

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

December 2012

Volume L, No. 10



**The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)**

Pastor

Rev. Larry W. Smith

Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Christian Education Director

Amy Zapp

AmyCE@HollisChurch.org

Christian Education Assistant

Michelle Gehan

MichelleCE@HollisChurch.org

Church Administrator

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Music Staff

Organist

Edward Scibilia

Senior Choir Director

M. Sylvia Eggleston

Handbell Choir Director

Janet Sterritt

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797

603-465-7099

Visit our website at:

www.HollisChurch.org

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

There is something different about this time of the year that reaches out to us and stirs our hearts in warmer and more hopeful ways. It is a season of light and love, of giving and receiving; a time when we seem to value all the more our homes, our loved ones, and the mysterious ties that bind us to the Divine. There is something remarkable about this time of the year that points beyond us to the one who is our Maker. We recognize and glory in God's presence in history and in our times and in our lives. We remember when morning stars proclaimed a holy birth, and we anticipate his coming among us still, that the love that was in him might be born anew in our hearts. There is something special about this time of the year, this season of advent waiting. It is the darkest time of the year and yet a whole lot of light breaks through, and it is not all of our making. Consider the following words by the poet, Ann Weems:

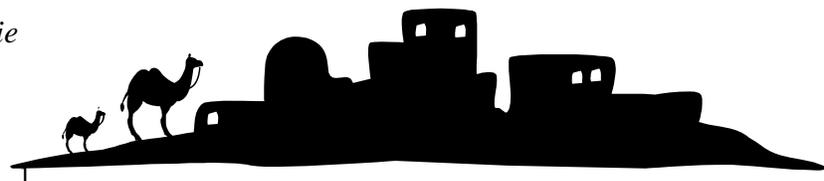
The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the light of God.
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"
and chase away carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies.
The one who declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and those who left home
have returned.
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks star-ward.

In December darkness
we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope of the world.

May the peace and beauty of this remarkable, special, and holy time of the year speak to your hearts and lift your spirits. May the world, also, move closer to the peace proclaimed by the heavenly host of angels, when Christ was born. It remains our greatest hope.

A wonderful and joyous Christmas to all of you!

Larry and Laurie



From the Christian Education Office

Confirmation Class News

The Confirmation Class will have a class session on **Wednesday, December 5, 5:00-6:15.**



We shall also meet at the Brookdale packing plant after church (11:45) on **Sunday, December 16, to pack Christmas food boxes** before returning to the church for **pizza** and then going **caroling** to the homes of a few of our church members.

Confirmation class members will also be **helping at the 4:30 and 6:00 Christmas Eve services.**

Big Featherfood Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in our Featherfood Sunday Procession. Our neighbors in need are abundantly grateful for all the fresh produce you contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets. A special thank you to our 6th and 7th grade classes who baked pumpkin pies for the baskets as well. The turkey is truly thankful for everyone's enthusiastic response to the call to give. *"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."* 1 John 4:12

Snow Policy

In case of severe weather or treacherous conditions, please consult WMUR Channel 9, wmur.com or WZID, WMLL and WFEA 95.7, 96.5 and 1370 AM to find out if we will be cancelling church services and/or Sunday school.

Advent-Changing to Purple

The season of Advent begins on December 2, and our Sunday school will once again be changing to purple! Purple is the color of Advent. Changing to purple reminds us that we are preparing for the arrival of Jesus. So be sure to take time to notice our purple lights, ornaments, flowers and altar cloths. Enjoy the preparation that culminates with the glorious celebration of Jesus' birth!



December Sunday School Schedule

All children will begin in the Meeting House on December 2, 9 and 23 for the Advent candle lighting. On December 16, the children need to arrive in their classrooms no later than 10:15 to dress in their costumes and receive instructions for the Christmas Tableau. There will be no Sunday school on December 30th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 6th...Epiphany.

Christmas Tableau

Join us for the **Annual Children's Christmas Program on December 16th** at the 10:30 service. Our children will be telling the story of Jesus' birth through music and scripture. Won't you gather with us to celebrate the miracle of the Christ Child?



