



News and Events

What's Inside...

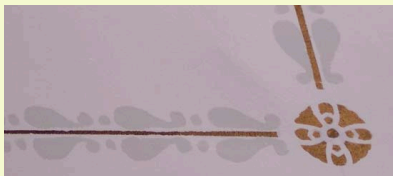
Looking at Art6



Community Dinner7



A Ceiling Restored8



Sunday Service2

March Calendar3

Committee Reports4-5

Lent and Easter6

Music @ Meetinghouse9

The Pastoral Perspective

In his poem "Lent" George Herbert, the seventeenth-century Anglican divine and country parson, wrote:

It's true, we cannot reach Christ's forti'th day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Savior's purity;
Yet are we bid, *Be holy ev'n as he.*
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth byways:
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more
May strengthen my decays.

The Lenten journey of reflection and repentance can be trying, even tiring. How, we might wonder, are we to make amends for every mistake, every slip, every moment of straying? How can we ever be like Jesus, who resisted every temptation put before him? The answer, of course, is that we don't need to. We are not perfect and God, who created us in all of our glorious finitude, knows this. But God, having come to us in Jesus to teach us and heal us, having blessed us with the reconciling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the support of the church universal, expects us to try, to make the effort, to undertake the journey, to travel the Way of Jesus.

The Christian life is a process, one that will not end until we take our final breath. We live, we learn. There are times when the trip will fill us with joy and elation; there are other times when we will be broken-hearted. But one thing will always be true: we will never, ever be alone on the road, even when the storm rages, the night is dark, and we are lost. God, Emmanuel, is with us, always.

Draw on that sure knowledge this Lenten season. And rejoice in that truth on Easter.

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

SUNDAY SERVICE

Focus on Mission—Sunday, March 10

One Great Hour of Sharing

This special offering supports UCC mission work around the world. On March 3 and March 10, we'll hear from the Mission and Social Action Committee about some of the important projects in which the UCC is engaged. For more details, consult the mission bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

On March 10, please consider giving generously to this special offering for UCC mission work.

What is EPILOGOS? Come and Find Out!

Join us after worship on March 10 for a special presentation on our mission partnership in El Salvador. **Epilogos board member Ed Warren** will tell us more about the organization, which we hope to support with home construction and educational scholarships. We'll hear more from Ron Bailey and Wendell Smith, who have firsthand experience working on Epilogos sites in El Salvador.

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us regularly?
Have you found a welcoming, spiritually
nourishing church home here?

We warmly invite you to consider
formally joining our community of
faith as a covenant member.

If you are interested in learning more
about this invitation, please contact
Rev. Steve Silver or the church office
(church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281).

COMMUNITY DINNER

March 24 at 5:00 pm

organized this month by the
Mission and Social Action Committee

Please plan to participate in this vital service to our
local community. Volunteers are always needed to
donate ingredients and help with cooking/prep,
set-up, serving, and clean-up.

To offer help, please sign up in the Parish Hall,
or contact the church office.

Queued for **Coffee Hour**

March
Diaconate

April
Mission & Social Action

May
Women's Fellowship

A Community Dinner Appeal

We still need team leaders!

We are looking for Team Leaders for our Community
Dinners in 2013. If you are interested, please sign up in
the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

Please consider leading this effort! If you have
questions about what being a team leader involves,
please contact the church office or Barb Laro
(603-448-0151 / blaro47@gmail.com).

MARCH 2013 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 10a Worship & Church School 5p Community Dinner	25 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Board of Governors	26 7p Boy Scouts	27 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	28 7p Choir	1 7p Cub Scouts Committee	2 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study
3 10a Worship & Church School (Communion)	4 5:30p Cub Scouts	5 7p Boy Scouts	6 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	7 7p Choir	8	9 9a Bible Study
10 10a Worship & Church School (One Great Hour of Sharing) 11:15a Epilogos Presentation	11 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Diaconate	12 7p Boy Scouts	13 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	14 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Association 7p Choir	15	16 9a Bible Study
17 10a Worship & Church School 11:15a Mission & Social Action 11:15a Music Committee	18	19 7p Boy Scouts 7p Church Council	20 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto 7p Christian Education Committee	21 7p Looking at Lent in Art	22 APRIL NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	23 9a Bible Study 3p BHAM! Concert
24 PALM SUNDAY 10a Liturgy of the Palms 5p Community Dinner <hr/> 31 EASTER 6a Sunrise Service 6:30-8a Community Breakfast 10a Festival Service	25 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Board of Governors	26 7p Boy Scouts	27 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7p Service of Communion, Tenebrae, and Stripping of the Altar	29 GOOD FRIDAY 12-3p Seven Last Words, Meditation in the Sanctuary 3p Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk 7p Service of the Word and Prayer	30 9a Bible Study

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is happy to report that the Sanctuary ceiling restoration has gone very well, and will be complete by the first week of March. Don Collins and his crew have done a beautiful job. They were able to discern the design of the previous stenciling pattern, and have reproduced it faithfully.

