

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

May 2012

Volume L, No. 5



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Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)

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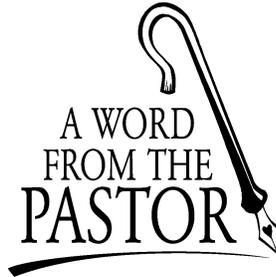
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The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



A Matter of Perspective

I do not usually comment much about movies or books that I have not yet seen or read. But this morning in the church office one of our staff talked about seeing the movie *Hunger Games* and how she felt very uneasy watching it. I later consulted Wikipedia and learned that the *Hunger Games* is an event that takes place in a nation known as Panem, after the destruction of North America, in which the participants (or “tributes” between the ages of 12 and 18) must fight in an outdoor arena controlled by the Capitol, until only one individual remains. Pardon me if I just don’t find a lot of redeeming value here, even though I understand that some have found Christian themes in the story. I guess it is a matter of one’s perspective.

Our impressions and conclusions about life are largely a matter of perspective. How we see and understand and assess the unfolding of world and national events or the happenings, whether significant or routine, that take place in our own communities or in our own households is influenced and shaped by our particular view on things, by our particular biases, beliefs, past experiences, as well as our expectations of what lies ahead.

Many are the similarities we hold in common with the peoples of the world and with our fellow citizens – admirable qualities as well as deficiencies in character. Yet there is an undeniable uniqueness about those who seek to know and serve God as followers of Jesus Christ. Ours is a uniqueness of spirit, a uniqueness of hope, of outlook and service. Our allegiance to Christ renders us a particular perspective – a unique identity and mission.

Ours is a calling to be sensitive to needs around us in a way that the world might call foolish; to be giving in a way that perhaps the world experiences only in receiving; to be loving in a way that astonishes and even risks the possibility of rejection; to be helpful in a way that saves the world from despair.

Awhile back I came across the following piece by William Arthur Ward called “Perceptions of a Lifetime.” His observations can surely help shape our perspectives on life in a very **positive way**. He writes:

“During many years of working with people, counseling them and observing them, I have made the following observations which may be a bit less

(Pastor’s Message continued on page 5)

From the Christian Education Office

Confirmation News

The final two class sessions for the year will be on **Wednesdays, May 2 and 16**. Class will meet **5:00 – 6:00 P.M.** Please note that we meet for just one hour. Attendance is very important. **Confirmation Sunday** will be on **June 3, 9:00 service**.



We have had an amazing year of Sunday



*Thanks
Teachers!*

school. Thank you to all who have made it possible to provide a program that offers our Sunday school children an opportunity to grow their faith and know

God's love. We especially want to thank our dedicated teachers and their assistants! The CE Board and Staff appreciate your constant commitment to creating a joyful, welcoming space for our children. Thank you for leading by example in the same way Jesus taught us.

7th Grade - Kristen Berry, Kelsey Berry, Michelle Etchells and Nathan Etchells

6th Grade - Darrell and Andrew Stam

5th Grade - Peter and Matthew Spooner

4th Grade - Valerie Guay, Christopher Guay, Andrea Seddon and Marcus Roche

3rd Grade - Julie Kopser, Dannie Putur, Sarah Cramton, Liz Gilbert, Shirleen Duquette and Lizzy Davis

2nd Grade - Martha Daigle, Caroline Daigle, Dannie Putur and Emily Babcock

1st Grade - Stephanie Morrissey, Kim Carrier, Tyler Ellis and Mandy Kabel

Kindergarten - Wendy Wright, Shirleen Duquette and Bobby Drouin

Pre-K - Nicole Kabel, Emily Babcock and Sarah Cramton

Nursery - Rebecca Harmon, Emma Newton, Kristin Olsen and Olivia Black

Floater - Charles Lewis, Julie Kopser, Martha Daigle, Kara Tulley, Michelle Etchells, Liz Gilbert and Kathryn Hildreth

Children's Day

May 20 is our annual Children's Day celebration. This is an opportunity for the children to share with you a little taste of what they have been learning in Sunday school. Join us for a morning of worship with stories and songs. Come hear about putting Jesus first, God's endless Grace and more!

