

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

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

January 2015

www.HollisChurch.org

Volume LIII, No. 1



The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)

Interim Minister

Rev. Bonnie Stagg

Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Christian Education Co-Directors

Michelle Gehan

MichelleCE@HollisChurch.org

Wendy Wright

WendyCE@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

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.

Happy New Year!

I hope all your holidays were full of blessings and joy. And that if you need, you can rest and renew and recover from all the excitement and business of Advent and Christmas. Take a few minutes and breathe. Draw that breath deeply into your lungs, do it again and again. See how it calms the mind.



People of God, this is a busy church. Besides being busy, our church is a good and healthy church. You work together well; you care for one another, as well as the greater Hollis community and the world. We come together to worship and sing and share our smiles with one another. Those smiles are welcoming to new people entering our sanctuary as well as those who have been coming for years. Smiles make a difference. Breathe and smile. Good instructions for a new year.

As an interim minister, I've discovered that churches often misrepresent themselves. While interviewing here, one member of the interim search team asked me if I was going to ask about any 'bad stuff.' Without waiting for me to reply, members replied there wasn't any 'bad stuff' here. Happily, I affirm that. You are one of the healthiest congregations I've served. I'm fully aware that many won't feel that things are 'back to normal' until a settled pastor is here. Please remember, each time a new individual joins the church or a new minister steps into the pulpit, life in the church changes because we each bring something new to the mix. The church will grow into a new normal. A church is a microcosm of our culture – and whatever goes on out there, is reflected within the church. Sometimes in healthy ways, sometimes challenging. Our task is to grow through these times for in reality, the constant in a church, or in our personal lives, is change.

It is normal for congregations to desire a new settled pastor immediately after one leaves. In some denominations that happens. But our Congregational system operates differently and searching for a new pastor takes time and patience. God is steadfast and will send the right pastor. It happens, however, in God's time, not ours. So please pray diligently for your search committee and their potential candidates. Pray for our church that we may have the patience to wait for the new pastor. Pray for your own patience with the search process.

(continued on page 3)

From the Christian Education Office



The Confirmation class will have two class sessions in January:

January 6 (Tuesday) - class, 5:00-6:15

January 20 (Tuesday) - class, 5:00-6:15

Youth Group News!

All youth are welcome to participate in the Youth Groups, so please plan to join in 2015! The next events will be **Sunday, January 11th** with roller-skating for Junior YG (grades 5-7) and a trip to the movies for Senior YG (grades 8-12). Watch emails and bulletins for further details.

Both groups were busy this fall with their monthly fellowship activities, camp-outs and many service projects including the “Can”tucky Derbies (100 canned goods collected), cooking food for the shelter and Charity's Ordination, hand-crafting cutting boards, and picking and preparing apples for pies sold at the Christmas Fair, plus clean-up from the tree removal (for the future shed). Also, keep an eye out for a camel and angel to appear in the nativity scene! For Christmas, the JYG kids shared an evening of music, crafts, and treats with some “young at heart” seniors whereas the SYG teens prepared the candles for Christmas Eve then enjoyed games and a traditional Yankee Swap.

Thank you for your support of the Youth Groups!



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 1370am to find out if we will be canceling church services and/or Sunday school.

Communion for Sunday School

Our Sunday school program is going to offer Communion to our 5th, 6th, and 7th grade children starting on Jan 4th in the Meetinghouse with the congregation. In February the students will receive Communion in a smaller, more intimate Communion service in Emerson Chapel. We will spend the first few months alternating between locations. We are excited about this new chapter in our CE program.



A Thank You from CE

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make our Advent festivities especially meaningful this year. Our children have had such a wonderful time preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. They've experienced changing their classrooms to purple, singing Christmas Carols, decorating ornaments at the Advent Celebration, decorating cookies, re-creating the manger scene with the Christmas Tableau, and the Live Nativity. We are truly grateful to all who helped our children to experience the wonder and joy of the Advent season. We wish you many blessings in the New Year.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Please Welcome our Second Semester Teachers!

Some of our Sunday school teachers volunteer for the whole program year, but others are just able to serve for a single term. We are so thankful for each and every one of you!! **On January 4th we will say goodbye and thank you to a few of our first term teachers as we welcome others for the second term.** If your child has a new teacher, please take the time to introduce yourself to your child's new teacher and to thank them for sharing in your child's faith development! If there is anyone interested in being part of our vital church school program, please contact Wendy or Michelle at CEdirectors@hollischurch.org. We are still in need of a few more teachers for our second term Sunday School Program.

Mission Trip News



Work Camp

First, we would like to express our gratitude to Amy Zapp for her work on the *When Pigs Fly*

fundraiser. This annual bread sale event contributed \$370 towards the Mission Trip funds. Funds raised are used to offset the individual payments to attend work camp. We always appreciate the support from our church community as we know that our service to God and others depends on this generosity.

