



The Outreach

December 2008—Milford, NH

Join us for Advent and Christmas Eve

Celebrate the birth of our Savior every Sunday in Advent. Pastor Tom will be launching a sermon series entitled "Touched by an Angel" where each week during Advent we will look at a different angel story from the Gospels.

Join us on Christmas Eve for one of the following services:

5:00 pm— Family Service

7:00 pm — Traditional Service

Both services will feature candles, carols and Christmas cheer.



Music of the Angels, Shepherds, and Kings

You are invited to MUMC'S 2008 Christmas Concert to be held on Sunday December 21st at 7 pm.

This year's concert includes the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Bells, Praise Band and of course, our very own MUMC Concert Band. Our new adult Sacred Dance troupe will make their debut performance along with the Children's Sacred Dance troupe. This year's event promises to be exciting and inspirational and will truly prepare your heart for Christmas.

Please plan to attend and invite your friends, neighbors and family. We'd love to have a full sanctuary to share in this wonderful evening of music.



Good to Great Update

By Chris Willard

This month, we are laying the foundations for an innovative cell ministry here at the Milford United Methodist Church. And no – cell ministry is not a biology class, a prison ministry, or a place to buy Tupperware. So what is cell ministry?

Basically, cell ministry is a way to help us be intentional about the way we approach our relationships. Every day, we meet and interact with all kinds of different people. Think about your neighbors, your coworkers, your friends, your family members, your mechanic, your postman, your teammates, the parents of your kids' friends – are all of them following Jesus? If not, does the thought of inviting them to church paralyze you with fear?

If so, don't worry – you're not alone. In fact, evangelism – or telling someone about your faith – has become somewhat of a dirty word because most people think evangelism means preaching on street corners or going door-to-door to hand out religious tracts. And of course, these methods usually scare more people away from the church than bring them in!

But evangelism doesn't have to be that way. In fact, cell ministry is a type of 'friendship evangelism' that meets people where they are by building friendships. Over and over, studies have shown that people come to Christ primarily because they have some sort of relationship with another Christian. That is, people discover the joy of knowing and service Jesus Christ because their friends demonstrate that joy in casual, informal, and non-confrontational ways. As someone once put it, "You may be the only Bible someone ever reads."

So what does a cell group do? They meet, minister, and multiply. They reach

out to serve the community in practical and loving ways. They are intentional about building relationships with each other and with people in their neighborhoods. They develop leaders who are passionate about living out the kingdom of God in their own corner of the world.

As Methodists, we are well-known as the church that goes out and does ministry beyond the church walls. Cell ministry is simply another way to do just that – we are helping people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ without waiting for them to step foot inside a church building.

Please continue to pray for our church as we seek to be the best disciples of Jesus we can be!

Good to Great Home Meetings – we are currently analyzing all of the comments and suggestions we received during the October home meetings. Shortly after Christmas, we will be presenting our findings to the congregation. Thanks again to all who participated!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined the church on Sunday, November 16th: Brunie Formby, Maribel Garcia, Jeff Herlihy, Tim Herlihy, Priscilla Lambert, Robert and Sandy Perry, Claire Place and Kathie Poplar.

If you are interested in joining the church the next time we take in new members, please see Pastor Tom. We'd love to welcome you, too!

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Our high moment has been hijacked! This thought occurred to me as we were trying to come up with the headline for this month's *Outreach*. Christmas truly is a high moment in the life of the Church. For Christmas is, as the words from "Silent Night" so eloquently put it, the "dawn of redeeming grace." It marks God's definitive, preemptive invasion of planet earth. It marks the point in human history where we get our first glimpse of God's human face. From the Christian perspective, it is entirely appropriate that our calendars are set by the putative year of Jesus' birth. For to us, the birth of Jesus and his resurrection provide the fulcrum points of human history. Yes, Christmas marks a high moment in human history and in the life of every follower of Jesus.

With all that said, it becomes all the more strange to look at what Christmas has become. To look at the world around us, you would think that Christmas was really about commerce, parties, overindulgence, and, at best, a vague celebration about human's capacity to be nice to one another once in a while. Our high moment has been hijacked. And it is time for you and I to bring it back home, to remember what Christmas is really all about. It is about what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, not about what we do for each other.

