3 1/2 months were \$6300!! Being open for the Yard Sale, Fair Trade Sale

ECHO Goes to Africa

Recently a 3rd year UNH student from Africa came to ECHO. He came to check-out with two large piles of clothing with no rhyme or reason with sizes or sexes. We inquired why such a random selection of clothes and he mentioned he was sending it home to his family in Africa who don't have much. A friend was going home with an empty suitcase and was willing to take things home for his family. Touched by the story and knowing ECHO was created to help alleviate suffering, a really good deal was extended to the young man. A win-win for all!!

WARM CLOTHING FOR DOVER SOUP KITCHEN

Over six large bags of clothing, shoes and coats were collected through ECHO to share with the guests attending Dover Friendly Kitchen just after Christmas. The tables were filled with a nice selection and many walked away pleased with the items and very grateful. A young family of six were there for dinner with the youngest member being a few months old. They left with several items for everyone and a \$50 gift certificate to ECHO was given to help fill in where needed.

More than 3/4 of the items offered went home with those who need it the most and the remaining items were delivered to the Homeless Center of Strafford County. Many thanks for all those who helped!!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION BY “STILL SPEAKING, ONE-TO-ONE” GROWING OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME

First, many thanks to all who participated in the “*Still Speaking, One to One*” Kickoff Event on January 8th. We hope you’ve scheduled or completed this week’s conversations. We look forward to progress reports at this Sunday’s after-church meeting.

For those who didn’t make it to the January 8th event, there’s still plenty of time to get involved. Whether you can only participate for one week or want to participate for the remainder of the campaign, you are welcome to stay after church on Sunday for a short introduction to the campaign, our weekly progress report, and—most importantly—the selection process for the coming week’s conversations.

During this traditionally slow time in the church year, we hope you’ll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to develop stronger relationships with fellow Church members and friends. It is a unique and interesting way for each of us to start the year of 2012. While **there are many opportunities for fellowship in the Church, this enhances our experience at another level. This is a time to get to know other members and friends of the congregation on a more personal level.** Remember, you do not need to be present all six weeks to participate in these 30 to 40 minute conversations. Join in as often as you can.



We hope that you’ve jumped in...the water is warm!!!

To converse more about being a part of “*Still Speaking, One-To-One*,” please contact Chuck Hotchkiss at chuckhotchkiss@gmail.com (603.868.1028) or Gary Cilley at Gary.Cilley@gmail.com (603.749.2981).

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION OPPORTUNITIES

at Durham Community Church

January 2012

1. Mindful Mondays at Noon – This month’s topic: Mindfulness and Habits

How can habits support (or sabotage) our attempts to live as aware, compassionate beings? During January’s Mindful Mondays at Noon we will pay attention to our habits and explore what they mean in living full of well-being. Classes include meditation practice and discussion. Weekly home practice includes daily meditation and optional journaling. Mondays 12:00-1:30 P.M., Durham Community Church Parlor. Cost: \$20/meeting or whatever you can afford (just come). Mondays 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/2012.

All welcome!

2. Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: The Basics

We can use basic meditation to reduce stress, deal with pain and illness, or simply learn to live more fully and feel more alive! This 8-week curriculum was developed by John Kabat-Zinn and The Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. Please pre-register and join us for the full 8 weeks. Includes about 1 hour/day of home practice. Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00 P.M., Durham Community Church Parlor. 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12. Cost: \$180 includes 8 meetings and course CDs. Scholarships available. **All welcome. Pre-registration required.** To pre-register or ask for more info: jnmoyer@unh.edu or 603.868.3538. *Instructor Judith Moyer, Ph.D., trained in MBSR at The Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. She is a professional educator with a long-standing personal meditation practice.*

3. Wednesday Drop-in Silent Meditation Together – Meditating regularly in silence together strengthens and supports our practice. Here’s another opportunity to do so. Please join us Wednesdays 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25 in the Parlor, 6:30-7:15 p.m. Chairs, cushions, and backjacks provided. No charge. **All welcome!**

For more information, please call 603.868.3538 or email jnmoyer@unh.edu

STEWARDSHIP:***Q and A***

What is your stewardship vision for a still more generous people and church? The time has come for that conversation to take place among church families and among friends.

Over my more than 50 years of Christian ministry, invariably I have heard of conversations much like this:

“Well, dear, what shall we do about our church pledge for the coming year?”

