

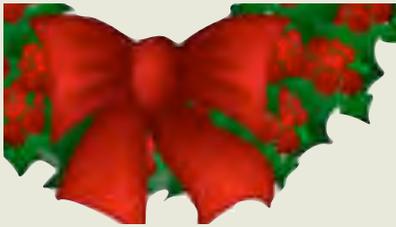


Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

By the time you read this, Black Friday will be behind us, and, as far as secular culture is concerned, the Christmas season will have begun. Seasonal music will be everywhere, seemingly universal; the airwaves and internet will be filled with images of Jolly Saint Nick (or at least his modern avatars). Christmas, we will be told, incessantly, has arrived.

Those of us who participate in the community of Christ known as the church are taught otherwise. The new season that has commenced is Advent, signaled not by a tsunami of early-morning, door-busting bargains, but by a familiar Sunday liturgy in late November when candles are lit, readings shared, and, at First Congregational Church of Lebanon, a banner presented by children, to be hung during worship on the pulpit and later on the wall of the Sanctuary.

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. It's familiar and comforting and, in our all-too-frenetic world, decidedly old-fashioned. Today, we want things and we want them now. If Advent had a spokesman, he would respond to our impatience and say, "Too bad. You need to wait. Be patient. Take a moment to figure out what is really going on. You say you're ready for Christmas, but are you really? Are you really ready for Christmas and what it signifies?"

What does Christmas signify to you? To me? If we're still taking the time to go to church in 2014, it would seem a safe bet that Christmas to us is more than presents and parties. But as members of a larger society that often reduces Christmas to these elements, it's all too easy to be distracted from what this season is all about—the Almighty God's entry into our fallen physical world in vulnerable, frail flesh.

This should give us pause. Yes, it's a great joy that the One who made the universe would choose to be with us, to be one of us. But it should also be a cause for concern and reflection: what kind of God can do such a thing? What kind of God would do such a thing? The answer to the first question, of course, is one who is able to do anything, in any place, in any age. The answer to the second question is one who is love incarnate; only such a God would choose to give all for the sake of a wayward, lost humanity.

Continued on Page 5

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FCC

Please join us as we celebrate Advent and prepare to welcome the Christ child!

Sunday, November 30, 11:30 am—Church Decorating Party

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 pm—A Counterpoint Christmas (see page 12)

Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am—FCC Caroling in the Community (see below)

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 pm—Will Ögmundson's *Night of Las Posadas* (see page 12)

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm—Lebanon High School Choral Concert (see page 12)

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 pm—Christmas Party and Carol Sing at the Parsonage (see below)

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 pm—*Messiah Sing!* (see page 12)

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 pm—"The Longest Night" Service at LUMC (see below)

Sunday, December 28, 5:00 pm—Christmas Community Dinner (see page 4)

Wednesday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00—Family Service

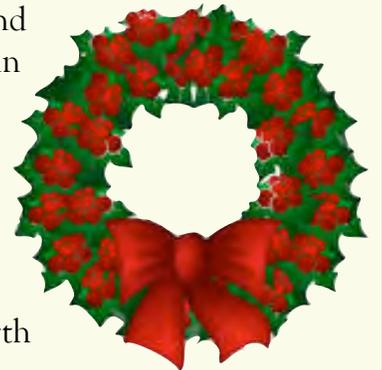
A time for Christmas song and story for families and the young at heart. Kids are invited to participate in a pageant and living crèche (prep at 4:00).

8:00—Lessons and Carols

The story of our Savior's birth in lessons from Scripture and traditional carols.

11:00—Candlelight Communion

A service of light and song, rejoicing in Christ's birth with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.



Caroling in the Community

Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am
(Following Coffee Hour)

Plan to join us after coffee hour for this special annual Christmas ministry, as we share favorite carols with homebound (but enthusiastic and grateful!) church members and neighbors around town.

The Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 pm
Lebanon United Methodist Church

We join our friends on School Street for this ecumenical service of healing, remembrance, and hope. For those carrying burdens or dealing with loss, this can be a challenging time of year. On this night of the Winter Solstice, we search for the light in dark places.

Church Christmas Party and Carol Sing!

