

Bartlett Church news

Bartlett Union Congregational Church

Web Site: www.Bartlettchurch.net

Volume 5 Number 10

Bartlett, New Hampshire

November 01, 2009

A Note from the Pastor Susan "Andy" Jepson

Dear Friends,

All of a sudden it's Halloween, and Thanksgiving, and Chri . . . oops - Advent! (Close call - I almost made the all-too-common mistake for this time of year - jumping to Christmas without connecting it to the rest of the story!)

There's more to our church year than Christmas and Easter. We've been in the season of Pentecost, a time of spiritual growth and the deepening of faith, for several months. Four Sundays before Christmas Day, the season changes to Advent, a time of hope and anticipation. and just before Advent, we have Thanksgiving.

It's been the custom among some churches to set aside the month of November as a liturgical season of Thanksgiving, a time to consider and celebrate the many reasons we have to give thanks. We'll join those churches this year in observing this custom by setting aside a few minutes during worship to focus on our human possibilities, our natural world and its resources, our history and our future, looking at each topic through the lenses of our personal lives and contexts.

One of the symbols of our gratitude to God for what we have received is on the altar and in the service every Sunday - our offering. By returning to God some of what we have received with an attitude of gratitude, we offer God's bounty and blessings to others as well.

Having the offering on the altar helps us to focus on our offering as the "sacrifice" of our best - the "making holy" of all the gifts we receive by sharing and dedicating them to God's work. During our church season of Thanksgiving, I invite everyone to come each of the first four Sundays with something to place on the altar that represents a particular gift or blessing that fits with the theme of that Sunday and that is significant in your life. Items might include books, photographs, art objects, musical instruments, tools, souvenirs - be creative!

These items don't have to stay from one week to the next - we'll put them on the altar, share their meaning, offer our thanksgiving as we dedicate the morning's offering and then give them back at the end of the service.

Come, ye thankful people, come! After all, there's no better way of saying thank-you than by sharing what we have received and creating new opportunities for joy - and gratitude!

Love,

Andy

THE SANDWICH FAIR 2009

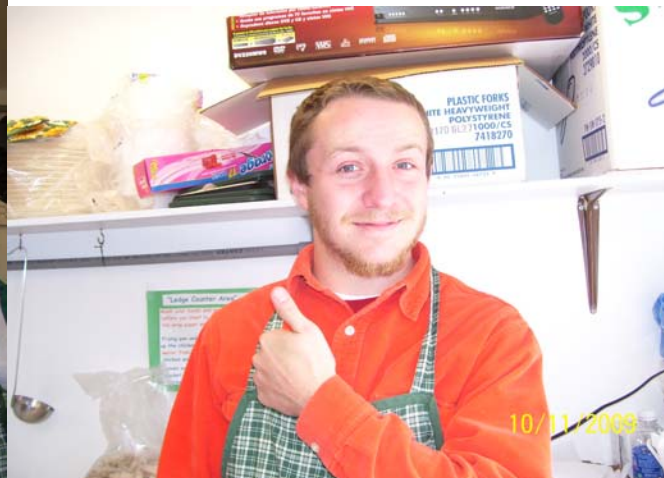
Judith Botsford



The Bartlett Church Booth was towed to Sandwich, NH for the Sandwich Fair Friday, October 8th to Columbus Day, October 12th. Driving the booth down were Bert George, Ben Howard and Rob Owen. Bet and Ben brought the booth back to Bartlett. It is a big job setting the booth up and taking it down, getting it level and in operating order. Thanks guys!

Thanks go to the workers who volunteered a total of 136 man hours from Friday morning until Monday evening. There were Greta and Bert George, Judy and Bill Botsford, Doris Kirk, Nancy Hodgkins, Evelyn Bailey, Jan Clemons, Jed Owen, Pastor Andy Jepson and Ben Howard. Thank you everyone!