As the Sanctuary work draws to a close, we're now turning our attention to the roofing project, which has been the ultimate goal of all the recent work! We hope to have more information on this project soon.

We continue to address issues with reliably heating the church. Sometimes the spaces feel too warm, and sometimes they feel too cold. We very much appreciate everyone's understanding. The committee believes it is most efficient for the heating plant (furnace and boiler) to run on the timers and computer programs that have been installed for this purpose. We welcome suggestions for ways to improve this situation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On March 3, the children will distribute "lunch bags" for our

annual Lenten offering. This year proceeds will provide a year of high school for at least one student in El Salvador, as well as purchase needed supplies for David's House. The bags will be collected on Palm Sunday.

For adults and children who would like to attend one of the church camp programs at the Horton Center (near Gorham, NH), information is available in the Parish Hall or church office.

Families can also look forward to an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning, March 31.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council did not meet in February due to school vacation and inclement weather. Its next meeting will be March 19.

DIACONATE

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit."

Psalm 51:10-12

In this season of Lent we take time to examine ourselves, our relationships with God and each other, and our actions, both the

wrongs that we have committed and the good that we have failed to do.

The deacons join with the whole church in this prayer:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

At its meeting in February the committee welcomed three new members, John Bourgon, Corrine Erskine, and Barbara Jones.

We also discussed our Epilogos connection and outreach in El Salvador. Ron Bailey (honorary committee member) explained the work of Epilogos and our plans to support the building of homes and scholarship funds for students to attend high school, the cost of which is well over \$100 per year (out of reach for families served by Epilogos).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The scholarship money is a concerted effort to break the cycle of poverty.

Plans for a Sunday service focusing on our partnership with Epilogos, with an in-depth informational session, have settled on March 10. Wendell Smith contacted board member Ed Harris, who will visit that day to share his expertise and the Epilogos story. Ways to involve the church school and others in this event are being explored.

Members present agreed to take on the March 24 Community Dinner as a committee. John Bourgon, with his years of experience in catering and the restaurant business, has volunteered to develop the menu and lead us in this task. Many thanks, John!

The committee has agreed to meet regularly on the third Sunday of the month, after worship. Thus, our next M&SA meeting will be on March 17.

March Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	3/11, 7:00
<i>Mission and Social Action</i>	3/17, 11:15
<i>Music Committee</i>	3/17, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	3/19, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	3/20, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	3/25, 7:00

April Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	4/8, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	4/16, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	4/17, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	4/22, 7:00

Please Wait a Moment While We Connect You...

An older member of the congregation has observed that it sometimes takes a while to get to the phone when it's ringing. (This middle-aged member of the congregation would add that two young children can cause the same problem.) Unless you're calling someone who has a mobile phone on them at all times, please be patient and let it ring a few extra times.

Thanks!

Lost? Found?

Please be aware of the Lost-and-Found box located in the corner of the Parish Hall, by the table and chair racks.

Have you helpfully removed one of the curtains from around the kitchen island, intending to wash it? If so, please return it, no questions asked...

And thanks!

A Correction from the Church Administrator

We regret to acknowledge that the name of Willmott "Bin" Lewis was misspelled in the 2012 Annual Report. Our sincere apologies to Barb Jones and Bin's family for the error.

LENT AND EASTER 2013



Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm—Looking at Lent in Art
Join Brian Clancy for a close study and discussion of ways that artists have represented Christ's passion and resurrection. (See below.)

March 24—PALM SUNDAY
10:00 am: Liturgy of the Palms

March 28—MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 pm: Service of Communion, Tenebrae, and Stripping of the Altar

March 29—GOOD FRIDAY
12:00-3:00 pm: The Seven Last Words, Quiet Meditation in the Sanctuary
3:00 pm: Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk
7:00 pm: Service of the Word and Prayer

