

# Steeple Talk

First Congregational Church of Littleton  
189 Main Street, Littleton, NH 03561

November 2011

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volume 39, Issue 10

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Mission Sunday- Guest Preacher- Brian Muh; Mission Fair with light lunch.
- ◆ Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies Society Rummage Sale
- ◆ Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Sunday, 11:15 am Christian Ed. Mission Cake Walk
- ◆ Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - Dedication Sunday
- ◆ Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day - office closed
- ◆ Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Advent

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Production staff:  
Pat Whipple & Anna Jackman

## Pastor's Message

Last Saturday, I attended the Conference Annual Meeting. The worship was very moving—exciting, dare I say fun? There was a jazz band, the Prodigals, and they played some of my favorite hymns out of the New Century Hymnal. During the last hymn after communion, which was “This Little Light of Mine,” everybody was on their feet dancing and clapping.

During the plenary sessions, in between business items, we saw short DVD presentations, each of them on the theme “Imagine What’s Possible.” They were interviews with slide-shows of projects that our sister churches in the New Hampshire Conference have undertaken—feeding programs, new building projects, ride projects for elders—neat stuff.

The discussions on the floor of the business sessions were awesome. There were real disagreements at times, but never a rancorous word. People spoke clearly and with passion as they stood for the positions they felt called to take, and then listened with real compassion to other people.

When it came time to vote on the budget, we found ourselves taking quite a bit of time to reflect and consider alternatives. Everyone was deeply aware that the Conference is bleeding financially, just like the rest of us—Local Churches, Associations, individual households, city governments, the whole world it seems is bleeding—and the people at the Annual Meeting were aware of the pain, aware of the hard work that has gone into creating a budget, aware that nobody wanted to make the cuts that were being proposed in the budget for 2012, but this is where we are.

There was one particularly painful conversation. In 2010, the Conference contributed \$30,000 to the four NH Campus Ministries. In 2011, that number was reduced to \$15,000. In the budget for 2012, the Conference contribution to Campus Ministries was zeroed out. Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood, Campus Minister for UNH, stood up and spoke on behalf of the people he serves. He told us about the hundreds of college students who distribute food to the hungry, who come together for worship and training, who organize and carry out extensive mission projects. With his help, we all became keenly aware of the real cost of the decision we were being asked to make.

“We will keep going,” Larry said. “We won’t stop what we’re doing. But it will probably mean cutting staff.” Many people voiced the dismay we all felt over the prospect of cutting our outreach to these young people who are such a vital part of the present and the future of our church. Two alternative proposals were floated, but in the end, neither of them could stand up to the hard financial realities we’re facing. Finally, with heavy hearts, we passed the budget as proposed, promising to lift up Campus Ministries in our prayers, and to bring the needs of this important program to the attention of our congregations.

As we turn our thoughts to the Feast of Thanksgiving, I trust that the God for whom nothing is impossible will fill you to overflowing with the things that matter most, faith in the goodness of God, hope in the bright and joyful future of God, and love that unites our hearts to God and to one another, come what may.

