

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 34 No. 1

Special offering this month: "Christmas Fund"

January 2012



**Center Harbor
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

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*The Rev. Carol Snow-Asher,
Pastor ~ Tel. 744-7864
Nancy Turziano, Music Director
Nancy Lemieux, Office Secretary
All Members: Ministers*

The Village Preschool
Sally Mann 455-6322

Altar Flowers
Pastor/Poster in Gilpatric Hall

Deacons of the Month
Ellen & Steve Weeks 476-8404

Trustees
Kent Warner 253-4342

Board of Christian Education
John Merrill 253-6793

Board of Christian Mission
Mary Alice Warner

*Submissions & calendar events
due by the 15th each month.*

The Work of Christmas (Let it Begin!!)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry
 To release the prisoners,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among people,
 To make music in the heart.

Wishes for the New Year

For the New Year,
I would wish for all of us to have:
 Enough JOY to keep us looking
 forward to each new day;
 Enough TRIALS to keep us strong
 and always moving forward
 and testing limits;
 Enough SORROW to keep us human;
 Enough HOPE to remove all anxious fears concerning
 the future.
 Enough LOVE to move on to be useful and helpful to others;
 Enough SUCCESS to keep us eager;
 Enough FAILURE to keep us humble;
 Enough FAITH to make real the things of God;
 Enough COURAGE in ourselves, our work, our country
 and our world to banish our depressions;
 Enough FRIENDS to give us comfort;
 Enough WEALTH to meet our needs;
 Enough STRENGTH to battle with difficulties
 and overcome them;
 Enough DETERMINATION to make each day
 a little better than yesterday;
 Enough TRUST to let God control and guide.



Out of My Mind... and My Heart

Carol Asher, - Pastor

I read a story a while ago that I would like to share. The title is: "Charlie the Chicken".

One spring, when the author was still a child on the farm, her father arrived at the back door cradling a little chick, just several days old. "He's damaged," said her father, "he drags one wing. I probably should destroy him but I feel badly... the little guy is so gutsy!"

The family wouldn't let him do it. They built a pen near the house. The damaged chick got hand feeding and cuddling by everyone.

But the father still worried, saying "This won't work. Chickens do not accept anything that is different."

Charlie the chick grew quickly. He came running when he heard his name called.

Then the time came to see if Charlie could be re-united with his own kin. "We opened his pen and he ran towards the flock of chickens, dragging his wing and chirping." The author reported that the results – then and for the next weeks – were mixed. Sometimes ignored, at times accepted, more often rejected... Charlie received it all. Sometimes the rejection looked severe enough that the family would call his name and he scurry back to the safety of his pen. Eventually he spent the days with the flock and the nights in his pen.

"One evening as darkness fell he did not come home. The children went to the chicken coop and called ... and Charlie answered. For the first time he was perched on the roosting rails, on the lowest one and at the edge of the flock, but he was there and not rejected.

"Then one afternoon there was a mad crowding together of excited, screeching chickens. With some difficulty, the father dispersed the maddened flock. The bloody and ripped body of their feathered friend lay in a pool of blood.

The author remembered that her father held her as she sobbed... and through his own tears said, "We tried, and Charlie tried, but sometimes creatures are so afraid of anything different that they go wild."

Not unlike us humans, the author concluded. "When I read of some young gay man being killed by a mob, I say to myself, 'They are still doing it, Charlie...'"

That author selected gays and lesbians as her example. Alas, so many other examples are possible. In some parts of the world, Christians are under attack; in other parts, Jews ... or migrants, or sometimes union members... Not so long ago discrimination was directed at women, blacks, Asians, natives, and Hispanics (and many of them would say it still is!).

No one who bucks the established pecking order is really safe. Liberals and progressives get attacked as socialists, communists, or anarchists; the far right is written off as fascists or as throwbacks to an ancient era. Anyone with an Arabic-sounding name gets special attention at airports. And doctors who perform abortions are considered fair game for vigilantes with rifles.

As the author's father said, "Sometimes creatures are so afraid of anything different..."