Now, when I say that it is time to bring Christmas back home, I do not have in mind some of the attempts that have arisen over the past few years to get the world around us to pay more attention to the true meaning of Christmas. For myself, it doesn't bother me in the least if someone who is either not a

Christian or only a nominal one wishes me "happy holidays." I do not find it offensive that others find nativity scenes placed on public squares offensive. That is an honest reaction from a world that has never been as comfortable with authentic Christianity as some have tried to tell us it was.

I realize that not everyone will agree with the statements I have just made, and I am speaking personally. But for me it would be enough if I and my family and all those who are seeking to follow Jesus would somehow get a little closer to bringing the true meaning of Christmas back home into our hearts and lives—that celebrating the birth of Jesus would eclipse all the other aspects of our celebration and that it would once again return to the center of our attention. Then the kidnapped Christ child could return home where he belongs.

Certainly one way for us to do that is to make worship the central focus of our Advent and Christmas seasons—to commit ourselves so that no matter what else happens, no matter what other obligations or opportunities we have, we would worship the Christ Child each Sunday in community and each day in personal and family devotions.

This Advent and Christmas, I am preaching a series of sermons entitled "Touched by an Angel," in which the theme of Christmas as God's definitive invasion of planet earth will be explored. I hope to see you and yours each Sunday as we gather to celebrate this high moment in history.

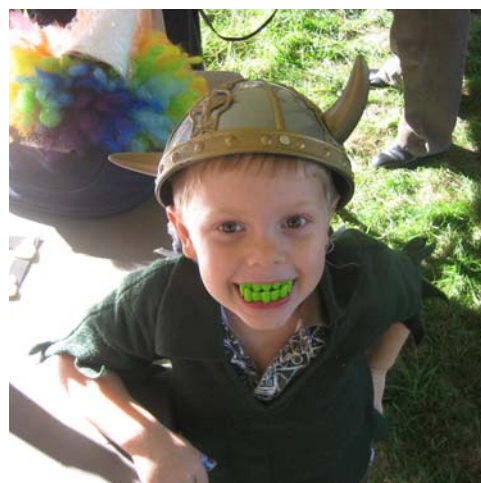
Still discovering the joy, Pastor Tom

Halloween was a howling good time!

There were 3 big parties around the church for Halloween. We hope you were able to make one of them.

Thank you to the Youth Group who put on a wonderful afternoon of fun for the younger members of our congregation. The Seasoned Generation had their annual bash at the Randlett home. Not to be undone, Afternoon Off had its own party on Halloween, too.

If you can't find yourself in one of these pictures, you must have missed the fun. Make sure you check out one of the parties next year!



Scenes from the Youth Group party for the kids.



It was a fun night at the Seasoned Generation party. Really!



Volunteers from Afternoon Off getting ready for their party.

Youth Group News

Happy December!! As we enter a season of family gatherings and hectic schedules, we would like to remind the youth of our church that we have a place for you to come and enjoy time with your friends. During November, we had a great time at the Mall of New Hampshire in Manchester gathering pajamas, cards, and photos of our time there during our digital scavenger hunt. The youth group is working with the Sunday school to collect pajamas. Also during the month, we put together some craft items for the Christmas Fair and went bowling. Here is what we have on tap for the month of December. Come by yourself or bring a friend!

12/7- Put together college care packages

12/14- Advent Elfing (5 to 7, permission slip needed)

12/19- Christmas Party/Caroling (4 to 9, details to be announced)

12/28- No youth group- enjoy your family and friends



Join us for Sunday School

This month, the children will be listening to the book "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson which is about six very unruly children who teach a whole church about the true meaning of Christ's birth. The kids are also very excited about their mission project this month — The Pajama Project. New pajamas are given to children who are being adopted (see www.pajamaprogram.org for more information). If the kids are able to bring in 100 pairs of pajamas by December 21st, Pastor Tom and Chris will have to attend church in their pajamas! On that date the children will be having a pajama party during Sunday school as well.

Adult Sunday school has resumed, and this month they will be studying Advent.