“I don’t know. What do you want to do?”

“Dunno, what do YOU want to do?”

“Hmmm. Same as last year?”

“Yea, maybe. What do you think?”

“Think so.”

“Okay”

(silence)

Now, of course, none of us do it that way. Well, not really; but it is amusing to muse upon it. And, by the same token, I know so many people and churches who, over the years, do just the opposite! They:

1. have a way of holding up their generosity as a gift of the Spirit;
2. express authentic and lasting gratitude to God and each other;
3. invite giving as a joyful and joy-filled act of worship;
4. exchange stories of sacrificial giving in the church and in the community;
5. share freely, often and deeply with the wider church, the community and world; and
6. have ways to incorporate justice as a form of generosity.

~ Fred Atwood-Lyon, Board of Stewards

CHURCH HEATING SYSTEM

You may be aware there are ongoing issues with the church's heating system. Most pressing is the lack of dependability. The system shut down on Dec. 18th and much time and effort on the part of the wardens and a service company was required to repair and restart the system.

Problems found:

1. The electrodes for igniting the oil were out of adjustment. They have apparently been moving or bending, perhaps due to being too close to the fire. They were re-adjusted to factory spec.
2. Oil delivery pressure was much too low, only 100 PSI, it should be 150 PSI. It was re-adjusted to factory spec, then tweaked to best possible flame (140PSI).
3. The burner has a low fire/high fire feature. This includes a motor actuated damper to allow more air into the fire box for the high fire setting. This damper motor does not work, thus the burner burns rich and dirty on high fire, so high fire is not to be used at this time.
4. The sight glass for viewing the flame was so dirty that the fire was not visible. It was disassembled and cleaned.
5. The "cad cell" that confirms that the oil is burning was damaged, probably from excess fire. It was replaced.
6. When we fired the boiler the residual oil from the multiple start up failures produced considerable smoke. This is normal. However, much of this smoke came out in the wrong places, indicating that the joints between sections of the boiler are failing. This would be a MAJOR repair/rebuild as the boiler would need to be disassembled and reassembled. That's a summer job, and probably many thousands of dollars.

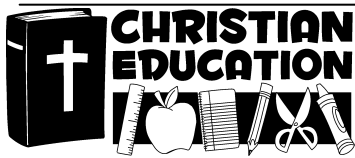
There have been yearly discussions about the possibility of replacing the current oil fired boiler. In addition to being less than dependable the current system is inefficient which increases our fuel costs and conflicts with our goals to reduce our impact on the environment.

The Wardens and Stewards are beginning to develop a plan to address the much needed updates to the system and other energy related projects which involve but are not limited to:

Sanctuary floor insulation, additional fintube radiation in Sanctuary, boiler replacement, boiler room modifications and oil tank removal, possible change to natural gas with an increase in efficiency, boiler room piping adjustments, CE Building hydronic piping/radiation replacement, CE Building attic insulation, reroute of domestic cold and hot water piping to Fellowship Hall, and updating the climate control systems of the complex.

Anyone with knowledge or an interest in these matters is invited to join in the planning. Please contact the Stewards or any of the Wardens if you would like to be part of this important work.

~ Thank you, Andrea Fenn and Toby Clarke, Co-chairs,
Board of Stewards



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Happy, Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed some moments of peace and joy during the Christmas season and that the New Year will be one of renewal and hope. We look forward to continuing to provide new opportunities for the children, families and adults who participate in our programs. We are deeply grateful for all who took part in the Christmas Pageant which was presented both the Sunday before Christmas and on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the leadership of Brenda LaForce who directed the pageant. Thanks also to Ruth Davis, Alicia and Peter Sawtell, Sheryl and Drew Horton, Trisha Hall, Christina Felix, Pam White, Jennifer Zamansky, Gus Lowell, Jane Hillyard, Melissa Gianino, and so many others. Thank you to the young people who shared their talents with our community and inspired us once again with the retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus. Thank you Jim Bullock for your musical accompaniment! To all of the families, we are deeply grateful!

The offering from the early Christmas Eve Service will be directed to Children's International, the Oyster River School District Nurse's Discretionary Fund, A Safe Place, and Sexual Assault Survivors of New Hampshire.

As we look ahead to the coming months, a CE subcommittee will be working to update our reference binders for the Godly Play lessons. We welcome anyone interested in teaching or in helping in the classrooms for the winter/spring sessions. If you'd like to join us, please speak with Gloria or Paula. I am certain we will find a place for your talents!

