

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

June-July-August 2010

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The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)

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The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



Acts 17 tells us about a time when the apostle Paul was in Athens. He walked about the city and looked carefully at the objects of their worship, and found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." He then addressed the Athenians, saying: "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in

shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needs anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth ... **that they should seek God**, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, for **"in him we live and move and have our being."**

Summer vacations and other weekend trips and activities have a way of affecting our usual routines, including when and where we gather for Sunday worship. But in other ways, the summer provides its own opportunities to discover God and share God's goodness. Cara Hochhalter in her article, *Looking for God*, lists some helpful ways by which we might discover God in any season:

Listen to sounds of life, to faith stories, and to words of love and suffering. Listen to the wisdom of those who know, to children and youth, and to singing and music.

Look in all life. Explore the natural world. Wonder at the interconnections and intricacies of its beauty. Look within all living creatures. Look for ways to keep creation sustainable.

Link yourself to God through prayer. Seek quiet times. Meditate and open your mind and heart to Divine intention. Make it a practice.

Lose yourself for others. Give without thought of reward or recognition. Give small things like smiles and conversations. Give big things like efforts to make changes where there is injustice.

Learn the ways of your faith. Learn through study and scripture. Learn through worship with others. Learn about and respect people of all faiths.

Love in all ways. Discover ways to share love and kindness to all other living beings. Love those who are close as well as those afar. Love friends and enemies. It is through love that God is.

(Rev. Smith's message continued on page 5)

From the Christian Education Office

Confirmation Class News

Confirmation Sunday will be held on **June 6 at the 9:00 a.m. service time.**



Join us on Confirmation Sunday as we anticipate welcoming the following members of the Confirmation class into full membership in our church.

Nicolette Anderson	Emma Newton
Olivia Black	Marcus Roche
Tyler Ellis	Tristen Rodgers
Christopher Guay	John Sterritt
John Sengstaken, Jr.	Rebecca Harmon
Jacob Hammond	Willie Wider

Also, many thanks to Tom Army, Robbin Dunn, and Nora Lewis who served so faithfully and well throughout the year as class mentors, attending class sessions and participating in other activities.

Additional Confirmation News from Rev. Smith regarding next's year's class ...

Not only did I (along with our above mentioned mentors) enjoy meeting with the members of the class of '09-'10, who will be confirmed on June 6, but I also look forward to starting with a new class beginning in September.

All our students who will be entering 8th grade (along with any students in high school who have not yet been confirmed) are eligible to be included in next year's Confirmation class. A letter addressed to all students (and their parents) who appear on our church school roster, who we expect to be entering 8th grade this fall, will be sent out around the first of July. Please watch for it and read it over together. If you do not receive such a letter by the end of July, please notify the church office (churchoffice@hollischurch.org or 465-7797) and we shall be sure to mail you the information.

Senior High Youth Event

It's been awhile since we have gotten together, so all Senior High youth (grades 9-12) are invited to a **Chunky's movie on Sunday June 6**, after church. Exact time TBD. Your ticket will be paid, and we will travel together as a group, returning to the church after the movie is over. You will get a special invite in the mail with time and movie specifics. Any suggestions for films can be made to Amy or Lynn. See you at the movies!



Summer Children's Programs

Summer is coming upon us...we closed our year with a wonderful Children's Sunday and family picnic on May 23rd. Our children have made many friends within our church family and we wish to offer them (K-6) a way to meet during the summer.

So mark your calendars.....

June 20th July 18th August 15th

On these Sundays during the church service, our children will have an opportunity to gather, play games, do puzzles, make crafts and just have a lot of fun while parents attend the service. So if you can, please plan on attending our "Summer of Fun" Sundays.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Congratulations Seniors!

We are so proud of our Senior High students who are graduating. Not only have you accomplished much academically, many of you have also given your time as Sunday school teachers, youth group participants, workcampers, and choir members. **We would love to know where you are headed after graduation**, so contact the church office at churchoffice@hollischurch.org or 465-7797 with your **new address and information about your plans** for next year.

(CE News – continued)

Rally Day

Mark your calendars.....

Rally Day and the

All-Church Picnic

September 12, 2010

Rally Day marks the beginning of the new Sunday school year! Once again we will offer Sunday school classes for Pre-K through 7th grade during the 10:30 service. Watch for the September chimes issue for a registration form.



Teachers for 2010-2011

We have open positions in all grades. Teachers, substitutes, and floaters are all roles that you can consider filling. This is the 100% guaranteed best way to inject regular joy into your lives! Contact the church office if you can help.

Teacher Training

All 2010-11 teachers, helpers, and floaters are asked to attend one of two teacher training sessions. If you are signed up for Spring only, you are also welcome. Come either Sunday August 29 immediately following church at 10:00, or Thursday September 2 at 7 pm, and RSVP to Amy (AmyCE@hollischurch.org) or Lynn (LynnCE@hollischurch.org).

