

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

February 2013

Volume LI, No. 2



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

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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.

Pastor's Annual Report

Each calendar year

ends on a high note with the celebration of Christmas and the hope that is ours in the birth of the Christ Child. At our church in Monument Square, we have the children's

Christmas Tableau, Music Sunday, and Christmas Eve services to help us appreciate and rejoice in this remarkable season and to lift up our hearts as we embark on a new year's journey. It is a very special time and there are many to be thanked for helping to make it so.

Of course there were other noteworthy happenings that resulted in 2012 being a fruitful year for our congregation in terms of our life together as a church family and our outreach to neighbors near and far. Following are some of the highlights that I would include.

Our church picnics, Children's Sunday, Mission Trip Sunday and Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper, Music Sundays and the Concert in June are what I would label perennial favorites.

In March, our Stewardship Committee launched its very successful Lenten Giving Campaign to help make up the difference from the previous fall's annual pledge drive that fell short of its projected goal. The Lenten campaign was generously supported by church members and friends and enabled us to regain a sound financial footing for the year in which we were able to restore funding, particularly for mission giving and denominational ministries. I suspect you will read more about on-going needs and expectations in our Stewardship and Trustee Committee reports.

**A LOOK BACK
AT 2012**



Both in May and November, we welcomed new members into our church family. In April, we recognized several long-standing members. On the first Sunday in May, we surprised and showed our appreciation to Lydia Schellenberg for her many years of dedicated service to our church, especially as a deacon and deacon emeritus, and the communion table was dedicated in her honor.

(continued on page 9)

From the Christian Education Office

Confirmation Class



The Confirmation Class will have three class sessions in February.

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 5:00-6:15.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 5:00-6:15.

Please note: Feb 13 is newly added to the schedule; it replaces the originally scheduled date of March 6

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 5:00-6:15.

Sunday School Classes

Even though the winter roads can be troublesome, the weather intimidating, good skiing alluring, and our warm beds enticing, we offer our Sunday school program from September through May. Our teachers are prepared and ready to share lessons, bible stories, and activities with the children each week. We look forward to seeing you in Sunday school *all year long!*

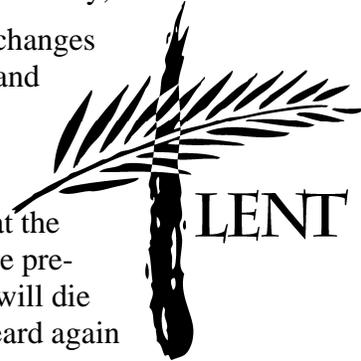


Our feature presentation on February 24th will be: **Adventures in Odyssey - Escape from the Forbidden Matrix.** Dylan and his buddy Sal can't get enough of their new video game *Insectoids*. See what happens when they get invited to play *Insectoids* "for real". Will Dylan and Sal discover what's really important in life? **ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!** Come enjoy popcorn and a movie during worship in our "authentic" drive-in theatre.

LENT – a time for change. . .

The church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th. Lent is a wonderful time for self-examination and offers us an opportunity to reprioritize our lives ultimately leading to important growth and transformation. Lent lasts for 40 days, including six Sundays, and ends on Easter Sunday, March 31.

In Worship Centers, the color of the altar changes to purple to signify this period of waiting and change. Our classes will be extinguishing six candles, one for each Sunday in Lent, and burying the alleluia. We "bury the alleluia" (the Easter word of celebration) at the start of Lent, as a sign that we know we are preparing our hearts for the time when Jesus will die on the cross. Shouts of Alleluia will be heard again when we celebrate the resurrection on Easter.



Our 5th grade class will begin working on their Lenten service project during February and March. This has been a traditional part of our 5th grade curriculum. We support their "service attitude" and hope to encourage a lifelong practice of serving others. Keep an eye out for how you too can support our 5th graders in their Lenten mission.

The Nurture Corner

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Seddon

With the new year, comes new resolutions. Sometimes, you get dragged down before you even begin. Remember that God wants us to be happy and is with us in our ventures. I've been thinking a lot about my place in the world and how I can help heal the environment and create a more healthful, God-filled place for my family. Saving the world may be a lofty resolution, but you've got to dream and start somewhere.