We will continue to offer the Multigenerational Services on the first Sundays of February, March and April at 9am in the chapel. Please join our growing community for this engaging, fun, and meaningful Service with a light fellowship following.

There will be two opportunities for Adult Education in the Spring.

1. We will offer a book group for those interested in reading **The Faith Club**. Ruth Davis, CE Chair, will host a session in the evenings, beginning in early February. For those who'd like to meet during a weekday, we will gather on Thursdays, beginning February 9th, from 12:00 noon -1:00 pm.

2. Pam White and others on the CE Cabinet will host a wonderful gathering during Lent on the topic of **Forgiveness**. We will view the Forgiveness DVD and discussion will follow. This will take place Sunday, March 18th from 11:45 am-2:00 pm in the Chapel. Lunch will be provided.

VBS: We are beginning to look ahead to the summer and are planning to offer a Vacation Bible School program from Sunday, June 24th through Thursday, June 28th. Mark your calendars now!

As always, if there are ways we may be of support to you or your families, or if you have ideas for future programs or ways to improve our current offerings, please be in touch with me! Many blessings to you and your families for the New Year!

~ Warmly, Paula Norbert, Director of Educational Ministries

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, February 5th, 9:00 am: Multigenerational Service in the Chapel, light refreshments following

Sunday, March 4th, 9:00 am: Multigenerational Service

Sunday, April 1st, 9:00 am: Multigenerational Service

Adult Education:

Book Group/The Faith Club: Beginning Thursday, Feb 9th, 12:00 noon -1:00 pm, in the Church Library for six weeks, led by Paula Norbert. The evening session will be from 7:00-8:00 pm, led by Ruth Davis

Viewing of Forgiveness DVD and discussion: Sunday, March 18th, 11:45-2:00 pm in the Chapel, led by Pam White. Lunch provided.

Vacation Bible School: Sunday, June 24 – Thursday, June 28, 2012



Flowers from our Fall 2011 Yard Sale!

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

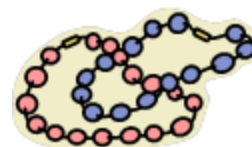
Now is the time to select those special dates to remember or honor a friend or family member with a display of altar flowers. A new sign-up board is on display in Fellowship Hall during coffee hours. Please reserve those dates most meaningful to you as soon as possible.

Consider celebrating a milestone anniversary, a graduation, or a special birthday; remember loved ones no longer with us as well as those who are still vibrant into their eighth or ninth decades. Our hearts rejoice each time we remember these people on significant dates and we urge you to share the joy with the whole congregation.

Consider cut flowers from your garden during the spring and summer months; a plant from your windowsill anytime; and a mixed bouquet from the grocery store would also be lovely. If you order them from Red Carpet, they will deliver the arrangement to the church for you. You may take the flowers with you after the service to continue the remembrance at home or to decorate a cemetery headstone. Or you may leave the floral tribute behind to be taken to a shut-in during a pastoral visit. We also have several silk flower arrangements that may be used; these are stored in the Parlor and you may place one of them on the altar as is or add some additional touches of color if you like. Flowers have always lifted our spirits and we welcome the opportunity to share your special dates and memories. Sign-up soon with your name and phone number to reserve your floral spot!

WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE

Winter meetings of the Women's Guild are January 11th and February 8th, the second Wednesday of each month. We begin at 10 AM in the Parlor to study the Book of Acts. Because we have just started a new workbook it's the perfect time to jump in and join us as we learn and discuss how God is still speaking today and also how God spoke to the early Christians. Bible reading, leader presentation, and group discussion all combine into a lively casual sharing experience as we attempt to understand and strengthen our faith.



CHRISTMAS FAIR ALL YEAR!!



© 2011

Make one of this year's resolutions to drop pounds of Santas, Snowmen & Gingerbread men and donate them to next year's Christmas Shop. It's time to take down the lights and faux wreaths, too. Fair day is December 1, 2012!



SOUP FOR THE SOUL



With the holidays over, students at UNH are settling back into their school routine. We, again, have an opportunity to serve the students who reside and who visit United Campus Ministry's "Waysmeet Center," with soup and cookies every other Tuesday beginning on January 31st. This outreach is a function of the Home and World Mission Board. There is a kiosk to sign up located in Fellowship Hall. We would appreciate your generous food to not only feed the stomachs of these students but their soul's as well! Thank you.

