

Steeple Talk

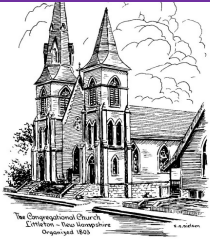
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November 2010

volume 38, Issue 10



Pastor's Message

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Nov. 5 and 6th - Rummage Sale
- ◆ Nov. 10th 1:30 PM Ladies Society
- ◆ Nov. 13th 8:00 AM Men's Group at Menzies'
- ◆ Nov. 21st - 6:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Littleton Opera House
- ◆ Nov. 25th Thanksgiving Day
- ◆ Nov. 28th - First Sunday in Advent

Editor: Alice Muh
muhfamily@roadrunner.com

Production staff:
Pat Whipple & Anna Jackman

I really like living in a small town. People are involved in each other's lives. People all over town are aware of the needs we're praying for. They know the person in the hospital and her mother and her brother and her great-uncle Tom who was killed in the war in Flanders back in 1917. They know what happened back in '65, which nobody talks about any more, not because it's bad, but because it's painful and what's the good of bringing that up now, anyway. Stories. A small town isn't just a collection of people, it's a network of stories that reaches out and out until, in one way or another, it embraces everyone who ever lived in this town, even people you never heard of.

That's the way it is with the church, too. The church isn't just a collection of people, it's a network of stories that reaches out and out until it embraces everyone, anywhere, who ever said "yes" to Jesus' invitation to "Follow me." It includes the people you know and care about and their fathers and sisters and their great-aunt Perpetua who was killed by wild animals in the arena in Carthage in 209. It includes what happened back in 33—which some people don't like to talk about too much because it's embarrassing—Peter and Andrew and old Thunder's boys cutting up like they were drunk or something.

The first of November is All Saints' Day. It's the day we set aside to remember the network of stories, the network of lives that has always made up the Church of Jesus Christ. It's a

time to remember this great network of beloved folks, especially the ones who shared this story with you in the flesh, before they joined the invisible community of saints that surrounds us with love and encouragement as we continue to strain toward our goal.

On November 7, we'll share the *Sacred Meal* that unites our lives with the life of Jesus. It's a precious and wonderful time. We gather around the table in the sanctuary, listen to the story of God's love for us, let ourselves know our need for forgiveness, and then we share the bread and juice, and through these simple gifts we recognize Jesus, breaking bread in our midst—and we are overjoyed, and we are made whole.

But there's more. The table in the sanctuary is only a small piece of the table of Jesus. That table extends through space to include every table where people gather to share this meal—in Alberta, Beijing, Colombo . . . Xantippe, Yucatan and Zimbabwe. And that table extends through time to include every person who ever said "yes" to Jesus' invitation to join his family. So I hope you'll come on November 7 to enjoy a special meal with Jesus. Everyone will be there—sisters and brothers from all over the world, grandparents, parents, spouses and friends, great-aunts and uncles, martyrs and apostles, the great cloud of living stories of faith, a network of stories, our family. It's going to be a wonderful supper. I hope you'll join us. It won't be the same without you.

blessings,
 david

First Congregational Church

November 2010

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours: Tues - Fri. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Music Director's Office Hours: Wed. 4:30 to 8:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 to 11:30 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor	2 10:30 AM-Clergy Meeting Methodist Church 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor 5:00 PM-Property Committee 7:00 PM-AI Anon	3 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting -Ladies Parlor	4 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor 7:00 PM-Deacons Meeting	5 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor 9:00AM-4PM Rummage Sale	6 9:00 AM- Noon Rummage Sale 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
7 9:00 AM-Adult Bible Study 09:15 AM-Choir 10:00 AM Worship, Communion & Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	8 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM-SLLC Board 5:30 PM-Finance Meeting	9 10:30 AM-Riverglen Service 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon 7:00 PM-Mission Committee	10 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 1:30 PM-Ladies Society- Ladies Parlor 3:00 PM-T'ai Chi-Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM-Christian Ed/Teachers 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	11 7:00 to 8:00 AM-Ladies Ecumenical Breakfast at Meth. Church Parish House 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	12 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	13 8:00 AM-Men's Breakfast Group At Doug Menzies' 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
14 9:00 AM-Adult Bible Study 09:15 AM-Choir 10:00 AM-Worship & Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	15 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	16 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon 7:00 PM-Council Meeting	17 10:00 AM-Clergy Group 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	18 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-Book Group Discussion <i>Mere Christianity</i> by C.S. Lewis	19 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	20 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
21 9:00 AM-Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM-Choir 10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 6:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service@Opera House 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	22 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	23 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon	24 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	25 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	26 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	27 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
28 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 AM-Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM-Choir 10:00 AM-Worship No Sunday School Food Collection Sunday 11:15 AM- Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	29 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	30 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 4:30 PM - We sponsor Dinner Bell @ All Saints' Parish Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon				

Rummage Sale

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL RUMMAGE SALE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5TH AND 6TH!