CE Wrap-Up

This was an unusual year for CE. We had no changes in staffing, we basically stuck with the same curriculum, no ice storms or bad weather events impacted the program, and we had time to think and plan some new programs.

Our Worship Center teachers shared Bible stories with the children, then the children shared the stories with each other in monthly Gathering Time celebrations. PK-2nd grade continued to be a thriving and solid foundation to Christian Education for our children, and our teaching teams were phenomenal. The handcrafted story props make each story special and wonderful for the children, and they are all able to handle the figures each week to make the stories come alive.

In third grade, our new homegrown year of the Bible was begun, and the children were thrilled to come to class each week. Fourth graders experienced a first-ever unit on Communion. Fifth grade collected items for Church World Service health kits. 6-7th graders had deep discussions, but also performed service and organized fun picnic activities on Children's Day. Seasons of the Spirit lessons were taught to 4-7th grade classes.

Once each month, we had special music and the kids learned some contemporary Christian songs that they hope to share with the congregation on a regular basis next year. The children raised enough money through their offerings for 2.5 llamas to be donated to Heifer International.

Our Confirmation class was so enthusiastic, they even requested an extra meeting that was not scheduled to give them an opportunity to extend their discussions. Adult classes were offered twice a week by Rev. Smith, offering the chance for grownups to further their own Christian Education.

All in all, this was a productive, exciting year of growth and development for all involved in our CE program. Thank you to all who contributed, all who participated, and all who look forward to another great year to come.

Summer Camp Opportunity

Children and youth across the state have been busy registering for summer church camp, but there are still some spots left. Don't miss out on your opportunity to go to Horton Center or Geneva Point this summer. Information and registration can be found online at Horton Center website (www.hortoncenter.org) or call the Conference Office at 1-888-642-8229 for a copy of their brochure today. If you have questions, please feel free to contact, Robert Vodra (rvodra@nhcucc.org), Director of Outdoor & Educational Ministries.






...from the Church Of-

ffice to Grace Dunham, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Lydia Schellenberg, Mary Anne

smith, Dolly Thistle, and Dot Warren who collated, sorted, and labeled your May *Chimes* in preparation for mailing.

June 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!						
		1	2	3	4	5
Confirmation Sunday 9:00 am – Communion Worship Time TBD – Chunky’s Movie Sr High Youth Event 3:00 pm – Summer Sunday Concert Refreshments following 6	6:45 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7	9:30 am – Staff meeting 8	7:00 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 9	10	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St Shelter 11	12
9:00 am – Worship 13	6:45 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7 pm – Deacons meeting 14	15	16	17	18	10am – 3 pm Red Cross Blood Drive In Hardy Hall 19
9:00 am – Worship Summer of Fun Children’s activity during worship 20	6:45 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7 pm – Trustees meeting 21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 am – Worship 2-4 pm - Strawberry Festival on the Town Common  27	6:45 am– Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 28	29	30	 Mission Items of the Month – June and July: Crayola 24-count Crayons Pencil/Junk Boxes 5”x7” For the Nashua Soup Kitchen Back-to-School backpack project		
July 2010 July 4 – Communion Worship at 9 am July 11 – Worship at 9 am July 18 – Worship and Children’s Activity at 9 am - workcamper commissioning during worship July 25 – Worship at 9 am July 25-July 31 - Mission Trip Workcamp in Owego, NY		August 2010 August 1 – Communion Worship at 9 am August 8 – Worship at 9 am August 15 – Worship and Children’s Activity at 9 am August 22 – Worship at 9 am August 29 – Worship at 9 am; Teacher Training at 10 am Mon, August 30 – CE Board meeting at 7 pm			September 2010 Church Boards resume regular meeting schedule September 5 – Communion Worship at 9 am only Sept. 12 – Rally Day and All-Church Picnic Worship at 9 am Worship and Church School at 10:30 am Sept. 19 – 9 am Worship; 10:30 Worship/Church School Sept. 26 – 9 am Worship; 10:30 Worship/Church School	

(Rev. Smith's message continued...)

Laugh a lot. Let laughter lighten life's load.
Share the joys of living with others.

Live what you believe.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a wonderful summer, and may God continue to speak to us through all that reflects God's beauty and goodness, grace and compassion, and even work in our hearts and the hearts of all people for peace and justice in the world.

A blessed summer to all!
Larry W. Smith

P.S. – Summer affords Laurie and me the opportunity to spend a little more time on days off at our cottage in Chesterfield, NH. Also, I will be on vacation for most of August – back for the final Sunday, August 29. In the event of an emergency or should there be a death in the church family and you are unable to reach me at the church or parsonage, please feel free to contact me at our cottage number – (603) 363-8966.