But as the author noted, there has been progress on some levels. "When I hear of schools including handicapped kids and mixing them successfully with non-handicapped kids, I say 'Well Charlie, we can't do much about chickens, but things are getting a little better with people.'"

I hope she's right. But when I look at some recent trends in legislation and I hear some of the ideas of the candidates vying for high public office, I worry that we may be slipping backwards towards the chicken yard.

Here at CHCC, we have some unfinished "business" to work through. We spent time last year looking at a number of different facets of the issues of diversity and how they might detract and/or enhance our community... especially in our community of faith.

The issue of actually expressing our Christian views of how our church community will face diversity... this issue has been put on the back burner for several reasons... to the quiet relief of some people and to the impatient yearning of others.

Let us pick up this issue and move forward. TOGETHER, let us listen to each others' hopes and fears. TOGETHER, let us pray and discuss and formulate an expression of our resolve to face diversity.

There is NO statement already written... each of us has a chance to speak and be heard and be part of our future.

Asher
Pastor Carol

From the Board of Deacons

The Joy of New Members

It is really good to see a number of new faces in our midst. The Deacons invite any who are interested in joining our church to speak with a Deacon, so that informational meetings can be set up. We hope to officially welcome new members in the beginning of this new year.

Pictures

And speaking of those new people... and a lot of the older... hmmm, I mean already members... the photos that we taken a while ago will be posted so we can better learn each others' names and be able to put names to faces.

Name Tags

And speaking of putting names to faces, please wear your name tags every week. If you need a new name tag, please leave a note on the secretary's desk in the office and a brand new tag will gladly be made.

Volunteers

Did you miss having fellowship together a couple of weeks back?? No one signed up, offering to serve coffee and juice and some assortment of fruit and things to nibble on. This is an easy task to do once in a while... as are the tasks of ushering, greeting at the front door, being liturgist during worship. We hope that each person will volunteer for one of these tasks periodically and make the worship experience better and richer for all.

Trustee's Report

Writing this report during the holiday season doesn't seem jolly to me. The Trustees are required to look after the all the church property, including the finances. As we end 2011 the finances are in fair shape.

For 2010 pledge cash receipts were \$89,667. As of this December 11th our pledge cash receipts were only \$78,370. Hopefully that number will increase substantially before we close the books on January 10th. Please get your checks in by then.

We have received pledges to date for 2012 of only \$67,512. This compares with pledges received for 2011 of \$87,664. Please get your pledges in as soon as possible. If you need another pledge card they are available in the office, or can be mailed to you.

Kent Warner, for the Trustees

Treasurer's Report

Year to date expenses vs. income received		
As of November 30, 2011		
Expenses	Income	Income Over/ (Under) Ex- penses
\$ 116,905	\$ 91,368	\$ (25,537)

Year to date expenses are slightly less than budgeted by approximately \$2100 and income is slightly less than budget by almost \$3400. Hopefully we will be able to contain expenses through the end of the year and we'll receive all of the tithes and offerings budgeted.

Respectfully submitted by your Treasurer, Jason Hicks

News from the Mission Board!

Why are we writing about the **CHRISTMAS FUND** in January?

The Christmas Fund, formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, is administered by the Pension Boards on behalf of the United Church Of Christ to retired clergy and lay employees who may need assistance for unseen financial crises or other needs.

Although it is after the holiday season, our church is concerned about those who have served the church, and we want to support this effort. When a widow or a retired couple needs help to live with dignity, to those who served small congregations that could not afford adequate salaries, as emergency assistance to individuals facing illness or disaster, or ongoing problems, a gift in the form of financial support is an expression of love and caring for those who have served UCC churches in many different ways.

The Christmas Fund (formerly known as Veterans of the Cross) has been expressing the love of God-with-us for 108 years. This annual offering is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC. Our church is one in New Hampshire that is a 5 for 5 Church, meaning that in addition to the Christmas Fund, we support One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and the general Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), to which we can pledge or give as we wish.