blessings,  
david



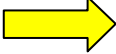



# First Congregational Church

## November 2011

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 6:00 pm – 8:00pm – Sunday 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>OCT. 30</b>  <b><u>MISSION SUNDAY</u></b> <b>STARTING AT 10:00 AM</b>  ~WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ~MISSION FAIR-meet our mission partners! ~LUNCH PROVIDED	<b>OCT. 31</b>  Rummage sale prep in Fellowship Hall all week! 	<b>1</b> 10:30 AM-Clergy Group Meeting 11:30 AM-AA – Ladies Parlor <b>5:00 PM-Property Committee Meeting</b> 7:00 PM-AI Anon/Ladies Parlor	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM-Missions Committee Meeting</b> 8:00 PM-Weds. Night AA	<b>3</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor  <b>7:00 PM-Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30 AM-AA - Ladies Parlor <b>9:00 AM- 4:00PM Ladies Society Rummage Sale</b> <b>5:00 pm-LIFE BRIDGE Fundraising Dinner @ Littleton Elks Lodge</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>9:00 AM- 11:30am Ladies Society Rummage Sale</b>  7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
<b>6 <u>Stewardship Sunday</u></b> 9:00 AM-Adult Bible study & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship/Communion & Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship & <b>Christian Ed. Cake Walk</b> 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	<b>7</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall  <b>5:30 PM-Finance Committee Meeting</b> 7:00 PM-AI Anon/Ladies Parlor	<b>9</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Weds. Night AA	<b>10</b> 7:00 AM-Ladies Ecum. Breakfast @ Methodist church Parish House  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall  <b>6:30 PM-Christian Ed Committee Meeting</b>	<b>11</b> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>12</b>  <b>8:00 AM-Men's Breakfast Group@ Menzies'</b>  7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
<b>13 <u>Dedication Sunday</u></b> 9:00 AM-Adult Bible study & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship & Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	<b>14</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall  <b>5:30 PM-SLLC Board Meeting</b> 7:00 PM-NC Recovery Board	<b>15</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall  <b>6:30 PM-Council Meeting</b> 7:00 PM-AI Anon/Ladies Parlor	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM-Clergy Group/Ladies Parlor  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Weds. Night AA	<b>17</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b>  7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
<b>20 <u>Thanksgiving Sunday</u></b> 9:00 AM-Adult Bible study & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship /Sunday School 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	<b>21</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>22</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall  <b>4:00 PM-Thanksgiving Dinner Bell @ All Saints</b> 7:00 PM-AI Anon/Ladies Parlor	<b>23</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 8:00 PM-Weds. Night AA	<b>24</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>26</b>  7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
<b>27 <u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b> 9:00 AM-Adult Bible study ? 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship/Food Collection <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 11:15 AM-Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	<b>28</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-NC Recovery Board	<b>29</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM-NC Chorus Rehearsal 7:00 PM-AI Anon/Ladies Parlor	<b>30</b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 6:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Weds. Night AA	<b>Dec. 1<sup>st</sup></b>  11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	<b>Dec 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall <b>North Country Chorus Winter Concert</b> 	

## Stewardship from the Heart

Fall - the magical, beautiful time when God wows us with the wonder of his colors and his world. Also time to renew our commitment and covenant with the First Congregational Church of Littleton, NH. This Church is your spiritual family and, as you support your own family, we all need to support our Church with our time and talents and, yes, our money.

We have almost completed our projects from the Capital Campaign. In doing so, we have had to draw almost \$30,000 from the Trust Funds, as was approved at February's annual meeting. Because of the market and this withdrawal, our trust funds are down substantially more than the \$30,000. The church has also been using our Trust Funds to supplement our income by \$20,000 a year. This also puts a strain on our funds. The Finance Committee is proposing that we forego the \$20,000 draw from the Trust funds in 2012 so that we may, hopefully, rebuild this wonderful heritage from previous members. To do this we need everyone to take a deep breath, and perhaps a leap of faith, and give just a little more this year.

Please prayerfully consider your giving and "give until it feels good". From 'the power of giving': "Giving is a beautiful experience. By practicing giving, you make a difference to others and to yourself. It is a powerful feeling to be able to give regularly."

Try it! You'll come to like it.

Submitted by Tina Peabody

## Stewardship in Action: Shining Lights Report

The board of the Shining Lights Learning Center would like you to know, that thanks to your generosity and those of special donors, the center is thriving. Shining Lights Learning Center, under the direction of Dianah Hale, is beginning its fifth year as the only Christian faith based preschool and day care open to children aged 12 months - 5 years old in the greater Littleton area. It combines a religious educational program with a typical preschool educational program which includes introducing age appropriated reading, writing, and math skills.

The center opened in the fall of 2006 with a mission to nurture and teach little children while helping them, and their families to know God's love. Shining Lights Learning center is a ministry of this church which supports the center by providing rent free space, utilities, and office support.

This summer the center installed new windows in learning center and ladies bathroom near the church hall. Cost: \$10,000. Light and air provided: priceless. This was made possible by an anonymous donor who has given generously over the last three years. We also accomplished this summer a rebuild of the play yard by youth volunteers looking for community service.

This is stewardship in action!

## Stewardship by the Numbers

So let's crunch the numbers for 2012:

→Budget increase is \$3607-just a little over 2%

→To preserve trust funds we need to increase giving by 15% or cut spending by that much. (actual \$20,272)

→If you estimate that we have 80 families giving to the church, and each one increased their pledge by \$4.50 a week - or \$.63 per day, that would almost make up difference.

→What do we fritter away \$.63 per day on? We probably can get that in loose change in our pockets or purses!

Take that leap of faith and Believe in Tomorrow!



When we go forward together in faith, trust, hope, and love, we open the door for wonderful things to happen!