P R A Y E R C H A I N

Although summer is often thought of as a time of vacations and rest, all too often we will encounter bumps in the road of life that test our faith. The church's intercessory prayer group is available and willing to pray for your joys and concerns.

If you or someone you know would like to be raised up by the power of prayer, please contact Rev. Larry Smith at 465-7797 or Lydia Schellenberg at 465-2495. All requests are kept confidential.

Gift of the Heart Kits

On May 6, the Methodist Church in Bow Mills, NH collected our Church World Service kits for delivery to those in need. These kits are assembled and collected from various church organizations throughout the state. **Our church contributed 67 hygiene kits!** We extend a heartfelt thank you to the fifth grade and Naomi circle for collecting/assembling the hygiene kits and to everyone else who made a contribution.



Same Gender Marriage Ceremonies

Back in the April edition of *The Chimes* there appeared a report from a sub-committee of the deacons that had been asked to study the subject of same gender marriage and determine how our church might best handle this issue. Pending further deliberation by the full diaconate, the concluding expectation of the sub-committee still is that "a proposal to determine whether or not same gender marriage ceremonies may be conducted in our church building will be presented to church members at a special meeting of the church to be held this fall. It is also anticipated that prior to the special meeting at least two forums related to the subject will be held. One of the forums will most likely include a video presentation." The Sunday afternoon dates that are most likely to be possibilities for these assemblies include the last Sunday of September and two additional Sundays in October. Full details will appear in the September edition of *The Chimes*. Again, the members of the sub-committee "recognize the controversial nature of this subject and the need to address it in a way that is reflective of our mutual respect and Christian love for one another."

What appears below is a listing of materials that the sub-committee of the deacons found helpful in their exploration of the subject of same gender marriage and commend to our members for reading between now and the fall, when the above mentioned meetings are expected to be held. If you are unable to download them on your computer, you may obtain a copy of any of the above articles in the church office.

Members of the diaconate serving on the sub-committee: Gail Harrison, Trip Kucera, Pam Richardson, and Lydia Schellenberg

Materials that the Sub-Committee of the Deacons looking into the issue of same gender marriage have been reading:

Two articles taken from the book, *Homosexuality in the Church: Both Sides of the Debate ...* "The Bible and Homosexuality: Reading the Texts in Context" by Victor Paul Furnish (Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Yale Un.) and "Awaiting the Redemption of Our Bodies: The Witness of Scripture Concerning Homosexuality" by Richard B. Hays (Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School). These two scholars represent differing points of view. You can Google the title of the book and find major portions of both of these articles.

A sermon by The Rev. Hal Chorpenning, who at the time (June, 2002) was an Associate Conference Minister for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. His sermon, "God Is Still Speaking" examined the need to "allow our tradition, our reason, and our experience to inform our reading and our interpretation of scripture." Copies could be printed upon request in the church office.

A chapter from the book *The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christianity* by Eric Elnes. The chapter is "Affirmation Five" ... "Engaging people authentically, as Jesus did, treating all as creations made in God's very image, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality, or economic class." A story of Peter and how he comes to understand God's will in a new way (Acts, chapter 10) is at the heart of this chapter. Copies could be printed upon request in the church office.

Study sheets for Dr. Wayne Rollins presentation on "Gays" and "Straights" in the Bible and Today. These will be made available at the video showing of this presentation.

Two articles from *Newsweek* magazine that can be found on the internet. Google *Newsweek* and under search print "Our Mutual Joy: The Religious Case for Gay Marriage" December 15, 2008 by Lisa Miller and also "The Conservative Case for Gay Marriage" January 18, 2010 by Theodore B. Olsen.

An article taken from *The New Harper's Bible Dictionary* on marriage through biblical times. Copies may be printed on request in the church office.

A book, *God Is Still Speaking about Marriage*, may be completely downloaded by going to UCC Marriage Equality.

Mission and Action News

Update on Item of the Month Donations

January: Marguerite's Place - 159 large diapers, 46 toilet paper, 14 paper towels, 6 boxes tissues

February: Nashua Pastoral Care Center - 24 pkgs. diaper wipes, 30 toilet paper, 12 paper towels

March: Corpus Christi Food Pantry - 20 cans of fruit, 5 cans fruit juice, 3 can openers, 2 vegetable peelers

April: UCC Work Campers - 70 canned goods

May: Ash Street Shelter - Deodorant and razors (to be counted and delivered)

Thank you for your never failing generosity.



Saturday, June 19th

10 am – 3 pm in Hardy Hall

Appointments recommended.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org to schedule. Walk-ins are welcome.