The Ladies Society is pleased to announce our annual fall rummage sale will take place in Fellowship Hall. On Friday, November 5th, our door will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. On Saturday, November 6th, the sale will be from 9 a.m. until noon. On Saturday from 11:30 am until noon we will again be promoting a BAG SALE that will allow all participants to buy a large for \$2.00 per bag or an extra large bag for \$3.00 per bag that can be filled with ANY LEFT OVER ITEMS that will fit into the bag.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE NO LONGER CAN ACCEPT SUMMER CLOTHES, APPLIANCES, COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, TIRES, SKIS, TELEVISIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. Paper back books, adult and children are popular, NOT HARD BACK BOOKS OR MAGAZINES, STUFFED ANIMALS. Children's games and toys are a great seller and puzzles. We are always looking for nice lamps, end tables and chairs that are in good shape and linens and bedding. White elephant items are always welcomed.

We have a small number of women who are involved in this sale so would greatly appreciate that all clothing items be CLEAN, and folded.

If anyone has clothing items that are for summer you may give them to the North Country YMCA truck that will be parked in Staples parking lot on Saturday.

ALL ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM OCTOBER 18TH UNTIL NOVEMBER 1ST.

Harvest Supper and Silent Auction report

Getting Set



Harvest Supper - Once again, a good time was had by all. Nearly 200 people attended the 31st annual Harvest Supper. The net proceeds after expenses and including donations were \$1620.35. Bob and Alice Muh send a big thanks to all who helped out. Many people donated hours, money, and delicious pies and rolls to make this event turn out so well. Many commented on the delicious food!

Silent Auction- Marlene and Emily would like to thank everyone for their donations and helping out with everything. It takes lots of people to make the Silent Auction a success and it WAS a success. The proceeds from the auction were \$2375.00. Marlene and Emily would like feedback on the how the final bidding and the tallying up was done. The goal was to have folks just find their name on the list and pay the cashier the total amount to make things easier and a lot less confusing at the end. Please get back to either Marlene or Emily with your feedback.

'Ham-ing' it up



Fund raisers such as these help us support the missions of the church. Missions of the church include Shining Lights Learning Center, Epic Church, Meals on Wheels, North Country Home Health and Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC), among others.

“Classifieds and Notices”

The next **Dinner Bell** that we host is Nov. 30th, 4:30 pm at the All Saints Church.


Put it on your calendar and plan to sign up to bring a casserole, side dish, rolls or dessert.

Your help is also needed to help set up, serve, or clean up.

See Bob Muh for more information or to volunteer



**Ladies Society
announces
Rada Cutlery Sale**



**Place your order
Before Dec. 1st.**

Top quality, all American made, REASONABLY PRICED cutlery, also candles, prepared dips for holidays.

The catalog is available in the church office or from any member of Ladies Society.



And the rest is gravy.....

Needed: 500 packets, jars, or cans or turkey gravy for the Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed in the greater Littleton Area by the Franconia Community Church. Please bring into church before November 21st.

Save the date

Pork Supper
January 15th, 2011
Sponsored by the Mission Committee

Stay tuned for more details!

**Mission Statement of the First
Congregational Church of
Littleton**

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people of various stages of their spiritual growth.

Neighbors in Need



We collected \$317.00 for the Neighbors in Need offering. Check out the www.UCC.org web site for how this money is used.

Thank you all for your generosity!

PIANO FOR SALE



\$300 OR BEST OFFER

Description:
1954 Baldwin Aerosonic, all mahogany. Needs tuning, but otherwise it is good shape. Ready for pick up Pittsfield, NH.

Call Samantha (Peabody) Warner @603-991-3203 and leave a message.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF Sept. 30, 2010

Pledge Income: \$96,200.64
Other income: \$9,769.40
Transf. from Trust Funds: \$20,279.06
Total Income: \$126,249.10
Total Expenses: \$122,677.42

Net: \$3571.68

**Worship Leadership Team
members needed!**

Perhaps you've always wanted to tell your minister what you'd like to take place in a worship service but you've never been asked? Well, now's your chance to share in worship leadership. Contact Pastor David or the church office to volunteer for a couple of weeks or a liturgical season.

Church Council News Summary

Church Council met Oct. 19th. Devotions were led by Alice Muh - "First Things First" (Luke 12:29-32). Minutes of the Sept. 21st, 2010 were accepted.