What if we were to start simply, such as the social time after the church service? 1 Corinthians 6:19 tells us that our bodies are a temple. What if we treated our meals and snacks as if they were food for a temple? What if we were mindful in our eating and purchasing of these foods? I'm not talking an extreme, such as only consuming home-grown, organic foods and beverages, but what if we tried to limit sodas and artificially-sweetened beverages as a first step? The kids would miss their red "fruit" punch you say. I offer the question, Why give them a taste for the artificial in the first place? Why wouldn't we do everything in our power to protect them from it and feed them nutrient-rich

foods instead? Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the beautiful pastries that are lovingly offered each week and you'll see me in line to get mine next week, but it's probably not the best "temple food" choice. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing thoughts on improving: improving our health, our planet, our everyday choices. I'd like to share the following quote from Neil Gaiman, as it has inspired me to begin this venture:

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you are doing *something*. So that's my wish for you and for all of us, and my wish for myself. Make new mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody has ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough or that it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art or love or work or family or life. Whatever you are scared of doing, do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever."

~ Neil Gaiman



A **huge** thank you goes out to our exiting board members; Charles Lewis, Michelle Etchells and Gabe Lewis. We will miss you!

Church School Poetry

A *diamante* poem is a seven-line poem written in the shape of a diamond. Recently our 4th grade looked at the Book of Jeremiah, and learned about this reluctant prophet who preached about opposites. After discussing the prophet's life, our 4th graders created **diamante poems about opposites**. Enjoy!



Snow,
soft, cold
falling, sticking, melting
coat, gloves . . . wet boots
falling, absorbing, shining
wet, cold
Rain

~ Andrew

Hope,
believe, love,
happiness, merry, joyful,
delightful, excited, dark, gloomy,
sad, quiet, fear,
low spirit, empty,
Despair

~ Emma



Hope,
hopeful, thoughtful,
peace, care, nonjolly, mean,
frowning, noncaring, hating,
hopeless, dirty,
Despair

~Gavin

Hope,
believe, love,
happiness, merry, joyful,
delightful, excited, dark, gloomy,
sad, quiet, fear,
low spirit, empty,
Despair

~Jack

Winter,
white, wonderful
snowing, skiing, sledding
snowflake, tree . . . sun, beach
swimming, tanning, surfing
hot, fun
Summer

~Lucy

2013 Mission Trip ... How You Can Help!



First, we would like to thank all of you in the congregation who are supporting our **Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser**. We always look forward to serving our “customers” at the Supper and we enjoy working together as a team to put on this annual event. *It's not too late to join us at the Spaghetti Supper!* Use the order form on page 7, and get your tickets now.

We also have some upcoming events to keep in mind. Soon you will be seeing announcements for our **Fun Fundraiser at Shorty's**. It is always so great to run into each other, eat a nice dinner and raise money for the trip too!

Also, we will again be **offering crews to do some yard work** for members of the congregation. Again, keep an eye out for more information!

Finally, each year, when we travel to workcamp, we are asked to bring an item to share with the gathered community of churches. Once again this year we are asked to bring **canned and non-perishable goods** for the local food pantries in and around Burlington, NJ.

We will be accepting canned (or non-perishable boxed) goods in the CE office from now until our trip in July. If you are interested in helping, please leave your donations with Amy in the CE office. If the office is locked, just place the items outside of the door. Please keep in mind that the canned goods will not be actually donated until July, so double check those expiration dates!

Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

“*Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture,*” our adult study program, continues on Wednesdays throughout February. The morning sessions begin at 10:00, and the evening sessions begin at 7:00.

Prior to the each session, those planning to participate are asked to pick up in the church office a sheet of questions to help prompt some reflection on the topic to be considered.