Expense Budget	Budget 2010	Budget 2011	Budget 2012
DEACONS	7,827	6188	6706
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	3,500	3650	4595
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	1,800	1800	1900
PROPERTY	44,386	43,445	48,434
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	1,070	135	895
PASTOR SALARY & BENEFITS	63,400	64,927	numbers
STAFF SALARY & BENEFITS	36,888	38,088	being
Contingency for pay increases	1300	3,220	finalized
MISSION & OUTREACH	9,715	11,000	11,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>169,886</b>	<b>173,313</b>	<b>Estimate~175,000</b>

## “Classifieds and Notices”

<p style="color: purple; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center; transform: rotate(-15deg);"> <b>Reminder: Daylight savings time ends Sunday, Nov. 6th at 2am Set your clocks back!</b> </p>	<p><b>CHOOSE A HEALTHY LIFE STYLE!</b> An article in the May 1988 issue of ‘American Health’ magazine described a study in Michigan that showed that regular volunteer work increases life expectancy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Giving, in the form of volunteer work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥Enhances your immune system,</li> <li>♥Lowers cholesterol levels, Strengthens your heart,</li> <li>♥Decreases the incidence of chest pains, and</li> <li>♥Generally reduces stress</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Worship Planning Opportunities</i></p> <p>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. It is also a great small group Bible Study!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You can sign up for one week, two weeks, a month or more!</p> <p>Call David or Pat in the church office to sign up today.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> is <i>Mission:1</i> <b>Food Collection Sunday -</b></p> <p>The Food Cupboard suggests the following items: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/bath soap, toilet tissue, baby diapers, coffee, teabags, hot chocolate mix, canned milk. Dry milk, Jell-O puddings &amp; gelatins, soups, canned meat (turkey, chicken, ham, tuna corned beef, Spam). Dry cereals, instant oatmeal, rice mixes, pasta, canned beans, canned vegetables, cake mixes, frostings, crackers. Dog and cat food- canned and dry.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Next food collection- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-style: italic; font-weight: bold;">Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Galatians 6:9</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; text-decoration: underline;">“REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVE”</p> <p>Our collection for the <b>Christmas Fund</b>, one of four annual special offerings within the United Church of Christ, will be taken on <b>Sunday, December 18</b>. The Christmas Fund (formerly known as “Veterans of the Cross”), a mission carried out by the UCC Pension Boards, provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and families who are confronted with overwhelming financial demands.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">SAVE the DATE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Family Advent Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖❖❖❖❖</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Right after church Crafts Lunch Tree decorating Don't miss the fun!</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Financial Report</p> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">AS OF Sept. 30, 2011-YTD</p> <p>Pledge Income: \$96,204.88</p> <p>Other income: \$6,701.82</p> <p>Transf. from Trust Funds: \$15,204.06</p> <p>Total Income: \$118,110.76</p> <p>Total Expenses: \$117,390.57</p> <p>Net: \$720.19</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; text-decoration: underline;">Wanted and Needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday Ushers and Greeters</li> <li>• Coffee Fellowship hosts</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Please sign up on board in front of church or Ginger Miller at 444-5565 Coffee Fellowship and Greeters and are an important ministry and create a more welcoming atmosphere for members and visitors!</p>

## Our Mission and Vision Statements

### Our Mission Statement:

*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 at various stages of their spiritual growth.*

#### God's Call - Our Vision

- **Vision Statement: To offer worship that celebrates God's love and inspires us to bring that love into our daily lives.**  
Value: Meaningful worship - Expressing our love for God through worship.  
Goal: To use a variety of biblically based, theologically sound, and welcoming worship experiences (i.e.: music, dance, drama, preaching styles) designed to engage all generations in praising God.  
 \*\*\*\*\*
- **Vision Statement: To engage people of all ages and at all stages of their spiritual journeys in Christian faith formation.**  
Value: Faith Formation and growth - Life-long Christian education and faith exploration.  
Goal: To provide opportunities for all parishioners to engage in meaningful, faith-based interest groups, activities and/or instruction.  
 \*\*\*\*\*
- **Vision Statement: To serve the community with compassionate hearts carrying the good news to those who need to hear it.**  
Value: Reaching Out to and Caring for the Community - working to make a positive difference in the lives of residents of the North Country and partnering with other churches and/or organizations to have a stronger impact on the needs of the community.  
Goal: To have greater visibility and an identity within the community as a place that cares and helps "the least among us."  
 \*\*\*\*\*
- **Vision Statement: To be intentional and consistent in our support and care for each other.**  
Value: Congregational Care (in-reach) - developing and maintaining strong connections with each other and with God by helping to meet the needs of each member of the congregation.  
Goal: To develop a strong sense of connection and love within the congregation.  
 \*\*\*\*\*
- **Vision Statement: To be living examples of God's love as we have come to know it through Jesus Christ.**  
Value: Witnessing by Our Presence - "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 14 - 16)  
Goal: To have our lives bear witness to our growing faith in everything we say and do.