We thank all of you who were "Angels" taking Angels from the Christmas Tree, and those who were part of the Alternative Christmas project. The members and friends of this Center Harbor Church are truly a most generous and loving Community of Faith.

Upcoming "Our Turn To Serve"

at the Center Harbor Soup Kitchen on Tuesday Jan.10th. This is a fun event when we work together—listen for further details during worship.

We come to the end of the year 2011 grateful that we have sent our love and caring to meet the needs of our sisters and brothers near and far.

Your Mission Board,
Mary Alice Warner, Sally Humer,
Joyce Larson, Robin Weeks

CHCC 2011 Missions

January	The Christmas Fund
February	Mission Trust Fund
March	One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)
April	New Beginnings
May	United Campus Ministry
June	Blankets & Tools of Hope (Church World Service)
July	Strengthen the Church (UCC)
August	Habitat for Humanity
September	Focus on Africa
October	Neighbors in Need (UCC)
November	Hunger
December	Alternative Christmas & Angel Tree

Helping Kids In Need Without Hurting Your Wallet

Even when times are tight, there are still things you can do to support programs and schools that help low-income and at-risk kids grow and thrive.

Campbell's Labels for Education offers hundreds of items schools can acquire with the UPC labels on the package. Campbell's Soup, Bic pens, Emerald Nuts and Pop Secret microwave popcorn are all part of the program. See the "Labels for Education" web site for a list of eligible projects. **General Mills** products have box tops you can clip and send in to help our schools. Each "Box Tops" coupon is worth \$.10 to the school.

Put these labels and box tops into the fishbowl container in Gilpatric Hall... and thanks!! These are forwarded to the UCC-affiliated Elon School in North Carolina for their use.

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC January 2012

Visit us online: www.chcucc.org

You may request the newsletter by e-mail.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>New Year's Day 1 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments</p>	<p>2 5:30 & 8:30 am Boot Camp (M-F) 9:00 am T'ai Chi</p>	<p>3 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6:00 pm T'ai Chi</p>	<p>Epiphany 6</p>	<p>7 8:00 Al-Anon</p>
<p>8 8:30 am BOCE 10:00 am Worship & Church School 11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments 11:30 am Missions 5:00-8:30pm OWL 7:00pm Community Epiphany Service in Gilford</p>	<p>9 5:30 & 8:30 am Boot Camp (M-F) 9:00 am T'ai Chi</p>	<p>10 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen (our turn to serve) 7:30 pm Trustees</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:00 pm T'ai Chi</p>	<p>13 Take one action to make this a "Good Luck" day!</p>	<p>14 8:00 Al-Anon</p>
<p>15 10:00 am Worship & Church School 11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments 5:30pm Second Sunday</p>	<p>16 5:30 & 8:30 am Boot Camp (M-F) 9:00 am T'ai Chi</p>	<p>17 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen 5:45 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Cabinet</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:00 pm T'ai Chi</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:00 Al-Anon</p>
<p>22 10:00 am Worship & Church School 11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments</p>	<p>23 5:30 & 8:30 am Boot Camp (M-F) 9:00 am T'ai Chi</p>	<p>24 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:00 pm T'ai Chi</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:00 Al-Anon</p>
<p>29 10:00 am Worship & Church School 11:00 am Fellowship & Refreshments</p>	<p>30 NO Boot Camp (M-F) 9:00 am T'ai Chi</p>	<p>31 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>Boldface = Church-sponsored events</p>	<p>This month's mission: "The Christmas Fund" Questions? Call the secretary during Office/Sanctuary Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Or leave a message: (603) 253-7698 or 253-8668 E-mail: chcucc@myfairpoint.net</p>		

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

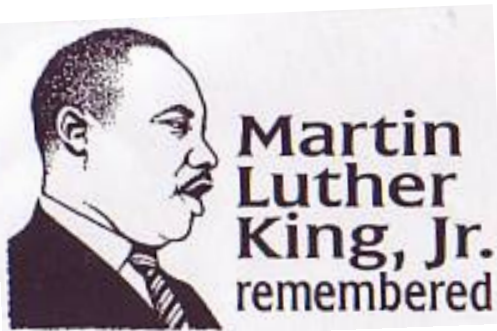
Advent Afternoon was well attended December 17th from 1:30 until 3:00 pm— the room was humming from the happy voices making a variety of crafts to share. Then a group left at 5PM to go Christmas Caroling to the homes of several of our shut-ins and older folks and to Golden View. The happy carols were appreciated... and we got to wish Arthur Greenfield a “happy birthday” at the same time.