Preparations for Children's Day are during Sunday school on May 6 and 13.

We will see you all on May 20, at 10:30



Children's Day

It's not just a job, it is ministry

It's that time again when we both celebrate the end of our Sunday school program year, and start planning for next year. Our program would not be a success without the dedicated leadership of our teachers. We are looking for people interested in building a lasting foundation of faith in the life of our children. Grandparents, parents, teens, and other church members who love children, we need you.



You do not need to be qualified. God will take care of "qualifying you" and we will provide training, materials, and support. Please consider making a difference by signing up to help grow our children's faith. We currently

have a strong need in 3rd grade, the nursery and a number of classes in the spring. Contact Amy Zapp in the church office, 465-7797 or amyce@hollischurch.org. Thank you!!!

Easter Egg Hunt

Once again this year our 6th and 7th grades sponsored a joyous Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our church family. We thank them for all their efforts pulling this special event together. Their genuine enthusiasm for serving others is a great example to all. We also want to extend a huge thank you to all the individuals who donated the plastic eggs and goodies for this gathering. The 6th and 7th graders appreciate your support!

Fifth Grade Lenten Project

The Fifth Grade class sends a huge thank you to the congregation for providing well over a hundred items to their "Fill the Backpacks" Lenten Service Project to benefit children of immigrant and refugee families. The students filled 18 backpacks with school supplies, toys, books, games, stuffed animals, and many other items. Each backpack included a Welcome card to share the joy of God's work in bringing them to their new home. The backpacks will soon be delivered to a Church World Service organization in New Hampshire for distribution to area immigrant and refugee families. The Fifth graders appreciate your support of their Service Project in helping other children in need.

Summer Worship Schedule



begins Sunday, May 27, when we change to a single worship service at 9:00 a.m. for the summer months. Our

two-service schedule resumes in September.

Please also note **on Children's Day, Sunday, May 20, there will be NO 9:00 worship service.** We will have a single service at 10:30 *for that Sunday only* followed by the All-Church Picnic.

May we pray for you?

Life is like the weather. Sometimes it is bright and sunny and at other times, it is like a storm is brewing as when we are confronted with tragedy or ill health. Where do you turn when tossed about by turmoil? Let God be your anchor. Members of our Prayer Chain stand ready to pray for all of your needs. All requests are held in confidence. Please contact Rev. Larry Smith at 465-7797 or Lydia Schellenberg at 465-2495.

2012 Buffalo, NY Mission Trip

Workcamp Thank you!

This year's Lenten Soup Suppers free will donations were dedicated to the Mission Trip. Thank you to all for supporting the youth's mission to serve those in need.

Yard Clean-up

The Mission Trip workcampers are offering the yard clean-ups once again this May. We have limited time slots available, but hope that if you need a little help this year, you'll give us a call. We will be available on **May 12 and May 19**

from 9 – 11. Please contact Amy Zapp at 465-2939 or amyce@hollischurch.org to book a spot. Mulching, raking, and weeding are all suggested projects for the 2 hour blocks. No fee is charged, but if you would like to make a donation to our trip to Buffalo, NY this July, we would be grateful. We thank you for your continued support.



Yard Work Help Available

Mission Trip Yard Sale!

Saturday, June 2

9:00 am until 12:00 noon

Beat the Crowd!

Early Bird Sale Hours

Friday June 1 from 5pm to 7pm with a \$5 admission.



How You Can Help:

- **Donate items to be sold.** Bring items to Flagg room (downstairs classroom) at the Children's Day picnic on Sunday, May 20 or daily 9am-12pm during the week of May 21. **NO TVs or Monitors!!!** It cost the Mission Trip money to dispose of these items last year.
- **Set up, sort, and price** the week of May 28 to June 1.
- **Work at the sale** either Friday 5-7 or Sat 9-12.
- **Help dispose of unsold items** - need trucks (3) to take items to Saver or Salvation Army.

Church members welcome to check out donations before yard sale and make offer on items.

ALL proceeds to 2012 Mission Trip to Buffalo NY.