Pastor's Moment: Pastor David is settling into a busy schedule: bringing communion to the homebound, weddings, attending NC Association meetings. He spoke and played guitar at the Ladies Ecumenical Breakfast. The worship teams are working well, but he needs volunteers for the first three weeks of November. He is looking for youth who would like to join a confirmation class using "Making Disciples" program. He met with a family interested in joining the church. He is working with other Littleton pastors to pool resources to have an organized approach helping people who come to the churches for help. He will be working with Christian Ed to produce the annual Christmas pageant

Stewardship - Dick Holland reported on pledges received so far. There have been 15 increases, 6 stayed the same and 1 decrease. Some 'Time and Talent' sheets have been received with the pledge cards. On Oct. 25th Laurie Boswell will be speaking on stewardship and pledged cards will be blessed. The wrap up will be on Oct. 31st by Alice Muh.

Finance Committee -. Budget report reviewed. The budget for 2011 has not completed yet.

Trust Funds - Dick Holland reported that we received a good amount from dividends for the month of September. General Trust Funds \$294,288.29 - Capital Campaign \$222,411.53

Christian Ed - Children are learning about communion. The committee will be preparing for Advent. On Dec. 5th there will be celebration of crafts and tree trimming. The children's Christmas pageant will be Dec. 19th during the church service. Cheryl Kerr and Pastor David will write a script to showcase children's gifts. Rehearsal will be Dec. 18th. Have seen some new faces in Sunday School, but attendance is still spotty.

Music Committee - Looking for ways to use the Haynes Memorial monies donated for use of special music for the church. The choir is working on new music. Dottie will be talking to the choir about changing winter rehearsal hours.

SLLC -SLLC will be selling large decorated wreaths again this year from Finnegan Fine Firs at \$23.00 each. SLLC is in the black and will be making a pledge back to the church this year.

Nominations for 2011 - Will be looking at Time and Talent sheets for volunteers. May need to grandfather in some committee members if they want to stay on their committees. Need to look at our structure to see if it serves our mission.

Property - Noticed the water bill was up one month but was back down the next month. Alarmco was here to look at the upgrading of the fire sounding alarm system. Has signed contract with Dodge Contracting for plowing and sanding. Back pew was removed for a place to sit in wheelchairs. This helps alleviate congestion in that area and better in case anyone needed to exit in a hurry. Watching for critters behind the organ because of the leathers.

Capital Campaign - Received another \$1,320 in September.

Update on Phase II - Phil Krill has met with New England Lift Co and Lawton Company. Lift prices and construction work estimates are being worked on. Pastor David has seen a similar lift at Shared Ministry in Lisbon. One lift quoted would hold one caregiver and a person in a wheelchair at the cost of \$18,800. He will be obtaining two other quotes for the labor portion of job. Still to be accomplished- universal access renovations to bathrooms, tile foyer floor, AV updates and mission.

Deacons - Still having problems with taping the Sunday service. Capital Campaign Phase 2 has money designated for upgrades and Linda Warden reminded the council of the plan that Gene Mockabee presented in June that would address this. A request was received from the Franconia Community Church for 450 jars, packets, or cans of turkey gravy for the Thanksgiving baskets.

Next meeting to be November 16th at 7:00 pm.

'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.'

Romans 12: 2

Christian Education News

Our ministry of the acolyte is really on fire. We are so pleased to have Mackenzie Allaire and Leah Kelley join Abbey and Kyle in the lighting of the alter candles. It's wonderful having them participate in our worship service in this very meaningful ministry.

We are adding a new activity to our curriculum. Every second Sunday of the month, Kim Smith will be leading students in sacred movement (for all ages and genders) and we look forward to sharing with you what we learn.

We are following the lectionary topics of Pastor David's sermons as a curriculum for our lesson plans. Ajilla is doing "take home talking points" so families can have faith discussions on the day's lesson. It is a way for all of us to minister in Jesus name "together".

Mark your calendars for December!!!!

Our annual "Advent Fellowship" and tree trimming will be Sunday, December 5th. The children will begin making crafts during Sunday school time and we will welcome all of you in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. We will have a variety of crafts for all ages and abilities AND a light lunch with Christmas cheer sprinkled on top for your enjoyment. The grand finale` will be the "parade of ornaments". All who are able will march up to the sanctuary and place their creation on the tree for Baby Jesus.

SAVE the DATE: December 5th

Stay tuned there may be more to come !!!!!

The Christmas pageant will be part of the worship service on December 19th. We will have a rehearsal Saturday, December 18th at 9:30 am followed by "basket making" with the deacons for our homebound members and caroling to follow. Please plan to join us in this mission project that touches the hearts of members in our own back yard.

There will be no Sunday school classes on November 28th - "Thanksgiving recess". December 26 and January 2 will be the "Christmas recess".

We are still in need of some adult volunteers to help with Sunday school. If you can help just a tiny bit or lots, we need you. Please call.

We give thanks to God for all our blessings and especially for you who are our church. The church is the people!