GNHIN—A Holiday Treat for Children

A Magic Show by BJ Hickman to benefit the Anne Marie House in Hudson

December 13th, 1:30 pm
Elks Lodge, 120 DW Highway, South Nashua

All tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased in advance from Tami Davis-Betelak.

Holiday Babysitting

The Youth in Mission Team is offering Holiday babysitting — Saturday, December 13th, 3-9 pm. Dinner and fun provided! Donations gladly accepted.

News from the Outreach Committee

By Alexis Eaton and members of the committee

MUMC is blessed with an active Outreach Committee who lead the way in the Souhegan Valley in our name. The Committee has many hands-on activities that they are a part of, and send donations to many more worthy organizations. Here is a brief recounting of what the committee has been working on of late.

SHARE -- For the month of December, we are collecting the following items for the food pantry: juices (canned, bottled or boxes), coffee (regular or decaf), tea, and large brown bags. These items, along with new underwear and socks, may be placed in the large basket in the foyer. A big thank you to Bill Wrocklage, who faithfully delivers our donations to SHARE every week.

Good, used clothing may be dropped at the SHARE Clothing Barn located at St. Patrick's Church, on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 and on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 to noon.

Financial donations may be mailed to SHARE, P.O. Box 27, Milford, NH 03055. Thank you for your continued support of SHARE.

Meals to Heal — When someone has a temporary need for meals, volunteers cook or purchase those meals. This ministry is in need of a coordinator to notify meal providers when a need arises. Contact Wendy Getchell-Lacey if you would like to cook, shop or coordinate volunteers.

Visitation Team—Volunteers visit those who are confined to their residence. If you would like to make a visit or are interested in



coordinating these visits, please see Wendy Getchell-Lacey.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing — Tami Davis-Betelak will once again coordinate the volunteer bell ringers. In the past, we have been able to raise over \$10,000 and a percentage of the donations remain in our local community. Bell ringing will begin at local stores the weekend after Thanksgiving and will continue on the following weekends as well as Monday and Tuesday December 22 and 23. Check the sign up sheet in the foyer for a time slot that you can cover.

GNIHN — MUMC is part of the Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network, which supports homeless families. Our next week to host at the AnneMarie House is January 11 to 17. Please contact Tami Davis-Betelak to let her know when you can host during that week.

Financial Stewardship — Your generous donations have enabled the Outreach Committee to: purchase supplies for the coffee hour, pay for the shipping of the Operation Christmas Child boxes, purchase items for the SHARE food pantry, donate over \$700 to Nothing But Nets, send money to our sister church in Nicaragua, and transfer \$500 to the Katrina Mission Trip fund. Thank you.

Operation Shoebox Update

Thank you to everyone who brought in shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox. Wendy Getchell-Lacey and Tami Davis-Betelak delivered **66 boxes** from MUMC to the collection center in Nashua. They are on their way to children around the world. Thank you for all the hair brushes, tooth paste, yo-yos, teddy bears, hand towels, and all number of things that you bought to pack in the boxes.

MUMC Goes Green!

MUMC is proud to announce its new recycling efforts, and even prouder to say that the program is being launched by Trevor Frost, a member of our youth group. Chris Willard sat down with Trevor recently to find out about the program.

Chris: Where did you get the idea for the program?

Trevor: I got the idea for the program when we were writing up ideas for what we were going to do for the winter for youth group.

Chris: Explain what is the first step in your recycling program?

Trevor: Our first step for the recycling program is to start recycling paper, because we use up a lot of paper from the left over bulletins and newsletters. The Trustees are going to help with the program

Chris: Why do you think MUMC needs a recycling program?

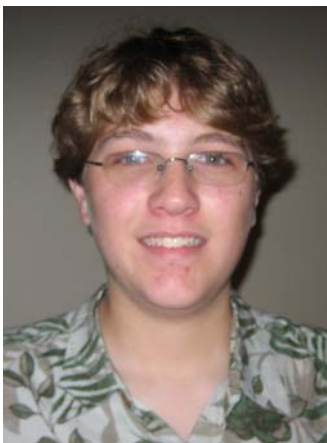
Trevor: MUMC needs a recycling program because of the reason above, MUMC uses up a lot of paper because of the left over bulletins and newsletters.

