

Bartlett Church news

Bartlett Union Congregational Church

Web Site: www.Bartlettchurch.net

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Bartlett, New Hampshire

December 01, 2009

A Note from the Pastor

Susan "Andy" Jepson



Dear Friends,

And so we begin Advent again, our faith's new year, in hope and joy, with peace and love for all, and in through the one whose birth we celebrate.

One month - less! - seems too short a time for anticipating and then celebrating such an important event. Thinking about Christ being born for us, to live in and through each of us, make it clear that our whole lifetimes are still too short to do justice to the powerful truth of Emmanuel, God with us. God has such trust in us, such faith that we can and will do the holy work of hope, peace, love and joy! The generosity of God's trust is overwhelming - we know we cannot deserve it, yet it is given to us, a gift that is also a responsibility, a privilege that is as much a challenge as charge.

How good that we have this wonderful Advent time of joy and contemplation to refocus our hearts and souls on God's gracious gifts of life, life new and renewed and everlasting! Beside it, all the realities of our cultures commercial Christmas madness pale, and the season offers its real self to our need and our readiness.

In light of the contrast between what calls us and what surrounds us, we can be strong and wise, joyful and playful, forgiving and forgiven, only if we continually invite God to see the mangers of our hearts and be midwife there to what can be born anew in us on Christmas Day - And all days!

Love, *Andy*

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 12 **Pot Luck Supper and
Christmas Sing along 6:00 pm**
- Dec. 13 **Prudential Meeting 11:30 am**
- Dec. 14 **Church Mice Christmas Party
George's Home 12:00 Noon**
- Dec. 24 **Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service 7:00 pm**
- Jan. 10 **Church Annual Meeting
11:30 am**

Guest Minister

On Sunday, November 22nd we were honored to have **Rev. Dr. Donald Derse** as our guest preacher. Dr. Derse also sang with the choir with the beautiful Thanksgiving anthem.

Dr. Derse has recently retired from serving the North Conway Congregational Church.

Happy Birthday

Dec. 09	Jean Garland
Dec. 10	Bill Goff
Dec. 11	Ernie Hiscox
Dec. 14	Lee Coffield
Dec. 17	John Ludgate
Dec. 18	Phyllis Linger
Dec. 17	Sylvia Shaw
Dec. 23	Carol Santacrose
Dec. 23	Ged Owen

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 17	Bill and Judy Botsford
Dec. 23	Belvin and Pearl Barnes



Poinsettias

Flower Committee

Orders are being taken for Christmas Poinsettias to be placed on the altar in memory of loved ones. If you would like to place an order, please see Evelyn Bailey (374-2217) as soon as possible.



Christian Education

Judi Coffield

Hello all!! The Christian Education Committee hopes that you enjoyed our traditional Hanging of the Greens service. Mary and I really enjoy this presentation that the kids do. It's a good lesson for everyone to familiarize themselves with the meanings of Christmas traditions that we do in the church. It educated the children as well! We will study the meaning of the *Chrismon* and make them at our next youth group gathering next Sunday night. Speaking of youth group, we have had a couple of meetings and the students



and adults alike, have had a great time. Andy has been teaching the confirmation class which is a goal we've had as parents to have our kids confirmed. Not sure we could accomplished this without her.

Bible Study is an important part in Christian education and Beri Hiscox has been hosting that. She also has agreed to assist Andy, Mary and I in teaching a younger group during youth group! We thank her for her huge participation in Christian education.

Third Annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper and Carol Sing

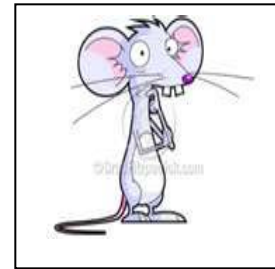


The 3rd Annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper and Carol sing will be held on Saturday evening, December 12th in the dining room of the Church. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with a sing along of your favorite Christmas Carols and popular songs to follow. Bring your favorite dish to share. This event is being hosted by the Bartlett Church Choir and promises to be a fun evening, so put this on your calendar and plan to attend.



Church Mice

The Church Mice will hold their Annual Christmas Party Meeting at the home of Greta George on Monday, December 14, 2009 at Noon. They will have a gift exchange and a pot luck luncheon.



On Thursday, January 7th the ladies of the Church Mice will meet at the Church and clean the kitchen and dining room in preparation for the famous February Suppers

Bartlett Church Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Bartlett Union Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 following the worship service. In preparation for the meeting the clerk needs to prepare the booklet of reports. It would be appreciated if all committee would send their written reports to Judith Botsford no later than December 27, 2009.



Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday in Advent, the Sunday school and Youth Group presented the annual "Hanging of the Greens". The children did readings and brought the greens forward to the altar. They placed a large poinsettia on the altar, green boughs on the piano and organ, and then placed candles on the window sills. They decorated the Christmas tree with the help of some of the congregation and then the lights were lit.



The Advent candle of Hope was lit by Judy and Bill Botsford





Christmas For our Military



The Bartlett Church has been collecting many items to be sent to our military that are away from home over the Christmas Holiday. Church members have been signing Christmas cards to be enclosed as well. On Sunday, November 29th everything was wrapped and packaged to be sent off to our soldiers.



Lee Coffield is seen here assisting the girls of our Sunday school wrap gifts and prepare them for mailing to our military.

Scripture Readings for December

- Dec. 06 Advent 2 **PEACE** Luke 3:1-16 John announces Messiah's coming.
Guest Preacher: **Rev. Gary Schulte**, Conference Minister for the
New Hampshire Conference.
- Dec. 13 Advent 3 **LOVE** Luke 3:7-18 John's good news warns and challenges.
The Confirmation Class is planning this service and will lead it.
Sermon: The Gift of the Magi.
- Dec. 20 Advent 4 **JOY** Luke 1:39-55 Elizabeth & Mary celebrate the Good
News. Sermon: Joy to the World!
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve A service of Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 27 Christmas 1 Luke 2:41-52 Jesus teaches the teachers

A Letter from our Moderator

Rob Owen

Who are we?

Where are we going?

A church is a group of people with common spiritual beliefs. Some people go to that church because they and their parents and grandparents always have. Others may go to that church because something about the people in the church drew them in. There are as many reasons for going to church as there are people attending.

The Bartlett church, as both a UCC church and a community church, serves a diverse congregation. There are many needs in our community that we, as a church, could choose to take on as projects that would benefit more than our membership.

In the day-to-day routine of what is happening, we can easily not think about where we are, and where we're going, and just try to keep up with the day-to-day events. If we do that, we may miss out on some opportunities for growth or, worse yet, we may stagnate or disappear.

A "visioning" process is one way to take stock of what's going on and to identify goals for the future. One basic "visioning" was done as part of the minister search, but it was done with a specific focus on information needed to give a prospective minister or to be used as a guide by the search committee.

A "visioning" process was recommended as part of the Capital Campaign but, once again, this would have been focused on specific information, in this case information needed to do that campaign

The Prudential Council recognized that there is a need for a "visioning" that is not tied to one specific part of the church life. Rob Owen, Judi Coffield, Jean Garland and Andy Jepson are the ad hoc committee formed to research how to "vision" so that everyone can participate and all views are heard and recorded. The common ground and common goals will be found and a well-rounded picture of our church can be formed.

The committee has been researching methods of doing the process. It is a much bigger challenge to find the right process than we realized. It has also been an interesting learning experience and we are moving steadily ahead. Despite the upcoming holiday season, we will continue to research processes and work on what we want to ask. We will have a proposal or a "nearly-done" progress report for the Annual Meeting so the "visioning" can happen in late winter.

Rob Owen, Moderator



Holiday Events



Bartlett Tree Lighting

The Bartlett Village Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 5th. Festivities will begin at 3:00 at the Josiah Bartlett School with musical performances and then move to the village park at 4:00 for the tree lighting. Santa will be on hand and there will be cocoa and cookies.

Jackson Women's Club Annual Silver Tea

The Jackson Women's Sewing Club will have their annual Silver Tea and Boutique on Saturday, December 12th from 11:00 - 3:00. It will be held at the new Whitney Center.



A Note from your Editor.....

Judith Botsford

Thanksgiving is past and I hope that you all were able to be with your family for the holiday. Bill and I were in Hampstead with our daughter Darlene and her family. We had 34 for dinner! Two turkeys and hardly a taste left after everyone enjoyed the meal. We decided that teenagers can really eat!

Christmas is on its way less than a month. Let's take time to enjoy the Advent season in amongst all our Holiday gatherings. Don't forget our Choir-sponsored Pot Luck dinner and Christmas Carol sing-along on Dec. 12th.

If you are a church committee head or officer, please take some time in all the hustle and bustle of the holidays to prepare your annual report. It would help me tremendously if you can get them to me before the first of the year. Since the newsletter also comes out the first Sunday, I need time to produce a nice packet for everyone for the meeting to be held Sunday, January 10th.

Deadlines seem to be an issue here, but news for the newsletter need to reach me by December 27th so that I can put it all together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all~~~~~





**Christmas Greetings to all our
Church Members and Friends**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at
7:00 p.m. on December 24, 2009.
A Service of lesson and Carols.
All are welcome!**

Bartlett Union Congregational Church
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