There's Room in the Stable for YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the **Live Nativity** on Christmas Eve. This is an activity for all ages. It could be an event your whole family participates in. No speaking parts are required...you just dress in a costume and become part of the nativity scene. We have room in the stable for shepherds, wise men, angels, Mary and Joseph. If you or members of your family would like to be part of this experience, please contact Wendy Wright, wrtflyr@aol.com or Shirleen Duquette, ks.duke@charter.net

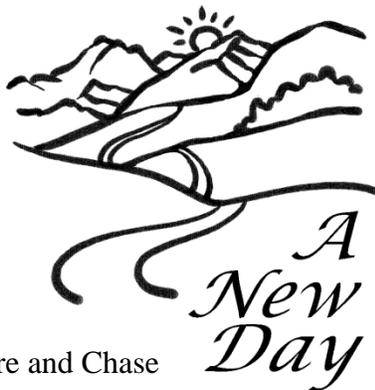
Sunday School Poetry

Our *Seasons of the Spirit* classes have been learning about Jesus' teachings encouraging us to remember that a new day is coming. In response, 5th grade worked together to create a poem that answers the question: What will that new day look like? Charlotte's poem is an additional treat.

A New Day

Be peaceful for earth.
Love one another for children's safety,
Children's smiling faces.
Do not toil the earth for oil.
People working together will
always prevail.

- Charlotte, Nicholas, Claire and Chase



What Does God's New Day Look Like?

The sky is blue,
Grass emerald green,
Children's faces happiest ever seen.
The new world is bright,
Lit by the lambs and God's eternal light.

- Charlotte Gehan

Big Day of Serving

The recent hurricane in the northeast wreaked havoc on many communities, including the town of Keansburg, New Jersey. Residents are still cleaning up the devastation, and they need your help.

This December, join the Big Day of Serving to bring Disaster Relief events to Keansburg, <http://groupmissiontrips.com/the-big-day-of-serving/>. You'll serve residents affected by flooding by picking up debris and tearing out drywall, insulation and flooring. You'll also help residents repair their homes before winter sets in by working on projects like sheet rock installation and painting.

Register today to serve at one of the events:

December 1 <http://groupmissiontrips.com/the-big-day-of-serving/locations/keansburg,-nj/december-1,-2012/>

December 8 <http://groupmissiontrips.com/the-big-day-of-serving/locations/keansburg,-nj/december-8,-2012/>

The Big Day of Serving is typically a youth event, but we need your entire church and others you know to partner together to serve Keansburg. Please invite everyone you know to come with you. Registration is \$20/person and covers the costs of materials to clean up the community, as well as lunch for your group. If you have any questions, please call 800-366-8948.

Mission Trip News

Thank you so much for attending our annual Mission Trip Service on October 28th. This service not only celebrates the work that our campers do every summer, but also celebrates the amazing Church Family that helps us to get there!

Our campers did an incredible job showcasing aspects of the Group Cares Program. We sang work camp songs, put on a skit, shared readings and prayers, watched a Teddy & Fluffy "short" and shared our memories through the traditional slideshow.

We thank all of you for your continued support and we continue to be grateful that we are able to serve those in need.

We look forward to sharing this coming summer's camp in Burlington, NJ with all of you next fall!

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

The Mission Trip participants and Gail Harrison would like to belatedly thank people who made donations, worked at and shopped the June Yard Sale.

The event raised about \$1,000 including items sold after the yard sale at a consignment store.

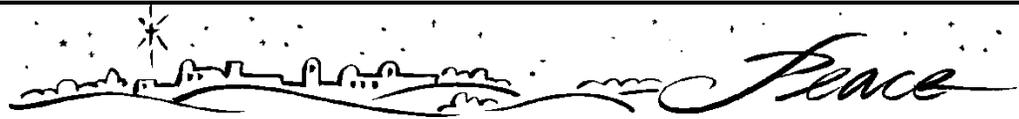
THANK YOU!



*Have you seen the beautiful
Mission Trip Quilt?*

Buy your raffle tickets for a chance to own it! See the order form on page 7.