Contact Gail Harrison gharrison@tellink.net or Amy Zapp AmyCE@hollischurch.org

May 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mission Items of the Month: New and used summer clothing for children ages of 10 – 18</p> <p>Kids' Clothing Drive</p>  <p>To support the Nashua Children's Home</p>		<p>9:00 am – Staff meeting 11:30 am – Ladies Society meets at Jan LeMay's home 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p>	<p>10 am - Knitting Group 5 - 6:00 pm – Confirmation Class Health/Hygiene kits due</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir</p>		
<p>9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School</p>	<p>7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 7:00 pm – CE Board meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting</p>	<p>5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting</p>	<p>Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter</p>	<p>Mission Trip Workcampers available for spring yard clean-up</p>
<p><i>Music Sunday</i> 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School</p>	<p>7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting</p>	<p>Summer Chimes deadline</p>	<p>10 am - Knitting Group 5 - 6:00 pm – Confirmation Class</p>	<p>No Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>Mission Trip Workcampers available for spring yard clean-up</p>
<p><i>One Service Only — No 9:00 service</i> Children's Day 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:30 am – All-Church Picnic Begin drop-off of Yard Sale items</p>	<p>7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 9am-12 Drop off yard sale items 7 pm – Trustees meeting</p>	<p>9am-12 Drop off yard sale items 7 pm – Council meeting</p>	<p>9am-12 Drop off yard sale items</p>	<p>9am-12 Drop off yard sale items</p>	<p>9am-12 Drop off yard sale items</p>	
<p>Summer Worship schedule begins 9:00 am – Worship</p>					<p>Yard Sale Early Bird hours 5pm-7pm \$5 admission</p>	<p>9am – 12 noon Yard Sale to benefit the Mission Trip</p>

(Pastor's Message continued from p. 1)

profound than those of the distinguished historian, but perhaps they are just as true:

1. Joyful people are those who are generous and kind.
2. Miserable people are those who are selfish and unforgiving.
3. Problem solvers are those whose lives are powered by faith and optimism.
4. Problem people are those whose lives are drained by doubts and pessimism.
5. Winners are those who have learned to take full responsibility for their actions.
6. Losers are those who have a handy excuse for every failure.
7. Troubles come to pass – they do not come to stay.
8. Most of us are greater than we dare to believe.
9. Adversity causes some persons to break, others to break records.
10. The simplest person can see God's hand in nature; the wise person can see God's face in fellow human beings."

A blessed May to all!
Larry W. Smith

Music Notes

Sunday Afternoon Concert

Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss our **Sunday Afternoon Concert at 3:00 p.m. on June 10, 2012.**

Sacred and Secular music will be performed featuring our church choir, small vocal and instrumental groups and the Monument Square Brass. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.



Summer Musicians 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 Marilyn Wehrle at 465-7151 or MLYNWW@aol.com.

From the Church Office

A BIG Thank You goes to Lydia Schellenberg, Thelma Pollard, Debbe Shipman, Doris Rafferty, Joyce Toli, and Claire Boucher for collating, labeling, and sorting the April *Chimes* for delivery to your mailboxes.

Our Church Records

Weddings

April 20, 2012

Jessica Bashta and Bryan Rankins

Deaths

March 10, 2012

Martha Worcester (Bell) Rogers

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Elvira Lorentzen by:
Frank and Eleanor Whittemore

In memory of Dorothy Warren by:
Alex and Betty Gondola
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dougherty

In memory of Vaughan Pitman by:
Alex and Betty Gondola

The funds contributed to Vaughan's Memorial Fund, unless otherwise designated, were added to the Mission Trip scholarship fund which provides financial assistance to those participating in the Mission Trip Workcamps.

Dot Pitman

We received word that Alex Gondola recently broke his leg and is recuperating in Florida where he and his wife Betty spend winters. Cards and well wishes may be sent to:

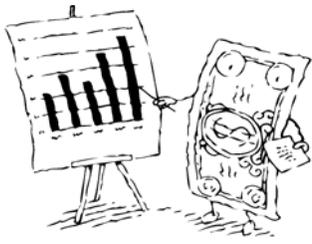


Mr. Alex Gondola
1950 Palm City Rd, Apt 11-101
Stuart, FL 34994



Dear Church members,
Thank you for the beautiful Easter lily from the altar on Easter Sunday.