Session topics and dates are as follows:

February 6 - *Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence*

February 13 - *The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial*

February 20 - *The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment*

February 27 - *The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair*

Soup / Video / Discussion

programs are scheduled to be held on the following three evenings in Lent: **Wednesday, March 6 ...**

Wednesday, March 20 ... and

Monday, March 25. A simple Lenten fellowship meal will be served at **6:15**, which will feature a choice of 2 homemade soups prepared by members of our church family as well as

bread and dessert. The video presentation will begin not earlier than but as close to **7:00** as possible. If you cannot join us for the meal, please feel free to arrive at 7:00 for the video presentation followed by discussion. **Only those who intend to be present for the meal are asked to make a reservation** no later than the Sunday before each of the three programs by signing the sheet that will be posted on the bulletin board across from Rev. Smith's office or by calling the church office. There will be no charge for the meal, but a basket will be set out to receive any free-will offerings to help cover the cost of the meal.

This year we shall be watching videos from the *Faith and Reason* series that will feature Marcus Borg, Craig Evans, A. J. Levine, and Tex Sample. Each video program is 25 minutes long. The programs and dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 6: *What can we know about the historical Jesus?*

Wednesday, March 20: *What did Jesus really believe about God?*

Monday, March 25: *Is what we believe about Jesus important?*

From the Church Office

Many thanks go to my husband Paul for his help in preparing the January *Chimes* for delivery to your mailboxes.



February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Annual Meeting		All members are urged to attend the... Annual Meeting Sunday, February 10 at 11:45 am (snow date February 17)			 Annual Meeting	
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 3	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7 pm – CE Board meeting 4	7 pm – Stewardship Board meeting 5	10 am – Adult Study Class #3/6 5:00-6:15 pm - Confirmation class 7 pm – Adult Study #3/6 6	10 am – Knitting Group 7 pm – Senior Choir 7	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 8	 Hearts Party 7 p.m. Hardy Hall 9
Boy Scout Sunday 9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – All Handbell Ringers 11:45 am – Annual Meeting (Snow date Sunday, February 17) Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. 10	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 11	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting 12	10 am – Adult Study Class #4/6 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 5:00-6:15 pm - Confirmation class 7 pm – Adult Study #4/6 13	7 pm – Senior Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting 14	March Chimes deadline 15	16
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 2:00 pm – Naomi Circle 17	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 7 pm – Trustees meeting 18	9 am – Staff meeting 7 pm – Church Council meeting 19	10 am – Adult Study Class #5/6 5:00-6:15 pm - Confirmation class 7 pm – Adult Study #5/6 20	10 am – Knitting Group 21	22	<i>Prepared to Serve</i> UCC workshops 8am – 4 pm at Pembroke Academy 23
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship / NO Sunday School 24	7:15 am – Men’s Breakfast at Denny’s 25	26	10 am – Adult Study Class #6/6 (final) 7 pm – Adult Study #6/6 27	7 pm – Senior Choir 28	Mission Items of the Month:  Spaghetti Sauce & Dry Pasta for St John Neumann Food Pantry	

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 Raffle 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

It's not too late to join us at the...

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, February 10

The Mission Trip Crew will be hosting our annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for their summer 2013 mission trip to Burlington, NJ. Supper will be served family style (spaghetti, bread, salad, and dessert) with two seatings — 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Tickets for Take-Out orders are also available. Tickets are limited, so please order early.



Name _____

Address _____

Seating time: _____ 5:00 p.m. _____ 6:30 p.m. _____ No preference

OR _____ Take-Out Order

_____ # of Adult tickets at \$8.00 each

_____ # of Senior tickets at \$5.00 each

_____ # of Child tickets (ages 6-12) at \$4.00 each

_____ # of Children under 6 - FREE

Total _____ # tickets **Total \$** _____ **enclosed**

YES, I would like my name included on the placemat as a supporter. Please accept my additional donation of _____ and list my name as:

_____.

Deadline for ticket orders — Wednesday, February 6th

(Deadline for donor names on placemat is Sunday, Feb 3)

Please make checks payable to the *Congregational Church of Hollis*,
 3 Monument Square, Hollis, NH 03049

Mission and Action News

February Item of the Month: Dry Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce

This month, please consider helping out one of our partner organizations, the St. John Neumann Food Pantry. Specifically, we are looking for donations of **pasta** (in boxes or bags) and **spaghetti sauce**. Cans and glass jars of sauce are both acceptable as they are “shelf stable” items. Please leave your items in the cart near the CE office at the top of the stairs.