~ Bryn Burns, Home and World Mission Board



Food, Fun and Fellowship.....what could be better!!!

Dine with Nine Potluck

2011 brought a new fellowship opportunity to the Community Church of Durham with the startup of Dine with Nine. 63 people signed up to be a part of a dinner group that was randomly selected and met at least 4 times throughout the year. A total of 7 groups were created with the last one consisting of Snow Birds that met between May and October and are gathering at a central point in Florida over the winter!!

Much fun, good food and great conversation were experienced by all involved. So much so that at least one group wants to continue into the next year and also be a part of another group!!



Date: Sunday March 4th
Time: 1—4 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

PLEASE CONTACT DIANA MARZINZIK TO R.S.V.P.
603-534-7779 or dmarzinzik@comcast.net

To celebrate the ending of a very successful fellowship event, we are hosting a Dine With Nine Potluck for all who participated. Each group is requested to bring a starter, a salad, an entrée, a beverage and a dessert that can be shared. We'll dine and share stories and ideas from the Dine with Nine experience! Another year of Dine with Nine will be happening beginning in March..... Watch for signs and don't miss out on the opportunity!!!

KNITTING FOR PEACE EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON 1:00-2:30 IN THE PARLOR

If you enjoy knitting, the cold winter is a good time of year to make a baby blanket for the Women's Guild to distribute to A Safe Place, My Friend's Place, or Goodwin Community Health. Any pattern can be used. Here's an easy one:

Cast on two stitches.

Row 1: knit first stitch, increase in second stitch.

Row 2: K1, Inc. 1, K1.

Row 3: K1, Inc. 1, K1, K1.

Continue, always knitting the first stitch and increasing in the second, then knitting to the end of the row. When the finished outside edge measures 32 inches (this will be half the blanket), start to decrease: K1, K2 together, continue knitting to end of row; continue decreasing in this manner until you are down to the end.

Please use acrylic yarn in pretty colors, with a size 10 straight needle or any size circular needle. If you have questions, call Diane Le Ray at 868-2219.



LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2012
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY (YEAR B)

EPIPHANY

January 1, 2012 **Called to Gift (Epiphany Sunday)**

Focus: To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the magi.

Focus scripture: Matthew 2: 1 – 12
Additional readings: Isaiah 60: 1 – 6
Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14
Ephesians 3: 1 – 12

January 8, 2012 **New Beginnings**

Focus: To respond to God's voice calling us into new directions for our lives.

Focus scripture: Mark 1: 4 – 11
Additional readings: Genesis 1: 1 – 5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1 – 7

January 15, 2012 **Called and Recalled**

Focus: To recognize and respond to God's ongoing call in our lives.

Focus scripture: 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10, (11 – 20)
Additional readings: Psalm 139: 1 – 6, 13 – 18
1 Corinthians 6: 12 – 20
John 1: 41 – 51

January 22, 2012 **Moving Forward**

Focus: To consider what it means to hear and respond to God's call to discipleship.

Focus scripture: Mark 1: 14 – 20
Additional readings: Jonah 3: 1 – 5, 10
Psalm 62: 5 – 12
1 Corinthians 7: 29 – 31

January 29, 2012 **With Authority**

Focus: To follow Jesus' example in claiming our God-given authority to restore community.

Focus scripture: Mark 1: 21 – 28
Additional readings: Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13

February 5, 2012 **Sustaining Ministry**

Focus: To anchor our call to serve God and neighbor in the promise of God's faithfulness.

Focus scripture: Mark 1: 29 – 39
Additional readings: Isaiah 40: 21 – 31
Psalm 147: 1 – 11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16 – 23

February 12, 2012 **Healing Presence**

Focus: To bear witness to God's healing presence in our midst.

Focus scripture: Mark 1: 40 – 45
Additional readings: 2 Kings 5: 1 – 14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9: 24 – 37

February 19, 2012 **Thin Places**

Focus: To explore experiences of "thin places" where we catch glimpses of God's shining Glory.

Focus scripture: Mark 9: 2 – 9
Additional readings: 2 Kings 2: 1 – 12
Psalm 50: 1 – 6
2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6

Season of Lent

February 26, 2012 **Blessed Connections**

Focus: To witness to God's covenant with all creation.