The Children’s Pageant “The Christmas Star”, under the Director Carrie Crosby and Manager Hannah Crosby, was presented as part of the Church service on December 18th. Thank you to Carrie and Hannah, stage hands: Ben Crosby and Travis Manville and all the teachers and children. A job well done. This annual pageant always sets the stage for a wonderful and meaningful Christmas.

The OWL program (Our Whole Lives) continues with an enthusiastic group of ten young people (five from our church and five others from the community). This group will meet January 8, 2012 rather than on New Year’s Day.

Our Second Sunday Youth Group will meet on January 15, 2012 under the direction of Patte Morrow and Adam Weeks. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join the fellowship of this group.

It seems a long way off... but the national UCC is planning a national youth event to be held at Purdue University in July. Over 3,000 youth and leaders are expected to participate in this event, held every three years. There are funds available for this grand trip— WHO will go from CHCC?



Only God Is Able

Martin Luther King, Jr.

There is so much frustration in the world because we have relied on gods rather than God. We have genuflected before the god of science only to find that it has given us the atomic bomb.... We have worshipped the god of pleasure only to discover that thrills play out and sensations are short-lived. We have bowed before the god of money only to learn that there are such things as love and friendship that money cannot buy and that, in a world of possible depressions, stock market crashes and bad business investments, money is a rather uncertain deity. These transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we must rediscover.

Inclement Weather Policy

It is our policy that the Church Office will be closed whenever the Inter-Lakes Schools are closed. Meeting of church Boards and Committees will be canceled at the call of their respective chairperson.

Worship Service will most likely be held each Sunday. However, you are encouraged to not venture out if you feel it is unsafe for you to attend. If there is any question about cancellation of a service, please call the church office and listen to the message. Worship cancellations will also be posted on WMUR.

Community Epiphany Service
Celebrate the end of the Christmas Season
with the Coming of the Three Kings

Sunday, January 8 - 7:00 pm
 Many church choirs will be participating with special music and a massed choir singing "The Hallelujah Chorus"
 First United Methodist Church
 Rt. 11A – 18 Wesley Way, Gilford
 Handicapped Accessible: Hearing Assistive Devices

Birthdays



This information is not available online.

For updates, members may request a printed sheet from the secretary.

Anniversaries



This information is not available online.

For updates, members may request a printed sheet from the secretary.

We apologize if we missed anyone. Please let us know if you want to be added to the list(s).

I Am the New Year

I am a new chapter in your Book of Life.
 I offer you new vistas of life.
 I offer you new treasures sublime.
 I hold for you a perfect peace.
 I bring all these to you through Jesus Christ.
 I urge you to begin me by acknowledging Him as Lord.
 I urge you to live me by obeying His Word and following His guidance.
 I warn you not to squander my time.
 I warn you that my days are numbered.
 I offer to you limitless opportunities for love and service.
 I appeal to you to give me due consideration.
 I appeal to you to accept my proffered gifts.

Worship Volunteers for the Month *Please share your time and talent!*

Please sign up for future dates in Gilpatric Hall, or contact a Deacon(s) of the Month.

January: Dave & Ellen Weeks 476-8404

	Ushers	Liturgist	Acolytes	Greeters	Fellowship Host
1					
8			Madison & Kaylee Smith		
15			Ben Crosby & Daniel Humer		
22			Taylor & Megan Colby		
29			Emma & Lauren O'Hearn		

Hard Lessons from Tragedies

There have been several tragedies in our extended church families in the last several weeks. Even as we try to surround the families affected with our prayers, may we learn from those events.