The menu consisted of Veggie Pocket Sandwiches, Home-made Strawberry Shortcake (biscuits made by Ben Howard) along with sodas and water. Note the Aprons above were made by Nancy Jacobs. This year Greta and Judy sported new handmade hats by Nancy too.



Happy Birthday

Nov. 04 Donald Linger
Nov. 04 Lance Pelletier
Nov. 12 Ben Howard
Nov. 14 Jan Clemons
Nov. 24 Marion G. Owen

Congratulations

We hear that **Terry Sherlock** is a new "Grammie". Her new granddaughter was born on October 4th and her name is **Atlantis-Maele**. Terry can't wait to share her photos with everyone. **Congratulations!**

Happy Anniversary

Nov. 26. Rob and Marion Owen

Christian Education

Judi Coffield

Hello all! We are getting excited to start up our youth group/confirmation meetings very soon. We met with Andy and discussed lots of ideas, concerns & dates! We have a tentative schedule that I will get out to the parents and everyone else very soon!! Christmas is coming upon us and the children will be doing the traditional "Hanging of the Greens" service. I know everyone loves that; something special to look forward to! Winter is sneaking up on us -
try to enjoy!!

Board of Trustees

Gary Roy

- (1) Basement windows have been repaired and replaced
- (2) Painting was authorized by the board of trustees. It is only a patch job to address some of the peeling & to prevent further damage. At some time the building will have to be scraped and painted properly
- (3) The board is currently considering how the Church can reach out to a homeless family in Bartlett. More details to follow.

Sunshine News

We hear that Donna Iovino is finally going to be able to have her double knee surgery. She will be at Dartmouth Hitchcock for a week and then physical therapy. Good Luck!

Feasibility Study

Rob Owen

"A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON OCTOBER 7, 2009,. At this time we have no idea of how many there were and if they could fill in the interview times, but we do know it will provide insight into the life and future of our church.

Everyone that was invited to Participate in the feasibility study will be getting a copy of the report that Dave and Pat Williams have written based on the results of the interviews. The report should help with the note taking.

The feasibility interviews seemed to go well from my point of view. A big thank You should go to everyone who participated.

I have no idea what the report will be. I am looking forward to Sunday. Take care and best wishes,

Time Change

We will be going back on Eastern Standard time at 2:00am on Sunday, morning November 1st. Don't forget to turn your back. Don't forget, also, to put new batteries in your smoke alarms.

November Scriptures and Sermons

- Nov. 1** Mark 12:38-34 No Greater Comandment
Pentecost 22
Thanksgiving 1: Human Possibilites
- Nov. 8** Ruth 1:1 Whither Thou Goest
Pentecost 23
Thanksgiving 2: Natural World
- Nov. 15** Hebrews 10:19-25 Stiring Up One
Another
Thanksgiving 3: Our History
- Nov 22** John 18:33-38 "What is Turth?
Reign of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday: Our Future
- Nov. 29** Luke 21:25-36 Hope
First Sunday of Advent

Bible Study

Beri Hiscox

The Bible Study group is back on track continuing the study of the Gospel of John starting this week. We did a short study on the Feasts of the Lord (Israel) and how they Show God's plan for Planet Earth and how They tie in with Jesus ministry on earth. It is amazing how God's timing is so exact and His purpose and planning far reaching. If we understand these Feasts, we have a better picture of how Jesus celebrated them and how their images were, and are, on clocks illustration of the message in His teaching. It's not too late to join us. You will be welcomed. We meet on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the nursery at the church.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Andy Jepson

Confirmation Class is beginning on November 1st with plans for 2 meetings a month through May and Confirmation on Pentecost, May 23, 2010.

We have two Sunday meetings each month, for 2 ½ hours beginning at 4:00. While the confirmation class meets, the other young people will meet in age groupings for their faith formation classes. Then we'll all join for a meal, and following clean-up, we'll have some fun activities for the whole group. There will be worship and prayer every time we meet.