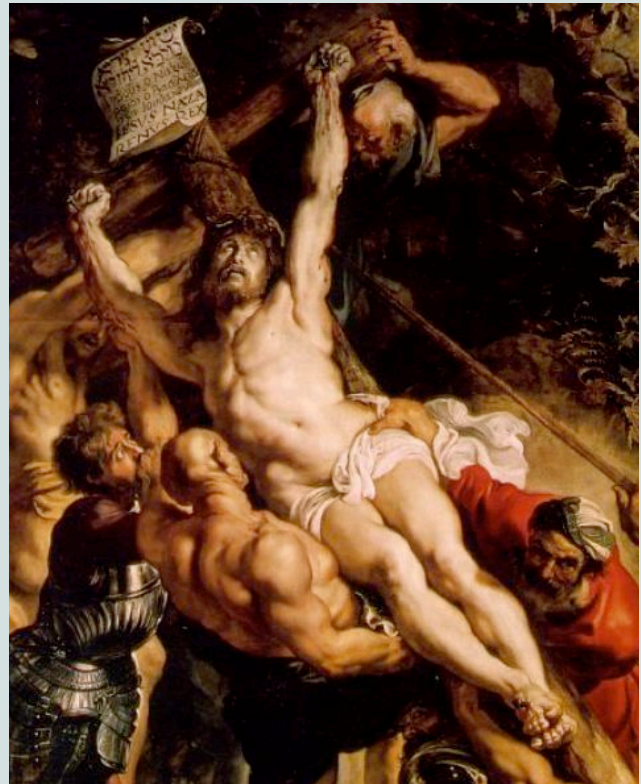
March 31—EASTER
6:00 am: Sunrise Service, Colburn Park
6:30-8:00 am: Community Breakfast, Parish Hall
10:00 am: Festival Service

Looking at Lent in Art

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm
Parish Hall

As we journey through Lent and approach Holy Week, all are invited to join Brian Clancy (art historian and humble Church Administrator) for a close, careful study of a few images of Christ's Passion. How have artists told the story of Christ's suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection? We'll look in particular at how Passion images have tried to convey both epic scenes of high drama and more intimate views of Christ's humanity.

No prior experience with art is necessary; just bring a willingness to look thoughtfully and ask questions!



Detail from Peter Paul Rubens, *Elevation of the Cross*, 1610-11
(Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp, Belgium)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



The kitchen crew. Christian Ed and friends: Brian Clancy, Linda and Ike Jacobs, Laurie Braley, John Gilliatt, Shelley Shipley, Marcia Corkins, Ron Bailey, and Cathy Bourgon.

Community Dinner

February 24

Served to 42 guests by the Christian Education Committee—**Thank you!**

This could be you in another month!

Please consider volunteering to be a Community Dinner Team Leader.



Service with a smile! Katie and Grace Clancy, Erin and Michael Thompson, and Lisa Poirier work the serving line, offering a delicious meal of baked chicken, cooked carrots, salad, and rolls.

*** * * Save the Date! * * ***

**The Women's Fellowship invites all SENIORS in the church family
to be our guests for**

Luncheon

served in your honor

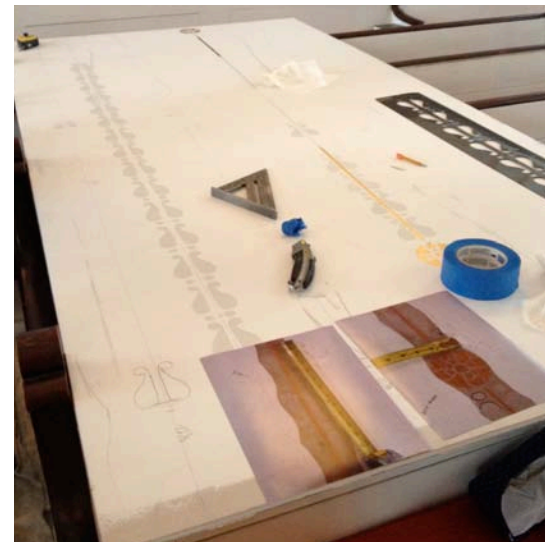
Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Coffee, tea, and fellowship starting at **11:00 am**

Performance by the Superlatives of Lebanon High School at **12:00 noon**

Luncheon served at **12:30 pm**

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



A SANCTUARY RESTORED The Sanctuary ceiling project was completed just as this newsletter went to press. Here, we see an 1872 photo of an earlier, very Victorian decorative scheme, including multiple borders, an anchor motif above the altar, and an elaborate single chandelier. Also: Tom and Rich close in on the final patch of old ceiling and begin the gold-leaf stenciling, with the help of metal cut-out frames and close-up photos.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Worship in the Parish Hall. Steve Silver preaches and leads the Children's Moment in our improvised Sanctuary.



Music *at the* Meetinghouse

Saturday, March 23, 3:00 pm

BHAM III!

Join us for this informal, not-too-serious concert and hear a different kind of classical! *All proceeds benefit the Bel Canto Chamber Singers.*

Coming in May, June, and July...

Four more concerts by Classicopia!
Dates and details to come next month.

A decorative floral border with various flowers and leaves surrounding the text.

If you think
classical music
is for
Sissies,
come to
BHAM! III
a benefit for
Bel Canto Chamber Singers
and bear a different kind of classical
Saturday 23 March, 3:00 pm
First Congregational Church
South Park Street • Lebanon, NH

Admission at the door: \$15 adults, \$10 students
all proceeds benefit Bel Canto Chamber Singers

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park Street • P.O. Box 230 • Lebanon, NH 03766
603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver – silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions – church@fccleb.org