## From the Moderator

Often it is this time of year, when we are asked to make our annual pledge, that questions come up about what are we are doing here in this church. We need more money, we need more people, the budget has to be met, committees have to be peopled and chaired, we need more people for teaching Sunday school and ushering. We get stressed out with the obligations and the constant request for more money. If you ask me to do one more thing or give one more dime, I will scream! In short, we forget why we are here. We lose sight of God's call. Well, let's face it; it is not just this time of year. It is an ever-present anxiety. But, God says to us "Do not be afraid, I am with you." To keep us on track, he sent his prophets, his son, and then his spirit. He sends us friends and family, preachers and teachers.

This past year God sent us a new pastor offering us yet again a new beginning. We read and studied together I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church, wrestling with the question 'What does God have in mind for our church in this time and this place?' Early in the summer, the council retreated to Crawford Notch where, with the help of a wonderful teacher and facilitator, we tackled this question using the input from the book study and from the congregation. Over the summer, what has come from this is a sense of what our values are and how we can answer God's call. We have come up with five vision statements based on these values with goals and a place to start. 'God, what do you want us to do?' 'Feed my sheep'. We have already been inspired by the Spirit to offer some variety in worship with piano, jazz, dance and, drama. We have a huge Mission Fair coming up that lifts up our mission partners and help us get more engaged with our community. We are looking forward to more Bible Study with Pastor David. A subgroup examined our Mission Statement that was drafted several years ago. They felt, and the council agreed, it still captures the essence of this Body of Christ.

The council now presents these vision statements to you with our mission in mind. We would like everyone to have an opportunity to read these and see if they begin to answer *for you* the question "God, what is it you want us to do in this time and this place?" This is a different time and place than it was 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 30 years ago. We need to make sure we stay connected to our community in relevant ways so that the Good News can be shared. We are also hoping to have a couple of open forums where you will be invited to come and ask questions, offer suggestions, and give other input. Then, at the annual meeting you will be asked to ratify the vision statements and perhaps join small groups in making the goals a reality. God calls you to be part of this vision. How will you answer?

Please talk, email, or otherwise give us (any council member or Pastor David) your feedback!

## Ladies Society Annual Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage sale will take place on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

We ARE NOT ACCEPTING TIRES, ELECTONIC EQUIPMENT, PHONES, COMPUTERS, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, SUMMER CLOTHES, SKI EQUIPMENT AND HARD BACK BOOKS.

Please bring in clean clothing folded or on hangers. We always can use ski clothes and children clothes, lamps WITH SHADES, white elephant items, glasses and dishes as these are items that sell quickly.

If you have clothing with missing buttons, summer clothes etc. these items can be taken to Pilgrim's Furniture Store on Saturday morning and the Y.M.C.A. will have a truck to take these donations.

Helpers are needed to sort and fold during the week of November 1-5, please remember "Many hands make light work".

Any questions regarding questionable items call Judy Warden, 869-5441 or Barbara Holland, 444-1104.

THE LADIES SOCIETY HOPES YOU WILL  
SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

### Thanksgiving Prayer

*Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.  
We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.  
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,  
For daily provision, Your mercy and care  
These are the blessings You graciously  
share.  
So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our  
days.*

--Mary Fairchild

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✚ November 6<sup>th</sup> - "The Life and Times of Moses" and "Mission Cake Walk". Students will perform an original drama in the sanctuary. Following the service we will have our annual cake walk in the Fellowship Hall to raise money for our mission project. All students should bring a baked item to donate to this event.
- ✚ *Coming in December* - "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"- Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant this year will be about Christmas around the world with each student choosing a country of their heritage or of special interest to them. Each student (with parents help) will select a country to represent in pageant. Have some family fun, do research together and learn some interesting facts about your choice! We will need parents to help plan the costume and or props for each student. Our goal is to have as many different countries as possible. Please bring in your talking points about your country before December 4th so Pastor David can weave the parts into a beautiful tapestry for the Sunday service.
- ✚ November 20<sup>th</sup> - "Harvest Song"...A special Thanksgiving dedication and sacred dance performance by students under leadership of Kim Smith.
- ✚ November 27<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday of Advent - Thanksgiving Recess... NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. Plan an Advent activity with your family to get the season started.
- ✚ December 4<sup>th</sup> - Family Advent Fellowship will be immediately after worship. The whole congregation is invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and crafts followed by tree decorating in the sanctuary.
- ✚ December 11<sup>th</sup> - Students start rehearsal for pageant in Sunday school class
- ✚ December 17<sup>th</sup> - SATURDAY @9:30am- pageant rehearsal with costumes.
- ✚ December 18<sup>th</sup> - "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD" worship service and pageant
- ✚ December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Service
- ✚ December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day worship service

