

The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
January 2014—Milford, NH



Christmas Fair 2013: A Huge Success!

Many thanks to all who helped make this year's fair a very successful one. We had some last minute needs and we thank all those who stepped up to lend a hand!

To date we are right around \$6700 and more is still coming in. Praise God! All proceeds will go towards missions of the church. Which is always such a great feeling, especially in the month of December. We are convinced the Lord is with us in making the fair so successful because of the generous hearts involved.

Plans are underway to begin crafting for 2014, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming workshops, beginning **January 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We are looking for interested woodworkers to cut pieces for our crafters to paint and decorate. If you might be interested in this, please let Liane Wright or Pat Rafter know as soon as possible so we can get some patterns and stock to you soon.

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Kathy Bradfield headed up a new adventure with the cupcake stroll which was very successful. Thank you Kathy for bringing this new idea to the fair experience. Kathy may not be able to do this next year, so if there is anyone interested in heading up this area, please let Pat or Liane know and talk to Kathy for the details.



The Fair Committee,
Liane Wright
Pat Rafter
Tami Betelak
Laura Seale
Kristi O'Shaughnessy

A Message From Pastor Wes



Dear friends,

I am writing this New Year's newsletter letter on the morning of Christmas Eve. I am still in anticipation of all that Christmas will bring especially in the worship services we will share

this evening. Lucy and I experienced our first MUMC Christmas concert just 2 days ago and we were amazed and delighted at the talent on display. It was a wonderful "new to us" Christmas tradition.

As we enter a New Year, we focus a lot on what is new. We try again to reestablish good habits in eating and exercise. We make "resolutions" about many things that may or may not come to pass. The simple turning of a calendar page can inspire us in many ways. Our January will bring the wedding of our oldest son Adam and his fiancée Kim. We have been anticipating this event in our family for some time and we hope that our winter wedding will bring beauty and not blizzard.

A wedding always speaks of newness. New covenants between individuals and between them and God are central to the ceremony. When I work with couples preparing to be married, I always remind them that they will not be alone in the work of marriage because God will share in making their bonds stronger. It is the same in the

covenant of baptism. In that case, we are not covenanting with one other individual, but with God and an entire community.

I would like to encourage you to remember your baptism as we move into the New Year together. Consider that covenant and see what if anything, you need to renew. Are you worshipping regularly enough? Is your prayer life connecting you with God? Are you learning about faith through the study of scripture or other devotional reading? Are you walking with others on the journey both those who are new to faith and those who have been on the journey much longer than you? You probably know already the areas that need examination in your faith.

I continue to be blessed as your pastor here at MUMC and I look forward to the blessings that the New Year and our covenant community will bring.

In Christ's renewing love,

Pastor Wes

*Happy
New
Year!*

Music Notes

From Sally Landis

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing for the new season in January. If you have wanted to join the choir but haven't as yet, now would be a good time. We look forward to learning great music for Lent and Easter and would love to have new members join us. Choir meets from 7:30-9 pm on Thursdays.



Fun at the Christmas Fair! Left: A team of "elves" fill tins with snack mixes. Below, L-R: a wind ensemble entertains guests; The Cupcake Stroll was a big hit!



**For the month of January
MUMC is collecting**
Canned fruit & vegetables,
coffee, baking supplies and
sandwich bread.

From Kathi and Karen at SHARE:

Thank you for all the generous donations the food pantry has received over the past month. We are continually amazed by how willing everyone is to help out those less fortunate and feel so grateful to live in such a caring community.

*We hope all of you had a blessed Holiday season, and hope the New Year finds you all happy and healthy.
Thank you!*

Church Mice

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Ed Team News

From Shelly Frost

The Sunday School classes are going very well and the children are very excited to learn about God. Thank you to all the teachers who give their time and talents to work with them every Sunday. It is not too late to join in the fun! Children are welcome any time to come into a class and learn, there is plenty of space available. Teachers are also welcome, we have a rotating teaching schedule so whatever time you can give would be great. All grades are available - please speak to any Ed Team member for information.

Back by popular demand Ed Team has brought back the Opening to Sunday School! Each week we will meet in the Sanctuary for whole group time, Parents are welcome to join us.

Our mission project is to help David's House. David's House is located on the

campus of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH. David's House offers a comfortable home-away-from-home for families of children receiving care at CHaD. David's House also offers services for families who need a break during the day to wash clothes, have a snack, or relax. Please note the list of items that are needed to support this wonderful home on the facing page, and look for the posters at church. David's House has helped members of our own congregation. We will be collecting items through February.

Don't forget about Adult Sunday School also held between services, and Youth Group on Sunday evenings for students from 6th grade - 12th grade, held at MUMC from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (unless otherwise specified by the leaders).



David's House on the campus of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic in Lebanon, NH.