Barbara Gilchrest



Financial Update

fall. Together, we made sacrifices like foregoing cherished food items (wine, Oreos, ice cream) and favorite activities like skiing. Our shared sacrifices have sanctified (made sacred) these gifts, which will help us to continue our service to those in need. The tree hanging in the meetinghouse truly blossomed with dozens of leaves, each symbolizing a gift to the body of Christ during the Lenten season. The gifts are now in the hands of the Trustees, who will make the final decisions on how to distribute the bounty we have collected together. Thank you more than we can say. We are all blessed by your generosity.

From the Trustees...

The Trustees are grateful for the sacrifice and generosity of our members. With the Lenten Giving Campaign and additional donations, we have made substantial progress in closing our budget gap. We have prayerfully considered how to best use the extra funds. Some of the donations were directed, meaning that the donors specified where the funds were to be used. \$9400 is added to the Mission and Action budget, \$7630 is added to Denominational Support, and \$4000 is added for energy efficiency improvements. The Trustees are leaving roughly \$6000 unallocated at this time in case areas of particular need develop during the year. In the fall, the budget will be revisited based on our financial position at that time.

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to tell you that our Lenten Giving Campaign has been a wonderful success. A nice majority of the congregation participated and, between the Lenten Giving and budget supplemental donations, **we were able to raise almost \$27,000 to meet the budget shortfall** that we as a congregation faced this

Ladies Society

The Ladies Society will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at the home of Jan LeMay for fellowship and lunch.

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will not meet in May. The end-of-the-year meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3. We will have a potluck luncheon at the home of Ginny Brooks. Watch for more information in your Sunday bulletin and summer *Chimes*.



Have you made a Health Kit for Church World Service?

Naomi Circle members and others in the congregation who have assembled Health Kits are reminded to drop them at church by Wednesday, May 2, so they may be delivered to the collection center in Bow. Instructions for assembling the kits are posted on the bulletin board outside Rev. Smith's office.



SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Fair 2012 to be held on **Saturday, Nov 17th**

Work is already underway for the 2012 Christmas Fair! Back will be the popular events from 2010, including the Angel Loft and many baked goods in time for the holidays. Stay tuned for more information regarding opportunities to help and a fun kick-off preparatory activity this spring!

Contact Julie Kopsner with questions: julie@kopsner.net or (603) 325-4949



Mission and Action News

May Item of the Month:

Children's Summer Clothing!

We will be collecting **new and used summer clothing** to support the Nashua Children's Home. The Home provides food, shelter, and educational programs for area children from the ages of 12 – 18. Your donations of summer clothing for this age group are most welcome and greatly appreciated. T-Shirts, shorts, flip-flops – all are needed. And,

Kids' Clothing Drive



because some of the older, high-school age children are wearing adult-sized clothing, this is a great time to clean out your closets, as well as your children's! Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

Dinners for the Ash Street Shelter

The M&A Board seeks volunteers to prepare dinner for the Ash Street shelter the second Friday of every month. The M&A Board supplies gift cards for the purchase of the food and disposable containers. We ask you to prepare dinner including a main course, salad or vegetable, drinks and dessert, and deliver these items to the shelter on Ash St. in Nashua at about 6 PM. **Currently we need volunteers for the months of July, September and October.** If you can volunteer, please contact Janet Listowich at 465-3284 or griftowich@charter.net. Thank you!

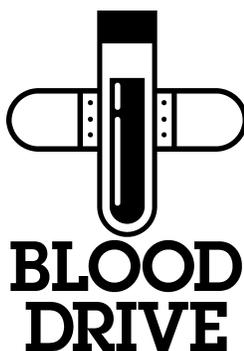
Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, June 16th

10:00 am – 3:00 pm in Hardy Hall

Did you know that *every 2 seconds* someone in America needs blood? That means over 38,000 blood donations are needed **every day**. Your blood donation can help to save 3 lives! Please give! You must be at least 110 pounds and 17 years of age to donate blood. A Blood Donor Card or a valid picture ID is required.