From your Christian Education Committee

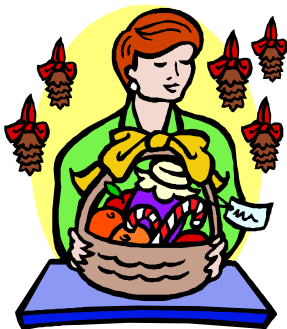
**IT'S ALMOST HERE! Mission Sunday, October 30, will feature:**

1. Dedication of our recently-completed universal access project;
2. **MISSION:1 special food offering.** Food banks statewide are confronting tough times. The local picture, according to our friends at All Saints Episcopal Church, is that while food donations have remained relatively constant, the demand for food and household items has **tripled** and cash donations are **down by 1/3.** **YOU CAN HELP CHANGE THE LOCAL PICTURE. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**
3. **Guest sermon by Brian Muh,** teaching pastor at Epic Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Brian is a 1997 graduate of Littleton High School and, after college at UNH, earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2005.
4. **Lunch and mission fair** in the church fellowship hall following the worship service. Come meet our mission partners! Mission fair participants to date include: Littleton Area Senior Center, North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency, LifeBridge, Honduras Hope, Epic Church, Casey Family Services, Habitat for Humanity - Ammonoosuc Region, Shining Lights Learning Center, Friends of the Grafton County Drug Court, All Saints Church (Dinner Bell/Food Cupboard), and New Hampshire Catholic Charities.

**LIFEBRIDGE NEWS**

**Fundraising Dinner:** LifeBridge, a local teen mentoring program and one of our mission partners, will conduct a fundraising dinner on Friday, November 4, 2011 (hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m.; dinner and program from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m) at the Elks' Lodge on Route 302 in Bethlehem. There is no charge for the meal; participants will be asked to make a free-will donation or financial pledge. We are seeking to assemble one or more tables from the First Congregational Church. If you would like to attend, please advise Bob or Alice Muh or call them at 444-5228.

**Mentoring Opportunities:** LifeBridge has a backlog of young men waiting for an available, trained adult mentor. A two-part training session (for both men and women) will be conducted on November 8 and November 15. For more information, please call Dave Coronato at 387-3472 (or speak with him at the mission fair).

**FRANCONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST FOOD BASKETS**

As in past years, the Franconia Community Church of Christ is preparing Thanksgiving food baskets for distribution to those in need in our local communities. This year, we have been asked to **contribute 100 cans of cranberry sauce** to this effort. The church needs all of the components of the baskets by November 7. Please bring your donations of cranberry sauce to the church as soon as possible.

***Definition***

**Mission:** the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith: *the Christian mission*. **Origin:** mid 16th century (denoting the sending of the Holy Spirit into the world): from Latin *missio(n)-*, from *mittere* 'send' - From the Oxford Dictionary, online.

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## **STEEPLE TALK**

**NOVEMBER 2011**



### **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: Alice Muh  
Vice Moderator: Tina Peabody  
Treasurer: Marti Faulkner  
Assistant Treasurer: Dudley Bailey  
Financial Secretary: Joyce Krill

#### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Education: Linda Warden  
Deacons: Ann Craxton  
Finance & Stewardship: Dudley Bailey  
Mission: Bob Muh  
Music: Tina Peabody  
Personnel Relations: Judy Warden  
Property Management: Art Hunt  
Trustee of the Trust Funds: Dick Holland

#### **Shining Lights Learning Center**

Board Chairperson: Suzanne Schott  
Director: Dianah Hale

**We are the church together! Page 8**

***Do not miss!***

**♥ October 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Mission Sunday**  
**♥ November 4 & 5 ~ Ladies Society**  
**Rummage Sale**  
**♥ Our mission statement and new**  
**vision statements**



***For more information: Look inside  
this issue***