Grocery List

Food - Non-perishables, including:

- Soup and stew
- Macaroni & Cheese (single-serve)
- Microwavable meals (single-serve)
- Ramen Noodles
- Cereal (family size & single-serve)
- Coffee creamer (powder)
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Pretzels (family size & single-serve)
- Granola/breakfast bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Pudding cups

Drinks:

- Juice (family size or single-serve)
- Concentrated juice/lemonade
- Tea bags
- Iced tea (powder or family size)

Paper products:

- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Toilet paper
- Paper plates and bowls
- Paper cups (5 oz. only)
- Paper or Foam coffee cups

Cleaning products:

- Laundry detergent (powder)
- Baby Laundry Detergent (powder)
- Dryer sheets
- Liquid hand soap
- Bleach
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dishwasher detergent (powder)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Window cleaner
- Trash bags (13 & 30 gal.)

Misc:

- Gift cards to local grocery stores (Shaw's, Price Chopper, Co-Op, Bj's)
- Phone cards

MUMC's Lenten Devotional Returns

From John Millhouse

The Worship Committee is again putting together a devotional modeled after the Upper Room for Lent. The meditations for each day will be written by people just like you, people who are listening to God and trying to live by what they hear. We want to encourage Christians in their personal life of prayer and discipleship. We seek to build on what unites us as believers and to link MUMC together in prayer.

Have God's care and presence become real for you in your interaction with others? Has the Bible given you guidance and helped you see God at work? Has the meaning of scripture become personal for you as you reflected on it? Then you have something to share in a meditation.

Where do I begin?

You begin in your own relationship with God. Christians believe God speaks to us and guides us as we study the Bible and pray. Good meditations are closely tied to scripture and show how it has shed light on a specific situation. Good meditations make the message of the Bible come alive.

Good devotional writing is first of all authentic. It connects real events of daily life with the ongoing activity of God. It comes across as the direct, honest statement of personal faith in Christ and how that faith grows. It is one believer sharing with another an insight or struggle about what it means

to live faithfully.

Secondly, good devotional writing uses sensory details -- what color it was, how high it bounced, what it smelled like. The more sensory details the writing includes, the better. Though the events of daily life may seem mundane, actually they provide the richest store of sensory details. And when we connect God's activity to common things, each encounter with them can serve as a reminder of God's work.

Finally, good devotional writing is exploratory. It searches and considers and asks questions. It examines the faith without knowing in advance what all the answers will be. It is open to God's continuing self-revelation through scripture, people, and events. Good writing chronicles growth and change, seeing God behind both.

How do I get started writing a meditation?

When you find yourself in the middle of some situation thinking, "Why -- that's how God is, too!" or, "That's like that story in the Bible . . ." that can become a meditation. Excellent ideas come from reading and meditating on scripture, looking for connections between it and daily life. When you see such a helpful connection, here's a simple formula for getting it on paper:

- Retell the Bible teaching or summarize the passage briefly.

- Describe the situation that you link to the Bible passage, using a specific incident. Write down as many details of the real-life situation as you can. For example, if you write about an incident when people were talking, write down what each person said.
- Tell how you can apply this spiritual truth in days to come.

After a few days, look carefully at what you have written. Decide which details best convey your message, and delete the others. Ask yourself whether this insight will be helpful to believers in other situations.

Tips to keep in mind

- Begin with studying and meditating on the Bible so its power supports your words.
- Connect scripture with your own life. Your experience is unique.
- Each day's meditation includes a title, suggested Bible reading, quoted scripture verse, personal witness or reflection on scripture, prayer, a "thought for the day" (a pithy, summarizing statement), and a "prayer focus" (suggested subject

for further prayer).

- Meditations should be about 250 words long.
- Avoid preaching ("you should ...," "you need to ...," "we must ...," etc.)
- Use language and examples that appeal to the five senses. Tell what you heard, saw, touched, smelled, tasted. When appropriate, use dialogue to tell your story.
- Make only one point. Think snapshot, not movie.
- Focus on how you can deepen the Christian commitment of readers and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Indicate the version of the Bible quoted in the text, and give references for any scripture passages mentioned.
- Seek always to encourage readers to deeper engagement with the Bible.
- Always give the original source of any materials you quote.

When is the deadline?

Start sending your meditations to the Church office today. We need 45 meditations. please try to get them in to the office by **February 24, 2014**.



Are you being called?

Sometimes love comes knocking at the door;
 Not to judge, but to just be there through the thin times;
 Not to heal, but to allow God to heal;
 Not to be the answer, but to be a conduit;
 Not to have the words, when God fills the silent room;
 Sometimes love comes through and from a Stephen Minister.

Are you being called?

Bits & Pieces...

Donate Bread Loaves on Communion Sunday, January 5.

Please remember to bring a loaf of bread (plain or wheat, no specialty breads) to be placed in the basket at the altar. The bread loaves will be delivered to SHARE, the local food pantry, on Monday morning.



Do You Have a Name Badge?

Name badges can be printed up anytime by either signing up on the clipboard at the information booth in the foyer, or by e-mailing Diane at djaquith2@gmail.com with your request. Please write out exactly how you would like your name printed and whether you prefer a pin rather than "clip on". When the badge is ready, it will be added to one of the "clotheslines" located by the windows in the foyer.

Thank you!

The staff of MUMC would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas gifts. The joy of working at a church during this special season is only compounded by the generosity of our church family. Many thanks to each of you!