As we prepare to serve God this summer in Charlotte, NY we will need all work campers to mark their calendars with some important dates. We are kicking off the new year with our first official **All-Camper meeting on January 25 at 11:45 in Emerson Chapel**. At this important meeting, we will be **making plans for our biggest fundraising event, the Spaghetti Supper**** ...which is scheduled for Sunday, February 8th. We need all hands on deck to pull off this fun event!

Finally, the **first payment of \$250 is due by February 20th**. You can leave the check in the mission trip mailbox in the main office or in the paint bucket in the CE office.

Keep an eye out for other special events planned. We look forward to seeing everyone at the January Meeting!

****Order your tickets for the Spaghetti Supper today! See the order form on page 7.**



Spaghetti Supper

From the Pastor *(continued from page 1)*

In the meantime, I share with you that it is an honor to serve you. You have welcomed me with open arms and I am grateful. Come and talk with me if you have doubts or thoughts or questions you want to share. I will answer if I can; if not, I will listen. You inspire me with your dedication and you bring joy to my life.

At the beginning of this new year, let us think about our covenant and commitments with the church and how we can continue working that this faithful community blossom.

Blessings,
Bonnie

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet in Emerson Chapel at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 18th. All women of the church are most welcome to come and share fellowship and a program.

Christmas Fair Update

A BIG Thank You to all who helped with the 2014 Christmas Fair! Currently profits from the fair are more than \$6,200. We will keep you posted on how the proceeds will be spent. Again, Thank You and God Bless!

The Christmas Fair Committee

Ring in the New Year!



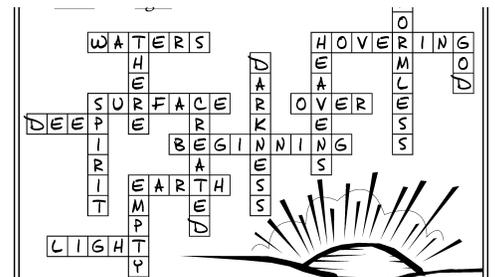
Rainbow Ringers (elementary school age and up)

- Practice Sundays, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18
11:45 to 12:45 Parkhurst Room
- Play Sunday, Jan. 25 at the 10:30 a.m. service

From the Church Office

Many thanks to Nancy Bell, Brenda Gibson, Jane Nichols, Freddi Olson, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, and Joyce Toli for preparing the December issue of *The Chimes* for mailing.

Answers to the Kids
Page puzzle:





January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Mission Items of the Month:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socks for boys and girls ages 7-18 • Bath Towels & Wash Cloths 				 to benefit The Nashua Children's Home		NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office closed 1	Annual Reports due at church office 2	3
9:00 am – Communion Worship 10:30 am – Communion Worship and Sunday School 4	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Women's Breakfast at Joey's 7:00 pm – CE Board meeting 5	5:00-6:15 pm – Confirmation class 7pm – Stewardship Board meeting 6	7	7 pm – Choir 8:15 pm – Music Board meeting 8	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter 9	10		
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Rainbow Ringers 4:00 pm – Jr Youth Group – Roller Skating 6:30 pm – Sr Youth Group Movie Night 11	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Women's Breakfast at Joey's 7:15 pm – Deacons meeting 12	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting **7 pm – Trustees meeting – <i>note date change</i> 13	5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 14	10 am – Knitting Group 7 pm – Choir February <i>Chimes</i> deadline 15	16	17		
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Rainbow Ringers 2:00 pm – Naomi Circle meeting 18	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Women's Breakfast at Joey's Trustees meeting – <i>moved to Jan 13</i> 19	5:00-6:15 pm – Confirmation class 7:00 pm – Church Council meeting 20	21	22	23	24		
9:00 am – Worship 10:30 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am – Mission Trip ALL-Workcamper meeting 25	7:15 am – Men's Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 am – Women's Breakfast at Joey's 26	27	28	7 pm – Choir 29	30	31		



Claire Boucher and family thank you for the beautiful cards and messages of condolence extended to us after Lenny’s passing. Your kindness and compassion was comforting.

Thank you.

Claire Boucher

Our Church Records

New Members

December 14, 2014

Joddy Mitchell
Jess and Steve Scapicchio

Deaths

December 9, 2014

Robert Francis Gould, 100 years old and the longest-time member of our church. Bob was confirmed in our church on May 5, 1929, and was a member for 85 years.

December 14, 2014

David Rupert

Privacy Laws and Hospitalization

New regulations prohibit hospitals from telling us when members are admitted to the hospital. Please let us know if you or a loved one is hospitalized so we can be in touch with you and hold you in prayer.

For Kids Only...