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 pm
At the Parsonage, 15 Kimball Street (Corner of Kimball and Elm)

All are warmly invited to the Parsonage for some pre-Christmas cheer! We'll gather around the fireplace for fellowship, song, and seasonal fun. You are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 ADVENT BEGINS 10a Worship/ Church School 11:30a Christmas Decorating Party!	1 3p WCBH After-school 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf) 7p Diaconate (Note: 1st Mon)	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 7p Boy Scouts	3 6p UVPRN	4 5p Headrest Support Group 6p Choir	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study
7 10a Worship/ Church School (Communion) 11:30a Forum and Potluck: Reflections from El Salvador and Guatemala	8 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf)	9 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 7p Boy Scouts	10 8a-4p WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	11 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange 5p Headrest Support Group 6p Choir	12	13 9a Bible Study 7:30p A Counterpoint Christmas
14 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a M&SA 11:30a FCC Caroling in the Community 4p Las Posadas	15 3p WCBH After-school 6:30p LHS Rehearsal 7p Pastoral Relations	16 7p LHS Choral Concert No Church Council this month 7p Boy Scouts	17 6p UVPRN 7p Oneness VT Meditation	18 5p Headrest 6p Choir	19	20 9a Bible Study
21 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a New Members Mtg 4p Christmas Party (Parsonage) 6p Messiah Sing	22 9:30a-5p WIC 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf)	23 JANUARY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 7p Boy Scouts	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5p Family Svc and Pageant 8p Lessons and Carols 11p Candlelight Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 5p Headrest Support Group No Choir	26	27 9a Bible Study
28 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a B of G 5p Community Dinner	29	30 7p Boy Scouts	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6p UVPRN	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 5p Headrest Support Group No Choir	2	3 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study

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

SUNDAY SERVICE



Poinsettias FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

If you wish to offer poinsettias for the Sanctuary this season in honor or memory of someone, you may either donate your own flowers or order them through the church office. The church will be purchasing 6-inch poinsettias for \$14 each.

If you would like to be included in the church's poinsettia order, please contact the church office no later than Wednesday, December 10.

If you plan to donate your own flowers, please contact the office and deliver them to church by Sunday, December 14.

Dedications will be included in worship bulletins on Sunday, December 21, and Christmas Eve. Information must be received no later than Thursday, December 18.

Queued for Coffee Hour

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship

February—Christian Education

March—Diaconate

New Members Open House

Sunday, December 21, 11:15 am

Have you found a spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to become more involved in our programs and events?

If you're interested in joining the church as a covenant member, you're warmly invited to this informal discussion after worship with Steve Silver and members of the Diaconate.

All-Church Forum and Potluck

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Reflections from El Salvador and Guatemala

Following worship on December 7, plan to join us for an engaging presentation by those who participated in the recent mission trips that our congregation so generously supported. Deb Scott will share her experience providing medical care in Guatemala, and members of the Epilogos team will reflect on their week with the Lopez family.

Photos, souvenirs, and stories will bring these faraway places to life in the Parish Hall!

Please bring a potluck dish to share. If you'd like to help with this event, contact the church office.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, December 28, at 5:00 pm

Team Leader: NAN PARSONS (603-863-8354/nlp3721@yahoo.com)

Please plan to participate in this vital service to our local community, which this month is very much a part of our celebration of Christmas. Thanks to Nan Parsons for leading this month's effort! Volunteers old and new are welcome to donate ingredients and help with cooking/prep, set-up, serving, and clean-up. **To offer your help, look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall, or contact the church office or Nan Parsons.**

New Year, New Leaders!

We need volunteers to lead our monthly dinners for the New Year (2015!). If you're interested in this important role, or if you have questions, please contact the church office.

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At the November Council meeting, Todd Heatherton reported that the Finance Committee had authorized a transfer from trust funds to cover current obligations, as well as \$3,200 from special trust fund monies to cover repair work that's been completed around the side and ramp doors.

Pete Mason noted that Nora Miller and others had put the Memorial Gardens "to bed" for the winter.

In his Pastor's report, Steve noted that he presented the Diaconate with his thoughts for inviting discussion about building our ministry for families with young

children and teenagers. An open meeting will take place in January.

As we've reached Stewardship Sunday, Jon Scott reported that the Stewardship Committee would continue with its message and report results in January.

Barry Schuster reported some preliminary notes from the ad-hoc task force reviewing FCC's committee structure. Council heard and favorably discussed the possibility of adopting membership ranges for several committees. The Diaconate, too, might adopt a minimum of nine (twelve still being the ideal size). Additionally, the Memorials Committee could

reasonably be incorporated into the scope of the Trustees. The group also debated the necessity of the Vice Moderator position. The ad-hoc group will soon return a full set of recommendations to Council, for consideration as by-law amendments.

Council also agreed to revise the fees for using church space, from \$60 to \$75 for the Sanctuary and \$40 to \$50 for other spaces. The heating surcharge would increase from a flat fee of \$20-\$40 to an hourly fee of \$10-\$15/hour. These changes better reflect costs incurred by church use (while still not fully covering those costs). The wedding fee schedule will not change.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, December 15, 7:00 pm
Comments Welcome!

