

Bartlett Church News

Bartlett Union Congregational Church

Web Site: www.Bartlettchurch.net

Volume 5 Number 9

Bartlett, New Hampshire

October 01, 2009

A Note from the Pastor

Rev. Susan "Andy" Jepson

October Lectionary & Sermon Titles

October 4 Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Shall we receive good and not bad .. ?

October 11 Mark 10:17-31 *How hard it is!*

October 18 Isaiah 53:4-12 *We have all
turned to our own way*

October 25 Job 42:1-6, 10-17
I have uttered what I did not understand . .

Dear Friends,

If one were to imagine a single theme for the readings I've chosen for October's Sermon themes, it would be challenge of assumption, reversal of expectation, irony.

The first and last Sundays focus on the story of Job, a study of the traditional understanding that the divine response to righteous living is human good fortune. In the course of the story of this man who denies that that his suffering is proof of his misdeeds, the traditional understanding is shattered and God

is no longer a puppet whose actions can be manipulated by our behavior.

The reading from Isaiah gives us part of our image of "Messiah". This is one of the "suffering servant" passages that gainsays the thought that the Savior of Israel has to be strong, triumphant, invincible, one who overpowers all opposition by force of arms and/or character. Rather he suffers affliction, punishment and contempt, and through his suffering, God works to the good of all.

The reading from Mark, like the story of Job, challenges attitudes toward wealth and comfort as signs of divine favor. Jesus tells a rich young man that the very things that prove his worth in his own eyes must be given up in order to find real worth.

Jesus was like that, and his teachings continue to challenge our habits, assumptions and unexamined values. We think we know what God wants, yet we surely don't agree with each other. We think we must take responsibility for everything we can control – after all, taking responsibility is a virtue in our culture and society. But the ways of power walk closely with the ways of idolatry and sin, and Jesus teaches humility and surrender of will to God as the virtues that God prizes.

How do we know the limits God would have us observe?

We must ask, learn, think, discuss, pray.

Then we must continue doing those things after a course of action has been chosen. Though we accuse politicians of being wishy-washy or toadies when they change their minds, refusal to review the effects of our actions is arrogance – or fear! God probably doesn't want either from us.

Come – let us ask, learn, think, discuss and pray together, whether about interpretation of the Bible, making the building accessible or wearing choir robes on a hot day!

Love,

Andy

Worship Leader Margrit Dutta

On September 13, 2009, we had the pleasure of meeting local lay leader Margrit Dutta as she led us in our worship service. It was a pleasure to listen to her travels that included growing up in Switzerland and later becoming actively involved in the Methodist Church in Canada. Her travels around the world leading to North Conway NH were interesting. Welcome Margrit Dutta. Thank you for joining us on September 13.

Margrit Dutta greeting Celia Dustin



Margrit Dutta greeting Lloyd Chandler



Happy Birthday to all our October Birthdays

October 01	Rob Owen
October 10	Donna Iovino
October 12	Gary Roy
October 16	Bryce Phillips
October 23	Burr Phillips
October 25	Brian Wanek
October 28	Judy Ludgate
October 30	Allison Wanek

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday October 4th: Deacons meeting
to follow coffee time after church

Sunday October 11th: A Prudential
meeting to follow coffee time after
worship service

Friday-Monday October 9-12th: The
Sandwich Fair Booth to benefit the
Church - Important: **workers needed**

Neighbor to Neighbor BUCC Team

On Saturday, September 12, at 8:30 AM John and Judy Ludgate, Carroll and Nancy Hayes and Mary Miller stood in front of a home in need of repair located in Glen. They quickly began the process of moving ladders and tools up the stairs and John began to remove shattered plastic roof. Carroll and Nancy joined John on the top level and Judy and Mary were the runners and yard *pickeruppers*. Work went smoothly and quickly (with a few minor discussions about the next step) and everyone was home by 1:30 PM.

We all felt good about being able to help our neighbor in need and spending a few hours together doing something supportive. Mary mentioned it would be a nice project to consider next spring for any of our church society who could use a hand. Just something to think about. .