Focus scripture: Genesis 9: 8 – 17
Additional readings: Psalm 25: 1 – 10
1 Peter 3: 18 – 22
Mark 1: 9 – 15

March 4, 2012 **Living legacy**

Focus: To examine the ways we live our lives in God's presence.

Focus scripture: Genesis 17: 1 – 7, 15 – 16
Additional readings: Psalm 22: 23 – 31
Romans 4: 13 – 25
Mark 8:31 – 38 or Mark 9:2 – 9



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE & EVENTS

This year Pastor Mary is working with 14 dynamic 8th and 9th graders as part of the confirmation process. Upcoming events for the group will provide opportunities to explore various world religions and spiritual traditions, noting ways they are similar and dissimilar in order to gain deeper understanding of the role religion plays in human life and culture. Please hold this group in your thoughts and prayers as they journey in faith.

- Jan. 20, Friday: Exploring our Roots – Visit to Temple Israel** in Dover. We will meet at church for pizza at 6:00 pm, then leave for Dover at 6:30 pm, to meet with Rabbi Sam and to share in a worship service with this Jewish congregation. Drivers needed.
- Feb. 3, Friday: Other Images of the Sacred** – Visit to Aryaloka Buddhist Center, Newmarket. Please meet at the church at 4:00pm to depart. Program on Buddhism and an opportunity to experience meditation. 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Drivers needed.
- Feb. 12, Sunday: Expanding Views, Interfaith Panel Discussion** with people from many faiths. 3:00-4:30 pm. Held at the church.
- March 4, Sunday: Christianity 101** – Learning about the core beliefs and central practices unique to the Christian tradition. 3:00-4:30 pm. Held at the church.
- March 18, Sunday: Real Faith – Panel on Belief and Practice.** Lunch and discussion. Hear how other people integrate religion into their lives. 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm. Held at the church.
- March 29, Thursday: Faith in Action – Serving at the Dover Friendly Soup Kitchen.** Meet at the church at 4:00 pm to carpool to Dover to assist in feeding and interacting with guests at the soup kitchen 4:30-6:00. Drivers needed.
- April 14, Saturday: Day of Service and Culminating Experience.** Location to be announced. Please reserve the date.
- May 6, Sunday: Confirmation Celebration** to take place during morning worship, with reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

ALLELUIA CHOIR

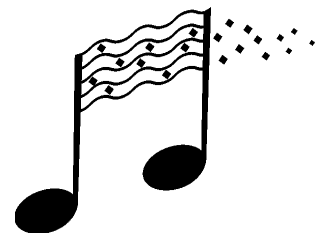
All children in grades 3 - 8 are invited to join the Alleluia Choir. If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Ellis at Lorna.Ellis@myfairpoint.net or 868-5831. Our tentative schedule for this winter and spring is:

- Jan. 29:** Rehearse during Sunday School.
Feb. 5: Sing at 10:00 am service, and rehearse during 10 am service.
Feb. 19: Sing at 10:00 am service.
March 11: Rehearse during Sunday School.
March 25: Sing at 10:00 service.
April 1: Rehearse during 10:00 am service.
April 8: Sing during 10:30 am Easter service.
May 6: Rehearse during 10:00 am service.
May 13: Sing during 10:00 am service.
June 3 or 10: Rehearse during Sunday School.
June 10 or 17: Sing during 10:00 am service.



REJOICE CHOIR

The Rejoice Choir for children age 3 through those in 2nd grade meets on **Mondays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm** following the Oyster River School calendar, in Fellowship Hall for snacks, games and music! Questions? See Nancy Miner, or phone: 659-3701.





Pathfinders

PATHFINDERS (MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND INTERESTED HIGH SCHOOLERS)!

We are busy planning more activities for this winter/spring and hope to see a lot of you. Here is the schedule so far:

Sat., January 21: Game/Movie Night and sleepover in Lisa's barn. 5:00 pm to Sunday morning in time for Church.

Sun., February 19: Snow Tubing at Amesbury Sports Park after church.

March: A service project – details to follow.

Friday, April 13: Game/Movie night at the church.