SMOKE DETECTORS and EVACUATION PLANS

Texas cousins of Jason Hicks lost their dear little 7-year-old daughter in a house fire. Out of this unthinkable loss, may we be reminded to put fresh batteries into our smoke detectors (or install them in the first place). It has been suggested that these detectors be checked at the same time that clocks are changed in the Spring and Fall... but it seems like a good way to begin the New Year.

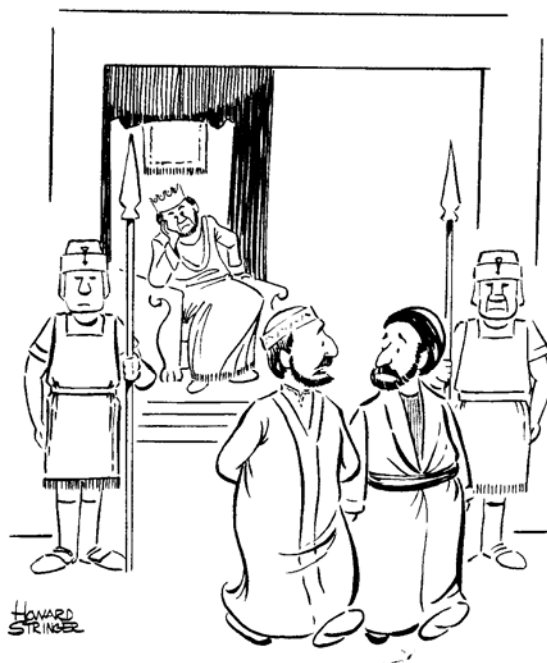
In the same vein... does your family have a plan for getting out of the house and meeting in a certain spot? Has your family had a "fire drill" to make sure everyone knows the plan? It's too easy to say "that would NEVER happen to us".

For the information of all church families, our church school classes HAVE indeed had practice fire drills. IF there is occasion for the alarms to sound while we gather in church, all parents are urged to trust the safety of their children to the teachers and adults in charge and NOT try to go down after the children but RATHER leave the building and meet everyone out by the Peace Pole.

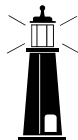
ORGAN DONATION and LIVING WILLS

The O'Hearn family recently faced the untimely death of Ed's younger sister. As reported, after donating many of Ellie's organs so that others could live, Ellie is "dancing with the angels".

Organ donation is such a life-saving gift for many people... yet we think little of planning and designating our intentions while we are healthy. It isn't easy to think about the process of our dying, but as Christians, we believe that death is NOT the worst thing that could happen to us. It may be a difficult subject to broach with family, but it really is such a gift to others in the family to express intentions about organ donation and wishes about extraordinary measures at the last part of our living. Your pastor and your physician have forms for Living Wills and Organ Donation. When you renew your license, remember that a sticker can be affixed to your license indicating your wish to have your organs donated to safe other lives.



WHY IS KING HEROD SO UPSET? WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN ONE LITTLE BABY MAKE?



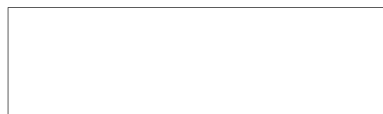
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FIRST CLASS

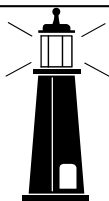
**Save us a stamp:
 Opt-out of our mailing list and
 opt-in to our
 e-mail list**

by calling the church office (603) 253-7698



THE
 CENTER HARBOR
 LIGHT

January 2012



We are a church whose members love and value each other. Our faith community is a force for caring and sharing God's love in local and wider communities. As members, we learn, grow and serve together to do God's work with faith, compassion and respect.

All are Welcome on Sundays
 10:00 a.m. Worship and Church School
 —all children welcome
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship in Gilpatric Hall



IN GOD'S HANDS

-E. Stanley Jones

Put your hand into the hand of God as you start the New Year. Then the New Year will be a fresh adventure every morning and a quiet benediction every night. You will be alive in every portion of your being. You will be aware of God and others.

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