December 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
Mission Items of the Month: Please support the Giving Tree						1			
First Sunday of Advent 9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship/Sunday School Christmas Giving Trees in Emerson Chapel and Hardy Hall 11:45 am – All Handbell Ringers 4:30 pm – Advent In House Mini-Retreat 2	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7:00 pm – CE Board meeting 3	10:30 am – Ladies Society 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 4	5:00-6:15 pm – Confirmation Class 5	10 am – Knitting Group 7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting 6	Help the Ladies Society! Bring baked goods to church by 12 noon or to the concert Saturday 7	COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:00 pm at Hollis Brookline High School 8			
Second Sunday of Advent Giving Tree wrapped gifts due at church 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – All Handbell Ringers 9	Poinsettia orders due 7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 10	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 11	5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 12	7 pm – Choir 13	January <i>Chimes</i> deadline Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 14	15			
Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School Christmas Tableau 11:45 am – All Handbell Ringers 11:45 – Confirmands pack Christmas food baskets at Brookdale, pizza & caroling 2:00 pm – Naomi Circle Christmas meeting at the parsonage 16	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7:00 pm – Trustees meeting 17	7:00 pm – Church Council meeting 18	19	10 am - Knitting Group 7 pm – Choir 20	21	22			
Fourth Sunday of Advent Music Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – All Handbell Ringers 23	Christmas Eve 4:30 pm – Family Candlelight Service 5:15 pm - Live Nativity 5:45 pm - Live Nativity 6:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service 8:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 24		Christmas Day  25			26	27	28	29
10:30 am – Worship <i>One Service only</i> — NO Sunday School 30	31								

Adult Study Class

A new adult study class will begin in January, using the DVD based program – *Embracing the Prophets*, a six-session study by Walter Brueggemann, “arguably America’s leading Old Testament scholar and theologian, (who will) take us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy, drawing connections between Israel’s sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today.”

Watch for more details to come as to when the class will begin and on what days.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who submitted their pledge cards for 2013. If you haven’t submitted your pledge card, there is still time! Extra cards are available in the narthex or in the church office. The Trustees are already working on the 2013 church budget, so please submit your card as soon as possible. Thank you!

Our Church Records

New Members

November 4, 2012

Britta Lee and Christopher A. Bergeron
Sally J. Cadman
Gertrude A. Gove
Judith G. and Ned W. Roman
Kristen Migliaccio-Walle
Jennifer L. White

November 25, 2012

Elka M. and James H. Torpey

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Bob Dedrick by:
Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt

From the Church Office

Thank you, Thank you — to Nancy Bell, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Lydia Schellenberg, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for collating, labeling, and sorting the November *Chimes* for delivery to your mailboxes.

Advent Sundays

December 2, a communion Sunday, is the first of the four Sundays of Advent. We begin our observance of the season by lighting the first candle in our ad-

vent wreath. Our Advent In-House Mini-Retreat will be held at 4:00 pm with a light supper following the program.

On December 9, we will celebrate the second Sunday of Advent. We will take a special offering for the UCC Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross).

December 16 will feature the church school’s Christmas tableau at the 10:30 service.

Our services on **December 23** will be filled with music including offerings by our senior choir and the Monument Square Brass at both 9:00 and 10:30.

Christmas Eve Services will be held at **4:30, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.** The **4:30 and 6:00 p.m.** services will be the shorter of the four, being more geared for families with young children. **All 4 services**, however, will conclude with a traditional **Candle Light Ceremony** and the singing of *Silent Night*.

On Sunday, December 30, there will be just **one service at 10:30**. There will be no church school on December 30.

On January 6, Epiphany Sunday, we will resume services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Ring In The Holidays!

We are trying out a new format: Combined Ring. Experienced and new ringers play together for the first part of practice and then experienced ringers play for the second part. Everyone come on and ring!

Practice: December 2, 9, 16, 23

Play December 24

Practice: January 6, 13, 20

Play January 27

Practice: February 3, 10, 17

Practice: 11:45 to 12:15 for the first part, 12:15 to 12:45 for the second part in the Parkhurst room

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet Sunday, December 16, at 2 p.m. Laurie Smith has invited us to the parsonage (6 Broad Street) for our meeting. We’ll have a Christmas Party with a Yankee Swap (\$5 limit).



Mission and Action News

The Christmas Giving Tree

for needy families in our area is set up in Emerson Chapel and Hardy Hall after church. It is decorated with ornament tags — TWO on each string.

