

Bartlett Church News

Bartlett Union Congregational Church

Web Site: www.Bartlettchurch.net

Volume 6 Number 1

Bartlett, New Hampshire

January 01, 2010

A Note from the Pastor

Susan "Andy" Jepson

Dear Friends,

Christmas is over, and once more we begin to unwrap the Christmas gift God has given us. We leave the birth story behind quickly in the new year, moving almost without stopping across nearly 30 years to Jesus' baptism by John.

And . . . perhaps we pause to wonder: Would we have been among those who saw something special in the baby in the manger, the young man at the temple, the carpenter, the one with more on his mind than most others in the neighborhood? Would we have seen the Christ in the man?

After Jesus' baptism, in a few short months of our lives, we have Pontius Pilate giving permission for the end of his life among us, and then the record of his continuing life, in and through his disciples and his church. It's the story of his life becoming the story of our lives.

And again we wonder: would we have walked miles to be touched, blessed, healed by Jesus? Would we have been disciples, leaving old lives behind to follow him?

Every year the wonder and the wondering: What would WE have seen? Who would WE have been? Every year the same questions . . . and perhaps some different answers.

Every year we're different. We grow and change, hoping to draw closer to God, more attuned to God's purposes. When we change, the ways we can hear and become the Good News change also. God's truths remain the same, but our understanding does not, and telling Jesus' story anew every year opens new doors on our journey and new windows to let light into our souls.

As a church we're different every year also. New people join us and others leave; new opportunities present themselves, with some to be explored and others to be left for another time. This year has been one of gift, loss and change, and we need to discern the meaning of it all for our life as God's people called to life together in the Bartlett Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

Our Annual Meeting is on January 10th. We have business from the year past, reports and records to accept and study. But our main purpose is not our history. Our main purpose is our future, preparing ourselves to benefit fully from the lessons God can teach us in Christ. The past is our lives and life together so far, the present is our chance to know ourselves, our gifts and our needs in new ways, and the future is in matching our possibilities to God's vision.

Do plan to come on the 10th and be part of the church to come. Come to review the year just past, and come with questions and dreams about our future. Come to begin finding out what God wants us to do and be in and through our church.

Happy Birthday

Dec. 26	Greta George
January 14	Gigi Miller
January 18	Nancy Wiggin
January 24	Nancy Lawson-Jacobs
January 29	Gus Owen

Happy Anniversary

January 06 Evelyn & Ray Bailey

Bartlett Church Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Bartlett Union Congregational Church will take place on Sunday, January 10th at 11:30 am following the worship service. The meeting will take place in the dining room. The annual meeting is open to all church members and friends.

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend as this is where the business of the church takes place.

January 2010 Readings and Sermon Titles

Jan 3 Second Sunday after Christmas
The readings for Epiphany will be used on Jan 3.

Jan 6 Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
+Matthew 2:1-13

Sermon Title: Collaborating with the Enemy

**Jan 10 First Sunday after Epiphany;
Baptism of Jesus**

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
+Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon Title: Baptism with the Spirit

Jan 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
+First Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Sermon Title: Gifts of the Spirit

Jan 2 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
First Corinthians 12:12-31a
+Luke 4:14-21, (21-30)

Sermon Title: Filled with the Power of the Spirit

Jan 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
+First Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Sermon Title: Paul's Love Poem

Deacons

Lee Coffield

The deacons' are looking forward to 2010 as a year of service and great things!

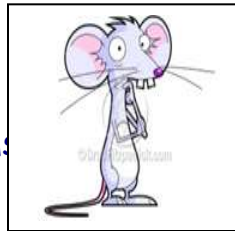
We finished up 2009 by sending two great big boxes to two of our military members - Adam Haley in Alaska, and Lance Pelletier in Afghanistan. The children of the church helped to wrap up some of the special gifts - some of them were just for these two men, and some were designated as "Man" or "Woman", to be shared with all the members of their unit. We sent lot of personal grooming items, food and snack items, some games, some wonderful photographs of the local area by our talented photographer, Mike Kirk, and even a few local newspapers so they could see what was going on in the local area.

As the deacons are vested with the spiritual needs of the church, it is our hope that this year will be one of open communication and growth for our entire church. We look forward to securing a permanent minister and appreciate the efforts of the search committee in this regard. We look forward to growing our church and appreciate the efforts of each

member who makes a commitment to this church by attending and spreading the word of what a special group of people we are here at Bartlett UCC. We look forward to a New Year full of good things and God's blessings. My personal wish is for a happy and healthy new year to you all!

Church Mice

Greta George



The Church Mice will meet at the home of Greta George on Tuesday, January 12th at 2:00pm.

The Mice will also meet on Tuesday, January 19th for cleaning of the church at 9:30am. They will be cleaning the kitchen in preparation for our "Famous February Suppers".

See separate article for all the supper information.



Music Department

Ellen Hayes



The choir is being directed, once again by Ellen. We thank Beri Hiscox for her help in the past with the choir. The choir rehearsals are on Friday afternoons at 2:30 and we would love to have more voices to add to our group.



Flowers

Evelyn Bailey

Thank you everyone who donated the beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Holiday season. Our alter was so beautifully decorated and added so much to our Bartlett Church. Thank you, Evelyn Bailey, for tending to the flowers and keeping them watered and beautiful.

Famous February Suppers

It is that time of year again! The Church Mice are about to cook up their delicious recipes for their "Famous February Suppers". Put the dates of **Saturdays, February 6th - 13th - 20th - and 27th** on your calendar and plan to attend and enjoy a great meal and super fellowship with your friends.

Dinner is served at 5:00 and those arriving first get the best selection of yummy desserts. The price is \$8.00 per person and \$4.00 for children and free for those tots under 5 years of age.

The menu consists of meat and spinach lasagnas, baked beans, caked chicken, ham, turkey, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, home-made rolls and brownbread along with delicious home made pies for dessert.

The Church Mice always can use more help...they need both men and women to work the serving tables, bussing, dishes, and clean-up. If you can give us even one evening, please call Greta (chief cook) 374-2328.

The profits from these suppers go to help with operating expenses and improvements of the Church, so Come and enjoy a great evening and Support our church.

Happy New Year!



Dates to Remember:

**Sunday, Jan. 10th BUCC Annual
Meeting**