Chris: When do you hope to start?

Trevor: I hope to start as soon as we can, Trustees and I still need to get boxes for each of the classrooms and bigger ones for the office and the sound booth.

Chris: How can others help out?

Trevor: Each class's students can help by decorating one box for that class for paper.



Trevor is freshman at Milford High School where he is a member of the Jazz Band, the Marching band, and a member of the Spanish Club. He also takes tennis lessons and is a member of MUMC's Praise Band, and youth group.

Annual Church Conference Rescheduled

Some of you know we had a bit of mix up at the charge conference schedule in November. The District Superintendent had it on her calendar for the wrong day. So...we have rescheduled the meeting for **Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 am**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! Many apologies from both Rev. Davis and Pastor Tom for those who made the effort to come out for the meeting.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Beautify our sanctuary this coming Advent with the purchase of a Poinsettia. The cost is \$10.00. Checks should be made payable to MUMC, list "Poinsettia" on the memo. Please place your order by December 14.

We would appreciate your leaving the plants through Christmas Eve services.

Milford Area Seniors

The Milford Area Seniors continue to meet each Tuesday from 10 am—2 pm at our church. They offer guest speakers, crafts, a computer class, games and more. Meals on Wheels is bringing in lunch each week. If you are over 50 and would like to join in on the fun, just come on in. Call Susan Drew in the church office (673-2669) for more information.

Seasoned Generation News

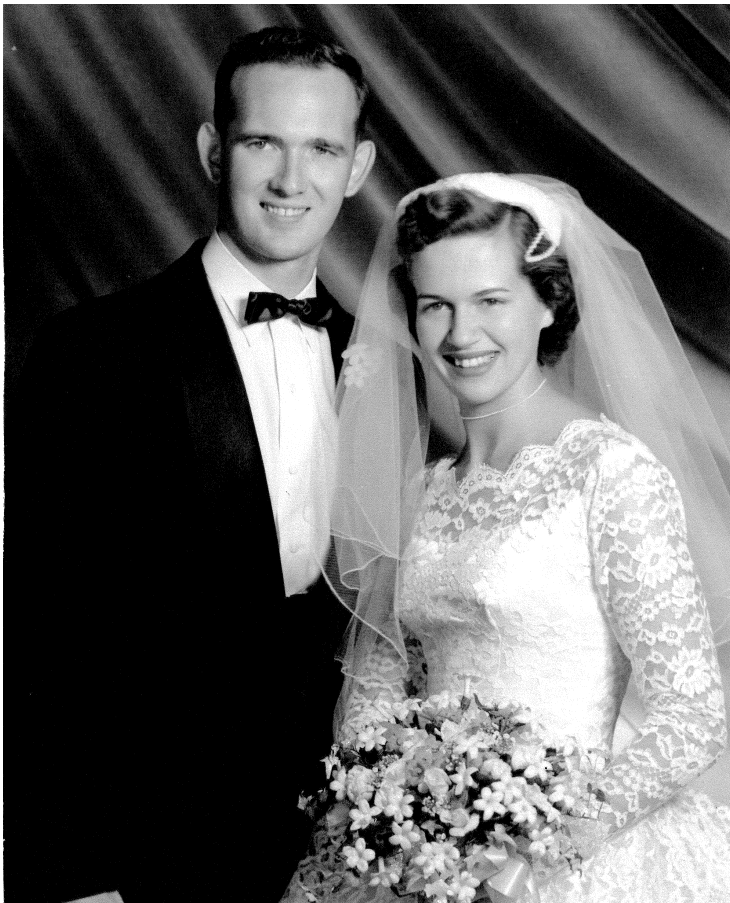
By Roberta Randlett

Our Masquerade party was a big success once again. We had all sorts of prizes but the two big ones were for the costumes. Our one and only Bob Morgan won top prize, "The Wacky Dentist". Bob is so very original but we all know Bob is "one of a kind" anyway. The second prize went to a wonderful and impressive looking PIRATE, George Driscoll. He brought along with him lovely looking lady, who looked vaguely familiar. Thanks one and all for making it another great Masquerade party. (See page 5 for some pictures from the party.)