Happy Thanksgiving.
Christian Education Committee

Sunday School
available for
all ages



Sunday Morning
Adult Bible Study group



**The task ahead of us is never as great
as the Power behind us.**

Ladies Society News

On a beautiful fall day in October 18 ladies resisted the temptation to play hooky and instead joined together in fellowship, devotion and mission to the work at hand. We celebrated the good work of Emily Laflam and Marlene Baker (see picture). Together they organized and ran the Silent Auction, gleaning over \$2300.00.

We had a follow-up session on the workshop of Nancy Brown and will continue this at our November meeting.

We shall also discuss Christmas events on November 10th at 1:30pm. Most of our meeting was devoted to plans for the upcoming Rummage Sale on November 5th and 6th.

The Rada campaign is underway. Please see Carol Mason regarding orders of these fine cutlery products that benefit the work of the church. Deadline for orders is December 1st. There is a catalogue in church office.

Always closing our meeting with something special: Barbara Holland exhibited our newest prayer shawl from one of our newest members, Hilda Little. This shawl was then dedicated and presented to our dear Mary Hodgdon on October 17th in the sanctuary.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN LET'S TALK!



What's Up: Book Discussion Group:
Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
Day/Time: Thursday, November 18th
at 7:00PM
Location: Ladies Parlor at LCUCC
Treats: Light refreshments

Where can I get the book? The Village Bookstore on
Main Street, Littleton

The Littleton Library also carries a copy of the book
Questions?: Contact Ajilla Pospesil or Wilma Weddington

A Dozen Ways to Find More Time for Your Family

Written by Martin B. Copenhaver: copied from the UCC
web site: www.ucc.org

No one on their death bed ever said, "I wished I'd spent more time at work." Use these 12 suggestions to seize more moments for what matters most – those you love.

1. Turn off the television.
2. Eat dinner together.
3. Don't check e-mail in the evening.
4. Fold laundry or do dishes together.
5. Whatever you used to love to do together—do it again.
6. Go out for breakfast.
7. No headphones in the car.
8. Run errands together and stop for ice-cream.
9. Designate a "cell-phone-free zone" in your home.
10. Go to worship and talk about it on the way home.
11. Realize that no one "finds" time—you have to take time
12. Turn off the computer RIGHT NOW.

The Rev. Martin B. Copenhaver is Senior Pastor of Wellesley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Wellesley, Mass. His new book, [This Odd and Wondrous Calling: the Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers](#), co-authored with Lillian Daniel, has just been published.

PS- # 13 could be: Join a book discussion together!

Stewardship Message

Treasure

For where your treasure is....Matthew 6:21

My grandfather was a farmer most of his life, and he had a tremendous love of soil. As children, my brothers and I would laugh as he looked out a car window at a field and would say, "That's beautiful dirt!" As suburban kids, for whom dirt was something that got us in trouble with our mother, we didn't really get it. But what Grandpa saw in the dirt was the promise of seeds sprouting and crops producing a hundred-fold. It was just dirt to us, but to him it was gold.

It's all how you define treasure, I guess. Our churches are like that soil my grandfather loved. They are places where seeds get planted and nurtured. If the soil is strong, if we see it as treasure, then what grows in our churches are strong disciples, equipped to go into the world and live Christ. The treasure where our hearts are could refer to our individual bank accounts, or it could refer to the treasure that is Christian community which needs our work of tilling and planting and fertilizing and weeding and praying for a good crop.

Just as my Grandpa's heart was in the soil, so mine is in the congregation I call my home, and in the wider church others call home. Treasures, gifts from God, gardens ready to grow.



Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

November 2010

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to
Our Church's Wider Mission.

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STEEPLE TALK

NOVEMBER 2010



Steeple Talk

A newsletter of the
First Congregational
Church of Littleton

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. W. David Weddington
Administrative Assistant: Pat Whipple
Organist & Music Director: Dottie Morton

Officers

Moderator: Phil Krill
Vice Moderator: Alice Muh
Treasurer: Mary Menzies
Assistant Treasurer: Marti Faulkner
Financial Secretary: Joyce Krill

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Linda Warden
Deacons: Roger Petit
Finance & Stewardship: Marti Faulkner
Mission: Lars Nielson
Music: Karen Morneau
Personnel Relations: Judy Warden
Property Management: Reg LaFlam
Trustee of the Trust Funds: Dick Holland

Shining Lights Learning Center

Board Chairperson: Suzanne Schott
Director: Dianah Hale

Reminders!

Page 8



Order your Christmas Wreaths today!

Shining Lights is once again selling Christmas wreaths the first two weeks of November to raise money for special supplies and projects. The price is \$23.00 for a large, decorated wreath from Finnegan's Fine Firs. They will be delivered the first week of December. Contact Su Schott, or any Shining Lights board member to place your order. You may also call the church office.

**RUMMAGE SALE
NOVEMBER 5TH AND 6TH**