Volunteers are needed to assist at our upcoming blood drive (June 16th from 10 am - 3:00pm). Help by welcoming donors with a smile and a warm greeting, register donors, provide written information, and help serve refreshments. No medical training is necessary. If you'd like more information, please contact Kenric Nelson at kenric.nelson@gmail.com or 508-9827.



Past Items of the Month:

We delivered 15 boxes of laundry detergent to Corpus Christi, a church in Nashua, last week. These were a much appreciated addition to their big distribution of food and household items.

Collection Continues!

In April, we collected canned goods and non-perishable items in our shopping cart. Our Mission Trip campers will take them to Buffalo NY in July to distribute in area food pantries.



FOOD DRIVE

We will continue to accept canned (or non-perishable boxed) goods in the church office from now until our trip in July. If you are interested in helping, please leave your donations on the counter behind Amy's desk in the office. Thank you so much for your generous offerings!

Heating Oil Update

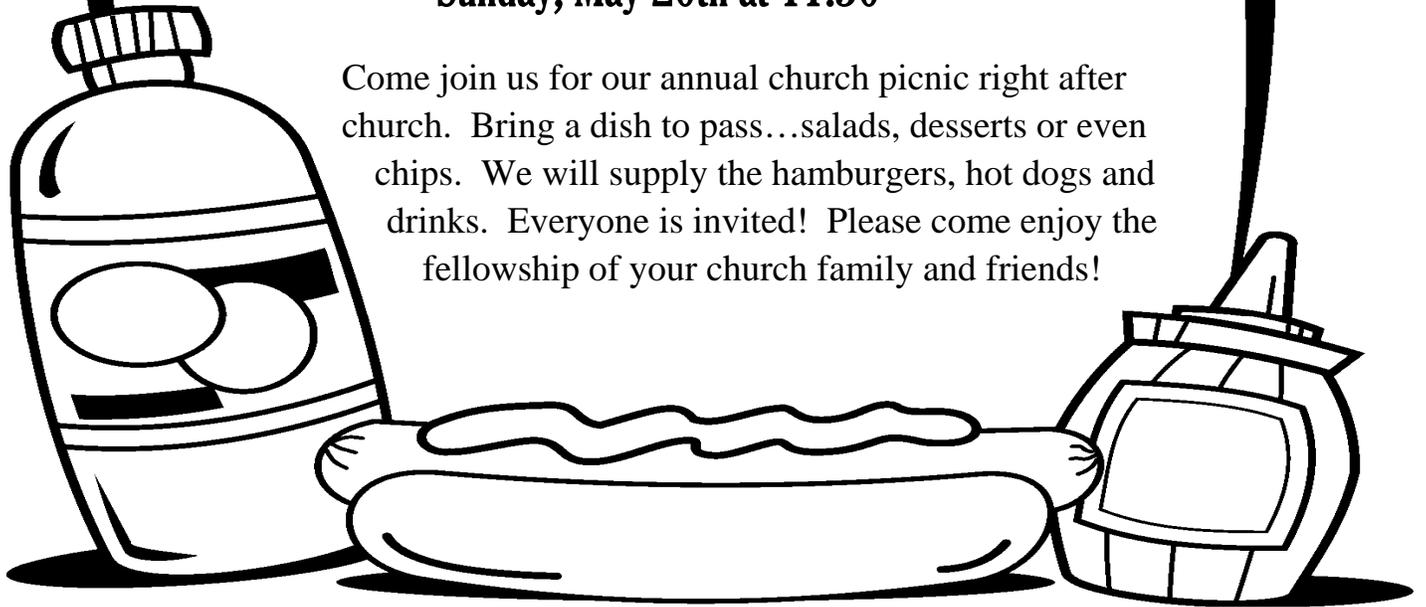
Twenty-seven deliveries of 100 gallons each of oil were delivered to homes in Hollis and 7 neighboring towns. This was funded by the Christmas Eve offering and a local oil distributor.

You are invited to the...

Children's Day All Church Picnic

Sunday, May 20th at 11:30

Come join us for our annual church picnic right after church. Bring a dish to pass...salads, desserts or even chips. We will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Everyone is invited! Please come enjoy the fellowship of your church family and friends!



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