This December we are having our annual Christmas Dinner and Yankee Swap

at Paul and Dottie Dishong's. They live in Amherst. Call Dottie and Paul (673-5368) for directions to their beautiful home. We have such a great time each year. Each person brings a gift to exchange and gifts that costs \$10.00 or less. We also have each person bring a dish to share. Look for reminders in our Sunday bulletins. Please consider joining us on Sunday, December 7th at 4 p.m. at the Dishong's home!

January will be the annual "planning meeting" for the year. More news on that will be coming out shortly.



Guess Who!

This young couple was married in Lynn, Massachusetts, October 6, 1956. They have lived in Amherst for the last 43 years. They have 3 children and 1 grandson.

It is not the Jaquiths!

(see page 13 for the answer.)

MUMC Christmas Fair
Saturday, December 6, 2008
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Christmas Fair is almost here! We can your help is all areas. Please call one of the members of the committee if you can help.

We have one last Christmas Workshop on Wednesday, December 3, 2—5 pm. Committee members will be setting up the Fair on Thursday, December 4th and Friday, December 5th, if you would like to help out. We also need people who are willing to help out on Sunday as we pack everything and put it away in the garage.

As in past years we'll have baked goods; candy and fudge; the Country Cupboard featuring home-made jellies, preserves, pickles, and relishes; gift tins and baskets; jewelry; knit items; a silent auction; all types of handmade decorations and ornaments, as well as wreaths and centerpieces. The English Tea Room will be open for scones, coffee and tea; and a delicious luncheon will be served.

Please plan on helping at the Fair, or stopping by for a one-of-a-kind gift.

Pat Rafter, icu2per@aol.com, 673-4516
Barb Reed, northwds28@aol.com, 673-6950
Priscilla Abdinoor, cilla2@verizon.net, 673-0488
Kathy Bradfield, kjbradfield@comcast.net, 487-5574

Thank you to our Church Family

I wish to thank everyone for their cards and support on the passing of my son, William Maas.

Dottie and Paul Dishong

Quilting Ministry

Quilting Ministry began again on Monday, November 10th at the home of Carolan Robinson, 3 Serene Circle in Milford. The quilters choose a charity that they would like to donate their quilts to. Last year they sent quilts to the Anne Marie House, and seven people in crisis. They also have been making Burden Bears. Burden bears are teddy bears that have a little quilt and a poem. If you are interested in sewing and/or quilting please call Carolan (672-8833). You don't need to have any experience.

Afternoon Off Training Coming

Do you have a Friday afternoon free once or twice a month? We are looking for more volunteers to work with our guests. The times are from 11:30 am—3:30 pm, Fridays. We can only promise that you will get so much more from this experience than you will give. We have crafts, music, games and food. Please call Pat Levesque, 673-8868, to be a part of our upcoming training session.

Help Wanted!

Snow Removal — The church is need of someone to shovel the walks. We have a snow blower in the new shed that can be used. Please call Richard Randlett (672-4997) if you, or someone you know, is interested.

Children's Choir Director — MUMC is looking for some help with one its Music Ministries. A description of this job is available in the church office. Please contact any member of SPR if you are interested.

Katrina Mission Trip 2008

MUMC sent 21 missionaries to Louisiana this year to help with the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Here are three journal entries from our team. One at the beginning of the week, one after Day 1, and one at the end of the week. Pictures were taken from our website, www.milfordumc.org.

Thank you to our team, and to everyone at MUMC who worked to help the team get to New Orleans.



Sunday Morning, 10/26/08 6:48 am

This is my first trip to LA, Slidell. Coming from the airport, I was stunned by the conditions. I felt my heartbreak a little as I saw such contrast, one home OK and another rotted away. Where's the justice in that? I'm looking forward to starting work tomorrow. I'm not sure what I'll be doing or how able I'll be to do my task (skill wise) but I'm not short on spirit.