Carroll, Nancy and John



Mary, Carroll and John



Thanks to the Iovinos

Thank you to Jim and Donna Iovino for the beautiful flowers from their garden. The flowers have brought such beauty to our altar. Donna certainly has a "green thumb"!

Church Mice Meeting

The Church Mice met at the home of Greta George, Wednesday, Sept. 23rd. The ladies made plans for cleaning of the church and the Sandwich Fair. It was decided not to have a harvest supper. A fund raising project of cutlery has begun.

Ecclesiastical Esoterica

Did you know that Jesus was born on or about March 25 of . . . some year. It was not, apparently, 1 BC or AD 1, because no one gives those as a possibility, based on historical events that are mentioned. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke don't agree anyway, and historical records that refer to King Herod give 4 BC and 6 BC as possibilities.

Christmas is celebrated close to the time of the winter solstice so that early Christians had a celebration of their own while others were observing the death of the old year and the birth of the new, accompanied by much food, drink and wild behavior.

By the way, the traditional designation of the time before Jesus' birth is "**BC**" – **Before Christ**. But the years after his birth are designated by the initials of a Latin phrase, **Anno Domini**, which means "in the year of our Lord". Saying the phrase helps us to understand that it comes before the number of the year: "In the year of our Lord 33" rather than "33 in the year of our Lord".

While I like these traditional designations, I must confess that the new way is easier to get right. **CE** and **BCE**, stand for Christian Era and Before Christian Era, and they are preferred now that much of the world is non-Christian and shares our calendar conventions.

The Sandwich Fair

Judith E. Botsford

The Church Mice work very hard to promote the Bartlett Congregational Church at the Sandwich Fair in their fancy booth built by Benson Howard. The fair operates Friday afternoon thru Monday afternoon and we sell delicious "Veggie Pocket" Sandwiches, delicious home made strawberry shortcake along with various coke products and water to drink.

This is the sixth trip to Sandwich for the fair. In order to have people on the Fairgrounds, Bill, Judy and Greta George stay in the Botsfords' motor home. These three work from 8:00 in the morning to about 6:00 in the evening and then go back to the RV to cash up, eat dinner and catch a few winks before beginning all over again. We definitely need more help if we want to continue doing this endeavor, so please give Judy a phone call (383-9554) and volunteer your services. Remember, the profits from this event help the renovations for the church!
Watch for photos and an update in the next newsletter

Nominating Committee

Greta George

The Nominating Committee is made up of Greta George, Jan Clemons and Mary Miller. They are in the process of putting together a slate of officers for the 2010 year. If you have a preference for an office of committee, please call Greta (374-2328) The way time seems to pass so quickly, the annual meeting will be here before you blink an eye~~~

Food Pantry

The Jackson-Bartlett-Glen Food Pantry is open every Saturday morning between 10:00 and Noon at the Glen Baptist Church in the basement. They would appreciate donations of non-perishable food, personal and household care items as well as cash donations.

For more information, please call Evelyn Bailey (374-2217); Ellen Hayes at (374-6611); Brenda Medieros (356-2956) or Donna Schiegoleit at (383-6408)

Music Department

Ellen Hayes

The Bartlett Church Choir is back to having their weekly rehearsals on Friday afternoons. The time has been established as 3:00 for practice.

Berri Hiscox is now directing the choir while Ellen Hayes plays the organ or piano. If you are interested in joining, please come to rehearsal on Fridays.

A Note from your Editor....

Judith E. Botsford

Your Bartlett Church Newsletter is being published monthly & delivered to the church the first Sunday of the month.

The deadline for news for the November issue will be Sunday, Oct. 25th. You can call me at 383-9554 or e-mail: jebots@roadrunner.com

Please send me your committee or event news to share with others. Photos are welcome too!



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, Oct 4th Deacons Meeting

Sunday, Oct 11th Prudential Meeting

Friday-Monday Oct. 9-12th

Sandwich Fair Booth

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P. O. Box 132
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