Our topics will include learning about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Bible (at a level just telling the stories), the Church, our journeys and God's call to each of us. We'll work from the perspectives of the Bible, our own experience and other reliable sources relating to the topics. There will be study, discussion, homework, projects and email communications between meetings. We may invite some of our church family to share wisdom and experience, and we will expect to be involved in worship leadership on a regular basis.

We'll use the UCC Confirmation program Affirming Our Faith as our basic text and journal, with other resources as appropriate.

Our goal is for each confirmand to become familiar enough with the history and central beliefs of our Christian Faith that he/she will see this time as the basis for a lifelong faith journey of learning and growing and, yes, changing in our beliefs, understandings and perspectives regarding God's vision for each and all of us.

Speaking of faith journeys, We will have a New Members Class beginning in early November, probably meeting Monday afternoons. We look at topics of the faith and of membership in this church. If you are interested, speak to Andy, email her at sajlrk@hotmail.com or leave a message on the parsonage phone.

The Lawson Sisters



Janet Green and Nancy Jacobs
taken this summer in front
of the Bartlett Church

Happy Thanksgiving



to all our Church family and friends

Holiday Craft Fair

There will be a Holiday Craft Fair held at the Josiah Bartlett School on Saturday November 14th from 10:00 to 2:00 in the gym. There will be lots of new crafters, lunch, crafts, gift giving, kids shopping area, raffles and free door prize tickets.

If you would like a space they are 8 Feet wide and the fee is \$20 per table. If you have any questions, please call Annette Libby, Director at 374-1952.

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Sunday, November 29 from 8:00 to 11:00am at the Masonic Hall in North Conway.

Omelets made to order, eggs pancakes Fruit, meat, pastries and more.

The first 100 children will receive a free photo with Santa. Everyone is asked bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry. Advanced tickets are adults \$4.00 Children \$2.00 and at the door \$5.00 and \$3.00.

Neighbor to Neighbor Wrap-up

Judy Ludgate

Judy Ludgate attended the wrap-up meeting held at the Nativity parsonage in North Conway and learned the N2N day was considered a success. Careful planning is ongoing as the team hopes to expand out to more participants – both workers and applicants. This year seemed to focus on carpentry work, so next year two days will be planned. Save these dates

- ☺ September 11 when they feel carpentry will be requested
- ☺ October 16 when they feel more yard work and winterizing will be needed. That will allow volunteers more flexibility, also.

They actually were able to pay for all supplies through donations and will have some money to bring forward. Some of the supporters included: North Conway Lutheran Church, Madison Church, Altrusa, the Gibson Center, Knights of Columbus, Conway Congregational Church and, of course, Bartlett Community Church. The team is asking for volunteers who might be able to work on teams preparing for the event during the year.

The gathering at the end of the day was enjoyed by those who attended and volunteers talked with others about their day. Kringles in Glen donated the pizza and the Lutheran church members brought salads. Next year Judy and John hope to be able to spend the complete day and meet more volunteers at the gathering at the end of the day. We look forward to having more BUCC members volunteer, but feel fortunate to have had such a strong team including Mary Miller, Carroll and Nancy Hayes. It felt wonderful to be out helping someone in our community!

Deacons of the Church

Lee Coffield

The Food Bank is going well and we urge everyone to bring something for the box each Sunday. "I can't do everything, but I can do something"

The Military Care Packages project is being done. They are gathering addresses for the names that they have. The Deacons also urge everyone to bring something for these care packages, and they hope to get the items in the mail by mid-November. Remember, the soldiers over there love to read the news from home.

Steve Wright has offered to build a new communion table to be used in place of the folding table we have now. It will be big enough to hold all the communion items and will be able to fold down so it won't take up a lot of space when not in use. What a nice gift to the church from someone who doesn't live full time in our town of Bartlett. **Thanks you, Steve!**

The Deacons welcomed **Diane Anderson** as our newest Diaconate recently. As always, the deacons are available to listen to your concerns, suggestions or problems.