May: We hope to schedule another retreat and ropes course at Camp Wanakee.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? WORSHIP SERIES CONTINUES

Thanks to the leadership of the Home and World Mission Board, our congregation has been seeking a deeper understanding of how to be a loving presence in the world. “Who is My Neighbor?” is a worship series the first Sunday of each month that welcomes another face or organization to help us deepen our awareness of our neighbors near and far. On February 5th, Bess Palmisciano will be our guest speaker. Bess is known by many in the congregation and serves as the Director of RAIN, an organization that educates about the needs of nomadic peoples in the Sahara and Sudan and provides funds for schools and other community development tools for people of that region of Africa. Our congregation has supported this work for several years and we will have the opportunity on Feb. 5th to hear more about this amazing program and the people it serves. Come prepared to be inspired as you hear about our neighbors.

On March 4th, this same series will feature Ben and Madisson Hillyard, father and daughter in our congregation who travelled to Honduras last year as part of our mission program in San Francisco de la Paz. They remain active in supporting the work of building schools and creating gardens in that region. They have a compelling and beautiful story to share.

As people of faith we are called to “love our neighbor.” This series intends to deepen our understanding of our neighbors so that our love might flow more freely and make possible stronger bonds that will enhance lives and build the beloved community. For more information on this series please speak to Mission Board Co-Chairs Maggie Morrison or Jane Pollard. Also be watching for more information on the work this board is doing in support of our immigrant brothers and sisters.



CHAPEL CHAIRS. . . ONE MORE TIME

The changes to the chapel have received very positive comments. The space has been greatly enhanced by new carpet, comfortable chairs, sanding of the chancel floor, and some paint touch-ups. Many people contributed to this project through the purchase of new chairs. Those who made contributions will be listed in the next Chronicle. If you have not had the opportunity to donate, yet, or wanted to make a contribution in the name of a beloved friend, family or church member, please do so by Feb 1. Many thanks to all who have helped beautify this important worship and meeting space in our church building. If you have not visited the Chapel lately please stop in!

PASTOR AWARDED SABBATICAL GRANT

Pastor Mary, now in her 13th year as pastor of the Community Church, recently received word she was awarded a Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders, from the Louisville Institute. This grant will be used by Mary on her summer 2012 sabbatical as she pursues her interest in spiritual practices that enliven and sustain faith in these complex times. As a recipient, she will attend a three day seminar at Louisville Seminary Feb. 27th-29th to better prepare for this experience. Be watching for more about these topics in future Chronicle articles. Congratulations and best wishes to Mary as she receives this award and prepares for her time of rest, renewal and further exploration and learning.

PREPARED TO SERVE, FEBRUARY 25TH, AN INVITATION TO ALL

Each year the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, offers a lively day of workshops, worship, and resource-sharing for the 135 UCC churches in our state. This event, held in Pembroke, is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about topics ranging from stewardship and mission programs, to how to run a successful program with teens or become a "green" congregation. There is truly something for everyone. Full program booklets are available outside the church office, with over 40 workshops being offered, and lots of opportunity to hear about what other congregations are doing in worship, social justice ministries, and more. All are invited to take a look and consider joining the group that will attend this day filled with information and inspiration. Carpooling is available.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SPIRITUAL CELEBRATION

Once again our congregation is honored to host the annual MLK Jr. Spiritual Celebration in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire. On Sunday, January 29 at 4:00 pm, all are invited to this spirited, diverse, dynamic celebration of the life of Dr. King. This interfaith worship service brings together students, community members, churches, activists, artists and musicians and is open to all. In a world still so divided, come and join with others in a celebration of all that unites, connects and sustains us. For more information or to participate, please contact Pastor Mary 868-1230 or UNH Chaplain Larry Brickner-Wood 862-1165.

Our congregation will also host the reception that follows this event. Members and friends are invited to sign up to bring food or help serve as we welcome in neighbors from near and far. Please contact the church office to sign up to assist. Many thanks, in advance, for helping host this important community-wide celebration.

ASH WEDNESDAY TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICE, FEBRUARY 22ND

Ash Wednesday, February 22, marks the start of the Lenten season and the six-week period of preparation prior to Easter. A worship service will be held in the chapel at 6:30 pm which will include music from the Taize tradition, readings, silent reflection, and the imposition of ashes for those who choose. This introspective service provides an opportunity for an alternative mid-week worship service and a means to deepen one's Lenten journey. All are warmly invited.