Help Our Youth Mission Team

Clean out those old CDs, DVDs, video games - including Wii, Nintendo, Xbox, etc and help the Youth Mission Trip! This does not include VCR tapes. And you need to have the original box that your old CD, DVD, or game came in. Then bring it to the church and put it in the bin under the coat rack. Liane Wright will take care of the rest. Those old dust collectors can bring a lot of money for our Youth Mission Trip. Thanks!

Bits & Pieces...

Donation of Altar Flowers



Would you like to honor or remember a special person in your life or celebrate a special occasion? Please consider signing up to purchase altar flowers. The flower chart is posted on the wall across from the church office. Contact and payment instructions are on the flower chart. Standard arrangements are \$35. Thanks for helping to beautify the altar and sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Have you visited a Home Group?

Our Home Groups are a wonderful way to get to know people in our church, share our faith and build connections. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Monday's at 7 p.m. @ The Mentch home, call 672-1204

Thursday's at 7 p.m. @ The Rafter's home, call 673-4516

Friday's at 6 p.m. @ The Hopkins home, call 673-3257

A Noise Offering

Following each service on the second Sunday of the month we will have a "Noise Offering." This donation of your spare change will benefit the Wanakee Scholarship Fund that helps youth to participate in our United Methodist summer camp located in Meredith, NH. If you prefer to write a check, please



make it payable to MUMC with the note "Wanakee Scholarships" in the memo space.

Moxie's Soup!

Moxie will be selling her amazing soups after church to raise money for Wanakee Camperships. Look for her (and you won't have to make dinner!) on January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, March 16 & 30 and April 27.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays:

Don Gutterson	Jan. 8
Harry Tong	Jan. 10
Callie McMahon	Jan. 11
Stephanie Kimner	Jan. 13
Anita Merrill	Jan. 14
Marian Kopp	Jan. 18
Gerrie Hopkins	Jan. 21
Luke Betelak	Jan. 26

Anniversaries:

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary list, please contact the church office at 673-2669 or leave a note for Wendy on her desk on Sunday.



Church E-mail Addresses:

Pastor Wesley Palmer:
pastor@milfordumc.org

Wendy Ayotte, Office Manager:
office@milfordumc.org

For Information about our Committees & Groups

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

Bell Choir: Mary Tyler-Wall

Chancel Choir: Sally Landis

Church Council: Callie McMahon

Home Groups: Pastor Wes

Lamplighters: Elaine Driscoll and
Carol Rowlette

Outreach: Pat Rafter

Praise Band: Michele Bossie

Sacred Dance: Rebecca Hart

Staff Parish Relations: Lisa Payne

Stephen Ministry: Callie McMahon

Sunday School: Shelly Frost

Trustees: Jerry Theriault

White Tops: Everett Gale

Worship: John Millhouse

Youth Group: Tom Knapp, Kerri-Lynn
Kimner

Any questions? Please call our office during office hours, listed below.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri

2 p.m.-6 p.m.

At times, our hours may vary slightly. If you need to be sure someone is here, please call ahead.

january 2014



Sunday Services:
8:30-Spirit Celebration
10:45-Traditional Worship

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 8: White Tops 1: Lamplighter's 7: Worship Committee	2 7:30: Chancel Choir	3 7:30: Praise Band	4
5 Sermon: "Epiphany" Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 5: Youth Group 7: Caring Vets of NH	6 7: Outreach Committee	7	8 8: White Tops 1: Lamplighter's 6:30: Quilting Ministry 7: Stephen Ministry supervision	9 7:30: Chancel Choir	10 7:30: Praise Band	11
12 Sermon: "Baptism of the Lord" Acts 10-34-43 Matthew 3:13-17 5: Youth Group	13 7: Trustee's Committee	14	15 8: White Tops 1: Lamplighter's 7: Ad Council	16 7:30: Chancel Choir	17 7:30: Praise Band	18
19 Sermon: "Human Relations Day" I Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42 5: Youth Group 7: Caring Vets of NH	20 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 7: Finance Committee	21	22 8: White Tops 1: Lamplighter's 6:30: Quilting Ministry 7: Stephen Ministry supervision	23 7:30: Chancel Choir	24 7:30: Praise Band	25
26 <i>Guest Preacher</i> 5: Youth Group	27	28	29 8: White Tops 1: Lamplighter's	30 7:30: Chancel Choir	31 7:30: Praise Band	



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Non-Profit Organization
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Milford, NH 03055
Permit No. 17

January, 2014

Sunday Worship Times:
8:30 Contemporary Worship
10:45 Traditional Worship
**Free childcare

Change Service Requested

Milford United Methodist Church

Discover the Joy!

Our Mission:

The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

We will help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by:

- Providing joyful and meaningful worship experiences.
- Establishing and encouraging small groups for study, support, prayer, fellowship and service.
- Empowering people to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for ministry.
- Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

Our Values:

We commit ourselves to:

- Know scripture and live it.
- Act with integrity.
- Be faithful to Jesus Christ, our families, and our church family.
- Strive for excellence in all we do for the Lord.
- Celebrate the ministry of all Christians, lay and ordained.
- Treat all people with respect and sensitivity.
- Encourage people to grow in Christ.
- Care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all people.