Tuesday, 10/28/08

Day 1 was awesome. Dale's opening statements truly inspiring. We are all "skilled" and so needed. Our home owners daughter greeted us with muffins, fruit and orange juice and a beautiful smile and spirit. She is beginning to see the light after 3 long years. The ceilings are now a pure clean white and we have started to add color to the walls. We are now on our way to begin Day #2. We are hoping to complete a few rooms for Laurie as a beautiful gift to her mom. Wouldn't it be wonderful for her to be in for the holidays. We will pray that it is also God's plan.

Saturday, 11/1/08

It has been a great week and we accomplished much — for some not as much as we'd like, but God had us do other things, too. The relationships we developed with our team mates (we had 13 first-timers on our team), with our families, and with the Recovery Center staff was as important as the work.

So now we head home. We wish everyone who reads this takes the steps to join us on a future mission — it is a life transforming experience.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Irma Robinson	Dec 8
Richard Randlett	Dec 8
Steve Rafter	Dec 24
Carol Rowlette	Dec 25
Kathy Bradfield	Dec 28
Elaine Driscoll	Dec 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Ron & Irma Robinson	Dec 2
Mike & Deb Logue	Dec 28
Paul & Deanna Berkebile	Dec 30

If you would like to be included in the birth-days and anniversary list, please see anyone in the church office.

Winter Storm Policy

Winter is back! The winter storm policy at MUMC is that we will do everything humanly possible to have Sunday worship every Sunday. Rarely, though, it might be better to cancel services. In the event of bad weather, Pastor Tom will make the decision by 7:00 a.m. at the latest if we need to cancel so that we can alert WMUR to be included in their list of cancellations. You can watch the list of closings at the bottom of the screen on WMUR (channel 8 for most area residents) or go to WMUR.com.

On Sundays when there is snow on the ground and worship is worshipping, please use your own discretion as to whether you should be out and about.

Financially Speaking

October 2008

Income toward Budge accounts	
	\$16,486.75
Expense-budget accounts	\$24,309.70
Balance in General Fund	\$3,570.89
Sept Mortgage Fund Income	\$5,956.67
(formerly Building Fund)	

Discretionary Funds Needed

The funds in Pastor Tom's discretionary fund are running low. If you are able to make a donation, please see him. As you may know, these funds are used to help people in crisis — for food, fuel, etc.

New Church Email addresses

The church is moving to a new email system. For the time being both our old emails and new ones will be working. In early 2009 we will go to the new addresses exclusively. We strongly encourage you to update your address books, and to start using the new addresses.

Pastor Tom: pastor@milfordumc.org
Chris Willard: cwillard@milfordumc.org
Marian Kopp, Carol Brooks and the Church office: office@milfordumc.org
Susan Drew: susan@mildordumc.org

December 2008 Calendar

Nov 30 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth Group	Dec 1 7 Outreach 7 SPR	2 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 7 Disciple 7 Education 7:30 Trustees	3 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 2-5 Craft Workshop 7:00 Church Council	4 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids Dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Bells 6:30 Kids Choir 7:30 Chancel Fair set up	5 7 Praise Team All day Fair Set Up	6 9—1 Christmas Fair
7 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 12 MUMC Band 5 Youth group	8 7 Quilting Ministry	9 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 7 Disciple	10 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Stephen Supervision	11 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Bells 6:30 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	12 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team	13 9:30—DS meets with SPR 10:30 Annual Church Conference 3-9 Holiday Babysitting
14 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school & Wanakee soup 10:45 Traditional Worship 12 MUMC Band 5 Youth group	15 7 Finance	16 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 7 Disciple	17 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Evangelism	18 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Bells 6:30 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	19 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	20 9—noon Concert Rehearsal 4-9 Youth group party
21 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Pajama Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 7 Christmas Concert	22 7 Phase II 7 Quilting Ministry	23 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 7 Disciple	24 5 Christmas Eve Service 7 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office closed	26 7 Praise Team	27
28 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth Group	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3

Guess who: George and Elaine Driscoll.



Milford United Methodist Church
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PO Box 476
Milford, NH 03055
603/673-2669
office@milfordumc.org
www.milfordumc.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Milford, NH 03055
Permit No. 17

December 2008

Worship times

8:30 Contemporary Worship

9:30 Sunday School

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.