1. Choose a tag (or more than one!) from the tree.
2. Pull the *second* tag off the string, write your name and telephone number on it, and put it in the basket provided.
3. Keep the top tag. It has the information about the gift recipient.
4. Go shopping! Use the information and suggestions on the tag as a guide. It is not necessary to purchase every item listed on tag.
5. *Please wrap gifts individually.* This is so the children will have multiple things to open on Christmas morning, and it's a lot more fun to open wrapped gifts!
6. Attach the tag containing the gift request information to your gift.
7. The gifts will need to be **back at the church by Sunday, December 9th** to give Mary Anne Smith (our Giving Tree Program coordinator) time to sort and deliver them accordingly.

If you are unable to shop but would like to contribute to making our Giving Tree a success, there will be a basket under the tree for monetary donations. Please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church of Hollis* with 'Giving Tree' on the memo line.

December 9 - UCC Christmas Fund Offering

The annual Christmas Fund offering is a 109-year old tradition of sending a monetary gift to those who have served the Lord and His church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency grants to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. Please watch for the special envelopes inserted in your bulletin on December 9th and consider making a contribution to the Christmas Fund.

November Item of the Month

Thank you so much for your donations of toilet paper, light bulbs and new twin sheets, pillowcases and towels for Bridges, an agency dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They will be shared between the Nashua and the Milford Shelters.



Recent M&A Donations

The Mission and Action Board was able to make recent donations to:

- Church World Service (Urgent Need Areas and Starvation in Africa)
- Andover Newton Theological School (scholarship aid)
- St. John Neumann Food Pantry
- School nurses who recommend local families in need of assistance.

All of these donations will help to make a real impact in the lives of both those in our local community and internationally.

These donations are made possible because of the annual budget that is assigned by the trustees to the Mission and Action committee, which is based on the stewardship of the congregation.

Ladies Society

The Ladies Society will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, to assemble packages of cookies and enjoy having lunch together.

Baking Help Needed...

This year there is a need for additional food baskets for Christmas. Therefore, the Ladies Society would like help from other church members with dona-

tions of squares, bars, or cupcakes to sell at the annual Holiday Band Concert at the Hollis Brookline High School on December 8, 2012. The proceeds will be used by the Deacons to purchase food for the Christmas baskets. Your goodies may be brought to the concert or left at the church office before noon on December 7, 2012. We will be thankful for any contribution.





Burlington, NJ 2013 Mission Trip Crew invites you to order raffle tickets for the...

Mission Trip Quilt

The beautiful handmade **purple and green quilt** will be offered for raffle at the Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper on February 10 as a fundraiser for the 2013 Burlington, NJ Mission Trip. **Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You can purchase tickets from Gail Harrison or use the order form below.** When we receive your order, your name and phone number will be written on each of your tickets and dropped in the raffle bucket. *Don't miss your chance to take this lovely quilt home with you!*

Quilt Ticket Order Form

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Total _____ # of tickets requested

Total \$ _____ enclosed

Name

Address

Telephone

Please make checks payable to the *Congregational Church of Hollis* with **Mission Trip Quilt** on the memo line.

Send order form and payment to:
Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

To place Christmas poinsettia plants in the church on December 23rd as a memorial to a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion, please fill out the form below.



I would like to order _____ poinsettias (please show quantity) to be placed in the church.

I am enclosing cash/check in the amount of _____ (\$7.50 per plant).

Checks should be made payable to: **The Congregational Church of Hollis**

This plant is given ____ **in loving memory of** **OR** ____ **in honor of:**
(PLEASE PRINT NAMES EXACTLY AS THEY SHOULD BE LISTED)

BY: _____

(PRINT YOUR NAME(S) EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR)

Telephone: _____

_____ I wish my plant TO BE DELIVERED to people our church family in hospitals or nursing homes.

_____ I WILL PICK UP my plant(s) after the second service on Sunday, December 23, 2012.

Please return this form to: The Congregational Church of Hollis
3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS — MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012



Hollis Town Band and Community Chorus

Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 8, 2012
at 7:00 p.m.

Hollis Brookline High School auditorium

Co-sponsored by our
Ladies Reading and Charitable Society

Admission: a non-perishable food item
All food items will be used to fill our church's Christmas food
baskets.

Join us for an evening of music and fellowship

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Hollis, NH 03049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