**Spaghetti Sauce
& Dry Pasta**
for St John Neumann Food Pantry

The Food Pantry directly helps families in need right here in Hollis, and in other local communities such as Nashua, Amherst, and Merrimack. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you as always for your generous support!

Heating oil Update:

In addition to the 1000 gallons of oil donated by our partnering oil supplier, the generous Christmas Eve offering permitted the purchase of 2100 more gallons. If you know of anyone needing assistance in paying for heating oil, please ask them to contact Rev. Larry Smith.



March Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at the church on Saturday, March 25. *Volunteers are needed to help with the drive.* Please contact **Kenric Nelson 603-508-9827, kenric.nelson@gmail.com, if you can assist.**

New Member needed for Mission and Action

One of our current members will no longer be able to attend meetings due to work commitments so we are looking for a volunteer to fill the void. If you are interested in the rewarding work of helping the church fill needs in our community, please contact Susan Lindeberg 465-7360.

January Item of the Month Update: Coins for the Front Door Agency

All that small change in the Penny Picker canisters is adding up. As of January 13 after services the total collected is approximately \$500. Thank you! The Front Door Agency is a local organization whose mission it is to help individuals and families in the greater Nashua area transition from crisis to self-sufficiency by providing a hand-up opportunity to those at risk of homelessness.



Habitat's ReStore

Remodeling? Help Habitat for Humanity at the *ReStore*

Turn unwanted and excess goods into a decent, affordable home...Shop ReStore! Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell has opened a store at 257 Boston Post Road, in Billerica, MA. **ReStore** accepts donations of building materials, appliances, furniture and home goods from contractors, retailers, and individuals just like you. Some of the donated items are set aside for the construction of Habitat homes. Other quality items are cleaned and sold to the general public (at 50% to 70% of retail prices) with all profits used to help build affordable Habitat homes. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for more information or go to their website <http://lowellhabitat.org>.

Exciting news! The Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity is opening a **ReStore** of their own! They expect to open their store at 352 Amherst Street in the former Antique Warehouse building sometime in March. A newspaper article with details about our local **ReStore** is posted on the bulletin board.



ReCycle ReUse ReStore



Our Church Records

Deaths

December 23, 2012

Bertrand H. Sommer

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet in Emerson Chapel on Sunday, February 17, at 2 p.m. We will discuss the book *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. Copies of the book are on reserve at the Hollis Social Library for you to check out. All women of the church are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion ~ whether you've read the book or not!



Let's Ring in Spring!

Combined Ring ~ experienced and new ringers play together. Everyone come on and ring!

Practice: 11:45 to 12:45, February 10 and March 3 and 10

Play: March 17 Introit at the 10:30 service

An Invitation from the Music Board to...



Do you enjoy singing? We invite you to come sing with the choir. We are always looking for new members, both male and female. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00, and sing at the 10:30 service on Sunday. If you are interested, contact Sylvia Eggleston (sylv singer@aol.com) or speak to any member of the choir. You can also just show up on a Thursday evening. Would love to see you there. *Come sing with us!!*

WARRANT



To the members of the Congregational Church of Hollis, New Hampshire, (United Church of Christ) qualified to vote in Church affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Church in said Hollis, New Hampshire, on Sunday, February 10, 2013, (snow date of Sunday, February 17, 2013) at 11:45 a.m. to consider the following articles:

Article 1: To consider the reports of the elected officers, boards, committees and organizations connected with the Church.

Article 2: To elect all officers necessary for the ensuing year.

Article 3: To see if the Church will accept and adopt the budget as recommended by the Trustees and Church Council.

Article 4: To see if the Church will authorize the Trustees to appropriate the sum of \$60,000 from the endowment to fund the final phase of the recent program to upgrade the energy efficiency of our church.