EXPERIENCING THE SACRED

The Diaconate is pleased to announce they will be offering an eight week program called Experiencing the Sacred. The program will start Sunday, February 26th at 5:00 pm and run for eight consecutive weeks, ending on April 15th. Four different programs will be offered: Singing the Sacred, Sacred Arts, Sacred Movement and Taize Service. Stay tuned for more details!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship group will meet on Thursday, January 19th, February 2nd and February 16th in the Parlor. The group typically meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 8:00 am. All men of the community are welcome to come and discuss spiritual and other topics of interest.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH EDITION OF *THE CHRONICLE* BY **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH.**

PARKING - A GENTLE REMINDER

During the busy weeks ahead, please remember to leave the upper parking lot available for those who have difficulty walking. Please also be sure to park only in designated spaces and clear of fire lanes. Thank you!



Our parking lot has become safer with the clearing of dead trees and limbs in December 2011.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER?

Are you new to Community Church and want to learn more about programs and events, maybe even how to get more involved? Have you been around awhile and are ready to join the church? Are you still seeking the right spiritual community and want to gather with others to talk about what Community Church is all about?

All who are interested in these kinds of questions and opportunities are warmly invited to the New Members Luncheon and Discussion on Sunday March 4th at noon. Pastor Mary will lead a program and conversation to provide more insight into the life of Community Church and answer questions about membership. To find out more please contact the church office, or fill out the form below. Lunch and childcare provided. Those who choose to join the Community Church of Durham will be officially welcomed during worship on Sunday March 25th.

New Members Luncheon Discussion Registration

March 4, 2012 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Name: _____ Phone# _____

Address (street or email): _____

____ Yes, I/we would like to attend on March 4.

____ I/We will need childcare for _____

Ages of Children _____

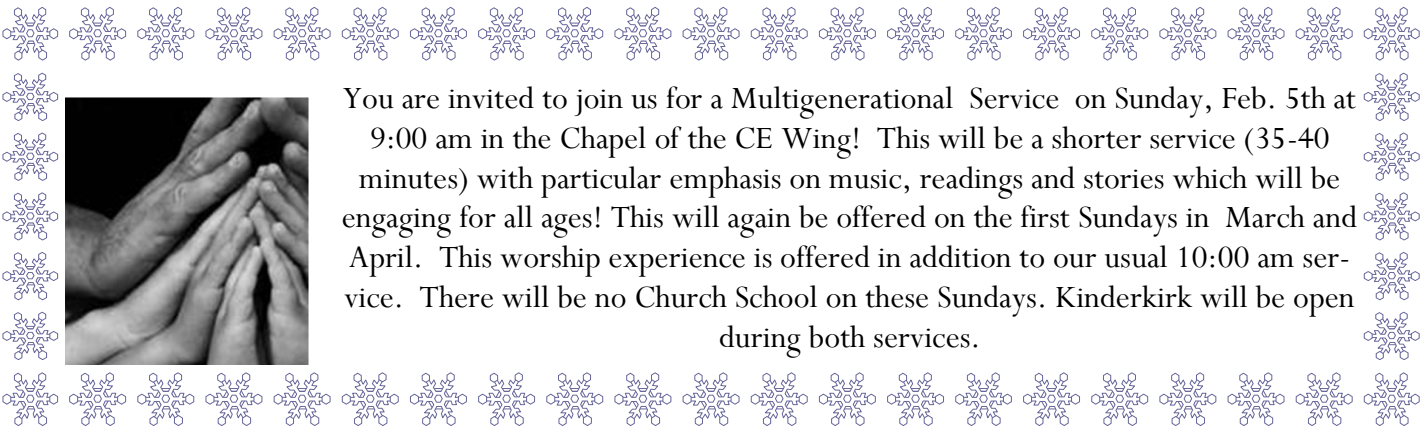
____ Sorry, cannot attend that day, but interested in further information.


To help with planning, thanks for returning this form to the church office by March 1st.
Community Church of Durham, PO Box 310, Durham, NH 03824 phone: 603-868-1230

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
17 Main Street, Box 310, Durham, NH 03824
Phone: 603.868.1230 Email: office@durhamcommunitychurch.org www.durhamcommunitychurch.org

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You are invited to join us for a Multigenerational Service on Sunday, Feb. 5th at 9:00 am in the Chapel of the CE Wing! This will be a shorter service (35-40 minutes) with particular emphasis on music, readings and stories which will be engaging for all ages! This will again be offered on the first Sundays in March and April. This worship experience is offered in addition to our usual 10:00 am service. There will be no Church School on these Sundays. Kinderkirk will be open during both services.