Note from your Editor

Judith Botsford

The holiday season is approaching and we will soon be caught up in the activities in our church, family and town, but take time to enjoy yourself. I have been told to "stop and smell the roses" myself. Standard time is about to shorten our daylight hours. Just want to report that Bill is doing better health wise and keeps plugging along.

The December issue of our Church Newsletter will be out on Sunday, Dec. 5th listing all the Holiday events. Please be sure to get your events and reports to me not later than Nov. 29th so we can have a festive holiday issue.

Capital Campaign Feasibility

Rob Owen

The Capital Campaign Feasibility Report was presented by Rev David and Pat Williams after church on October 25. Thanks go to the 23 people who accepted invitations to be interviewed by the Williams on October 7. The Williams used the information gathered to determine if we could raise the \$200,000 needed for church renovations. Copies of the three part report are available at the church or you can request a copy from Rob Owen 986-0235.

The Williams determined we could attain the financial goal, but there is also "considerable caution and concern around (our) vision of the church and pastoral leadership." The fact that we are in an interim pastorship with a pastoral search in progress could account for this, however the Williams identified the "caution and concern" as an important issue to address and resolve as a part of the capital campaign process.

The Williams are proposing that they be contracted to assist us in forming a Campaign Executive Committee (12 people). They would work with this committee over a 3-4month period to (1) develop a clear vision of our church's future, (2) define the qualities desired in a new minister (the search committee would be directly involved in this), and (3) produce a "cause statement" (key information about the church to be presented to potential donors) which would be used in a capital campaign.

If the Williams are contracted, a date for a second membership meeting would be set in late winter or early spring. The results of the committee's work would be presented and a vote on proceeding with the actual campaign would be taken.

WHAT'S NEXT? The Prudential Council will be meeting on November 8 to discuss the Williams report and make a recommendation to the general membership. A General Membership meeting will be called in November or early December to vote on the council's recommendation.

Thanks again to all who participated in the interviews and a big Thank You to the great cooks and organizers that made the meal an excellent eating event!

Bartlett Church Choir

Beri Hiscox



The Choir has been rehearsing on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. We are currently preparing for Thanksgiving and just starting to review possible music for Christmas. Time is rushing by and the holiday season will here before we realize it.

The Choir is just great. As the new choir director, I have been enjoying the group dynamics and the good voices. As always, I enjoy Ellen's artistry on the organ. We are hoping to have some additional voices soon, and are always looking for more members. You don't have to read music or have a marvelous voice. You just have to enjoy singing.

So if you sing in the shower, or around the house, please come and join us. If rehearsal time is a problem, please see Ellen or me to arrange for another time to meet and go over the music. We are flexible and would love to have you join us.

Sunday Night Youth Group

Judi Coffield

The Sunday Night Youth Club

4:00 - 5:00 Lesson Time

Here is the schedule - Post if on your refrigerator

November 1st & 15th

29th Hanging of the Greens

January 3rd and 17th

April 4th no night meeting - Youth will take part in the Service

11th will be regular meeting

May 2nd & 16th 23rd -Confirmation with is Pentacost and Children's Sunday

Remember, you have to come to church that day in order to come to the Sunday Night Youth Club.

All ages are welcome and we meet downstairs. Dinner will be provided.

If you have questions please call Judi (447-4427) or Mary (374-2523)

Come and Check out the Fun!

4:45-6:00 Dinner then fun and games

December 6th and 20th

February 7th and 21st

March 7th and 21st

**Bartlett Union Congregational Church
P.O. Box 132
Bartlett, New Hampshire 03812**



Dates to Remembers.....

Bible Study - Church every Thursday at 6:30 pm

Choir Rehearsals - Fridays at 3:00 pm

Saturday, Nov. 14th Bartlett Craft Fair - Josiah Bartlett School

Sunday, Nov. 29 Breakfast with Santa - Masonic Hall - North Conway