Background: The Facilities Committee, with authorization of the Trustees, has been working to reduce the cost, and improve the effectiveness, of the heating and lighting of our church building. Much of this work has been completed, but the most significant task remains: to improve the efficiency of our heat generation and distribution system.

A detailed plan for an engineering consultant has prepared this work, bids solicited and a contractor selected. The funds requested will permit the conclusion of this program, so we can enjoy heat when and where it is needed, from a more efficient heating system. This comprehensive upgrade should be good for at least the next 20 years, and our fuel savings should pay back the investment.

More information about our energy efficiency work is in the **Facilities Committee's Annual Report.**

Article 5: To consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Robbin Dunn, Church Clerk



Pastor's Annual Report

(continued from page 1)

Our adult study offerings included: a DVD-based series beginning in January — Adult Crossings — that engaged us in discussions of eight of the core stories of the Bible ... three Lenten soup/video/discussion programs ... and a DVD-based series in the fall—Embracing an Adult Faith—that featured Marcus Borg considering issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology.

Confirmation Sunday in June welcomed 17 eighth graders (4 girls and 13 boys) into “official” church membership. It was an outstanding class. Once again I want to express thanks to Valerie and Rick Guay, Carol Birch, and Robin Dunn for their help as adult advisors. (Robin Dunn has assisted me with the class going on five years, and she was helping out before my arrival.) Our 2012-13 class began in September. Although smaller in number, our 3 boys and 3 girls make up a very enjoyable and promising class.

I initiated a couple of getting-better-acquainted fellowship events in the second half of the year. One was a Friendship Scramble that took place right after church (10:30 service) on the third Sunday in September and the other was the Advent Mini Retreat held on the afternoon of December 4. Sixty-five adults and 24 children participated. Special thanks to Amy Zapp, Michelle Gehan, and the Christian Education Committee for leading the children’s component and to Lydia Schellenberg and Martha Davis for lining up the meal.

On November 11, we welcomed members of the Hollis VFW Post, other veterans, and the Hollis Chapter of the DAR to our church for a special Veterans Day worship service. Also in November, we had our second Christmas Fair in three years, which probably would not have happened except for the willing leadership of Julie Kopser, who deserves our great thanks.

On the Conference or Association level, I serve on the Executive Committee of the Hillsborough Association and am also an advisor to one of our Association’s members in discernment (seeking a call to ministry).

Thanks to the giving of our church members and friends through their offerings at the Christmas Eve services as well as the generosity of a local oil dealer, our church is able to provide certificates (representing nearly 3, 000 gallons of fuel) through the winter months to folk in need of fuel assistance in Hollis and several other neighboring communities. I continue to be the primary and confidential contact person for people needing help.

My most consistent involvement is in planning and leading regular and seasonal services of worship ... providing pastoral care, including visitation and being available for members and friends who may be planning a joyous event like a wedding or who are going through a difficult period in their lives or facing a time of illness or death. I also work closely with several of our church committees to meet responsibilities and in planning for and implementing programs that enhance our opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

I am grateful to work with Eileen Widner, Amy Zapp, Michelle Gehan, Sylvia Eggleston, Janet Sterritt, Ed Scibilia, and John Balfour, and feel that we are very fortunate to have them serving our congregation. And I know that Laurie joins me in expressing thanks to our entire Hollis church family for your continued support and kindness. Five years ago we made one of our best decisions in accepting your call for us to come to Hollis and for me to be your pastor. It is an honor and a privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry W. Smith

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



Adult Fellowship Hearts Party

An Adult Fellowship Hearts Party will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, at 7 P.M. at the church in Hardy Hall. Reserve the date & refresh your memory about the game of Hearts:

http://boardgames.about.com/od/hearts/a/hearts_rules.htm



Prizes will be awarded to the Queen & King of Hearts (lowest score winners female and male) as well as to the Joker (highest scorer). ☺



Please indicate on the sign-up sheet near the church office if you can bring card tables or a deck of cards. Plan to bring a snack/dessert or drink to share. Any questions and/or suggestions can be directed to Jody Secules, jody@corefocused.com or 603-465-7522.