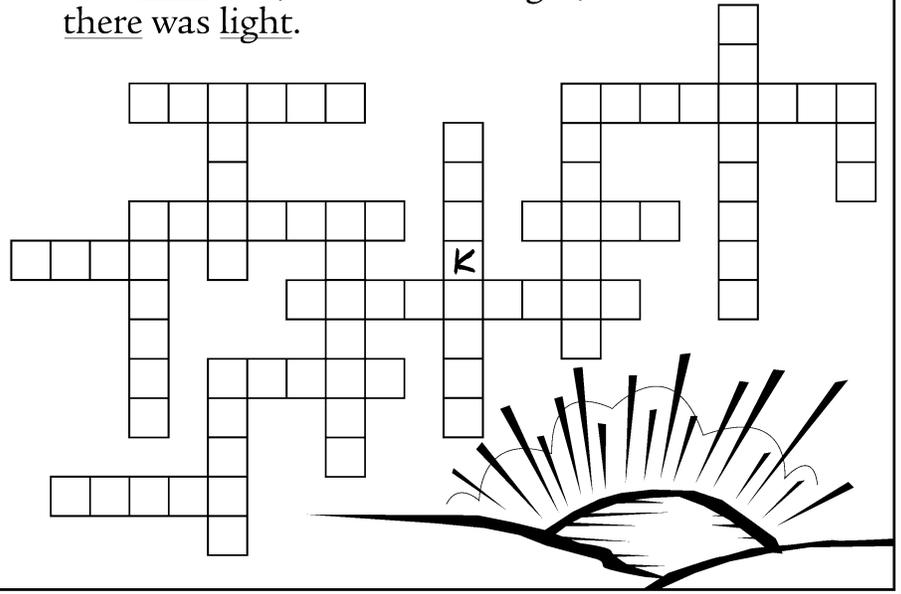


The Beginning

The start of a new calendar year is a great time to praise God for his amazing creation.

Directions: Read Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV), below. Place the underlined words into the crossword. One letter has been provided to help you start.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.



Answers on page 3

Mission and Action News

January Items of the Month

The Nashua Children's Home provides care and stability to boys and girls who are unable to remain with their families and also provides the successful transition to adult living of young men and women in its Transitional Living Program. The Home is in need of:



- socks for boys & girls, ages 7-18
- bath towels
- wash cloths



Please place all items in the shopping cart in front of the office. Thank you for responding to this need!

November Item of the Month Update

A generous and varied assortment of toiletries was collected for Bridges, a non-profit agency that is dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Clients may arrive at the shelter with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and some simple personal care items provide some comfort. Thank you as always for your support!

Heating Oil Assistance

Winter is here! Do you know of someone needing assistance in paying for heating oil? If so, please ask them to contact Coleen Brady at 603-598-8049 or cbrady27@comcast.net. Oil is generously donated by our partnering oil supplier, and we purchase additional oil with our 2014 Christmas Eve offering of more than \$6,000.

We collect these items every month...

- **Unwanted eyeglasses** - The Lions Club recycles them for use by those who could not afford glasses.
- **Unwanted cell phones** - Bridges gives the phones to victims of domestic or sexual violence for use in calling 911 for help. Phones that don't work are recycled which earns Bridges some income.
- **Greeting cards and stationery** are sent to the NH State Women's Prison to help inmates maintain contact with friends and family.



The boxes for these items are on the shelves by the Christian Ed office. Thank you for your yearlong support!

Recent M & A Donations

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

Church Related Category

Campus Ministries, NH Conference
NH Bible Society

Local Missions

Ash St. Shelter gift cards - for those preparing meals
Meals on Wheels
Primary School Nurse gift cards
Nashua Soup Kitchen - general fund
St. John Neumann Food Pantry

International Missions

Engineers Without Borders
(Guatemala)



We are donating to

Engineers Without Borders

at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where our own Aaron Pepin is the project lead. Their trips in January and May 2015 will wrap up their 5 year long project to improve water security in Guachtuq, Guatemala, an indigenous community of 220 Pokomchi people located in the mountainous Alta Verapaz region. Many women and children in the community walk 4-6 hours each day to collect water from a polluted catch basin that they rely on for all their water needs, including drinking and cooking. Their team has collaborated with community members to develop rainwater harvesting systems that ensure families will have enough water to drink and cook year round. The systems capture rain that falls on the roof of a family's home and store the water in large tanks. This implementation will directly impact the daily life of 150 people by providing them with access to a secure and clean source of water. Follow this link to see the impact this project has had on the community thus far (look for Aaron with the blonde hair!).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvb-4rkW5nU>



Charlotte, NY 2015 Mission Trip Crew invites you to order raffle tickets for the...

Mission Trip Quilt

The beautiful handmade **Jacob's Ladder variation bed quilt** will be offered for raffle at the Mission Trip Spaghetti Supper as a fundraiser for the Charlotte, NY Mission Trip. The quilt is a small queen size (100" x 70"). **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

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, February 8

On Sunday, February 8, the Mission Trip Crew will be hosting our annual spaghetti supper in Hardy Hall as a fundraiser for their summer 201 mission trip to Charlotte, NY. 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 4th
(Deadline for donor names on placemat is Sunday, Feb 1)

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

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



Mission Trip Quilt

Use your imagination...

**Can you picture this quilt
in soft peaches with
accents of *hot pink*?**

If you can't, then check out the color photo on the bulletin board at church!

The pattern is a variation of *Jacob's Ladder*, pieced and quilted by Janice Boutotte for the raffle to benefit our Mission Trip to Charlotte, NY.



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