Food Pantry Donation:

The food pantry at St. John Neumann Church in Merrimack, NH is the designated facility for Hollis area residents in need of assistance. The Mission and Action committee strives to donate enough money to support half of all of the expenses associated with providing support to those Hollis area families in need of food. We are pleased to announce that during the month of May, we provided a donation to the St. John Neumann Church to cover 25% of these expenses and we look forward to providing an additional 25% later in the year.

Ash Street Shelter Donations:

The Ash Street Shelter is a support center offering basic needs to men, women, and children in the Greater Nashua area. In May, the Mission and Action committee donated several household items which included: fans, sheets, glasses, cups, bowls and utensils. In addition, we purchased enough gift cards to provide food and supplies for **the dinners our church sponsors** (the second Friday of each month) for the next six months!

If you're interested in volunteering by shopping for one of these meals, preparing the meal (everything is prepared in throwaway containers), and delivering it to the shelter please call Chris Putur at 465-3171. That's it! No staying to serve or clean up!

A Calling: The Mission and Action committee has an opening for a new member. If helping to serve our community and world appeals to you, please let Ruth Kabel (465-7487) know.

Christmas in July?

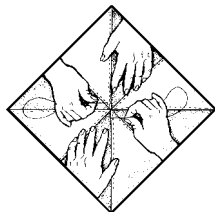


NO!! But it is time to think about our **Holiday Christmas Fair** coming this fall. The date is set for **Saturday, November 20.**

Now we need some volunteers to help coordinate different areas. Special Thanks to Kristen and Kelsey Berry for agreeing to coordinate the Cookie Walk and Bake Sale. Stay tuned for other coordinators and exhibits. We currently need someone to tackle Publicity. Anyone interested ~ contact Pam Richardson at 465-3658 or pam@richardsonsnh.com

Attention Quilters, Mission Trip members and supporters of Mission Trips:

How would you like to support the Mission Trip, make a quilt, have fun with fellow members, and learn something new? We are looking for interested people (young and old, male and female) to make 10" finished quilt squares. No experience needed, expert help and all material and equipment will be provided. The goal is to make a quilt that will be auctioned off to raise funds for the Mission Trip. More information will be available in September.



Please contact Gail Harrison 465-9451 or gaharrison@tellink.net if you want to help organize the project, volunteer to teach others to machine quilt, make squares, or if you can donate fabric (100% cotton, 'red, white & blue' color theme).



Music Notes...

Summer Sunday Concert

Sunday June 6th at 3pm



A special Sunday afternoon concert sponsored by the Music Board will be offered at the church on Sunday, June 6. The concert will feature the **Senior Choir** singing some of your favorite anthems, small **ensembles** from the choir, and a selection by the **Handbell Choir**.

There will also be a special presentation by the **Monument Square Brass!** Light refreshments will be served in Hardy Hall immediately following the concert. Please come and bring your family and friends!

Summer Musicians Still Needed

Adults and young people, individuals and groups — all are encouraged to sign up to provide music for summer worship services. There are plenty of opportunities available on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Contact April Springfield with questions: 465-7155 or acspringfield@tds.net



Our Church Records

New Members

May 2, 2010

- By Letter of Transfer:
 - Bob Anderson and Logan Anderson
 - Brenda Gibson
 - Joyce Toli
 - Kirk Smith and Brett Smith
- By Reaffirmation of Faith:
 - Tom and Michelle Gehan
- By Confession of Faith:
 - Beth Kearns

Memorial Donations

In loving memory of Everdean Hills by:

Alex and Betty Gondola

Dear Friends,

It has been several months since we received the frightening news that our son, Nathan, had Leukemia. I will never forget that day or any of the days to follow. What I will also never forget is the unending support we have received from so many friends and family, as well as people we didn't know personally but now consider friends. Nathan is doing very well and is responding to treatments successfully. He is a fighter and an inspiration to so many. This has been life changing for Nathan and our family and, there is no doubt in our minds, his success is due to the continuous prayers and numerous forms of support that all of you have provided to him and our family. We want to take this time to express our undying gratitude to you all and tell you how very special each and every one of you are to us. Thank you for past, current and future support -- we love you and God Bless.



Always,
The Etchells Family

Summer Worship Schedule begins Sunday, May 30.



There is a single worship service at **9:00 a.m.** on Sundays throughout the summer months. Our two-service schedule resumes on Rally Day, September 12, 2010.

Mission Items of the Month for the summer are:

June/July: Donations to the Nashua Soup Kitchen to supply backpacks to the less fortunate elementary school age children. They need:

- Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 5x7 pencil/junk boxes



August/September: Winter coats, jackets, and sweaters for the Davis Funeral Home's annual drive to supply warm clothing to the area's needy.

The Congregational Church of Hollis
(United Church of Christ)
3 Monument Square
Hollis NH 03049

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