All are invited to share comments, feedback, questions, or other matters with the Pastoral Relations Committee prior to this meeting on December 15.

Please contact one of its members:
Warren Belding (*chair*), **John Gilliatt**,
Jennifer Grant, **Barbara Jones**, **Nan Parsons**, or **Steve Silver**.

Save the Date—Sunday, January 11, 11:30 am **A Conversation About Family Ministry**

Following worship on January 11, all families—active or not, formally members or simply friends—are invited to an open conversation and planning meeting for our ministry for children and families at FCC. Our congregation has a great group of kids, ranging from ages five to twelve, who regularly participate in our common life. How can we best meet their needs? What might we do to attract and invite other families to join us? From what is learned at this session, we will plan two or three activities for the spring.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

Think about what happened on that long-ago Christmas. Think about what can happen on this Christmas. Do this, and I think you'll agree that we need some time to process our thoughts, to arrange our affairs, to prepare for what is coming. Do this, and I hope and pray you'll agree that we need not Black Friday or Cyber Monday but Advent.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

ADVENT *Devotional Reflections*

If you wish to receive Rev. Steve Silver's devotional messages by email during Advent, please let him know or email revsrs@live.com.

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The thermostats in the Parlor, Parish Hall, and Church School have all been replaced and programmed according to the master schedule of weekly events. While the temperature can easily be adjusted temporarily up or down, no one should alter the thermostat programming except the church administrator.

As FCC strives to improve its energy efficiency, four members of the Board of Governors will visit South Congregational Church in Concord, which has recently conducted an energy audit. The group will seek advice and learn more about what to expect from doing an audit here at FCC.

Electricians have been contacted to repair the front exterior flood lights for the holiday season.

And have you noticed anything pink missing in the Sanctuary? Thanks to Steve Teeter and Lloyd Bennett, the unsightly insulation has been removed from the top of the organ case.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Church School children have been making a variety of cards for the Called to Care ministry. They have also made centerpieces for the December 7 mission trip forum. On November 30, the children will prepare the creche

and present the first Advent banner in worship.

In keeping with our current Church School theme, we continue exploring the likenesses and differences between ourselves and others, and between our country and other countries. We're learning about respecting each other at home, at church and school, and elsewhere.

DIACONATE

At its November meeting the Diaconate reaffirmed the need for more caregivers in the Called to Care program. Linda Jacobs has supplied a new schedule showing two weeks in advance instead of just one. It was noted gratefully that Edith Wheeler and Donna Cornelius had returned to church following health difficulties.

Ron Bailey discussed a program on November 14 at the Methodist Church which focused on the Community Care aging model in Lyme, part of the Village-to-Village Network of programs. The program provides for medical and non-medical needs of residents, both seniors and non-seniors, in a coordinated fashion.

For the December 7 mission forum and potluck, Barb Teeter will shop for beverages and other items. Primary presenters will be Deb Scott (Guatemala) and Wendell Smith (El Salvador), for about 15 minutes each.

In response to the recent report of nursery and childcare needs, Mark Yeager has offered \$250 to provide new toys and games, working with Marcia Corkins. Deb Scott will chip in some outlet covers. Hilary Ryder, who has kindly offered to be the Diaconate representative on a future nursery needs ad-hoc task force, purchased band-aids and other first-aid supplies.

Steve Silver reported that he is helping to plan the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, scheduled for November 23 at West Lebanon Congregational Church. Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, and Zen Buddhist faith communities are all participating. Steve recently met with Rabbi Ed Boraz to begin exploring how we might develop richer ties between FCC and the UV Jewish Community.

December Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	12/1, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	12/10, 7:00
<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	12/14, 11:15
<i>Pastoral Relations</i>	12/15, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	12/28, 11:15

January Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	1/11, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	1/12, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	1/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	1/20, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	1/25, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

With Heart and Soul: Stewardship 2015

Our faithful stewardship—inspired not by a sense of obligation but by a cheerful decision to follow God’s own example of giving and serving—enables and enhances everything that we do at FCC. Thanks to all who have already made a commitment to the church’s mission and ministry for the coming year! To date, we have received 24 pledges for 2015, and we will gratefully continue to accept pledges this month.

Offering envelopes for 2015 are available in the Parish Hall, on a self-serve basis. Please take whichever box you wish and record your name and box number on the list.

As part of his service on the APD Ethics Committee, Steve also attended a program at DHMC focused on end-of-life issues and healthcare directives. Working with the DHMC Chaplaincy, this may develop into a program tailored to clergy.

Mark Rowell met to discuss his ordination paper with the Grafton-Orange Committee on Church and Ministry on November 13, and Steve invited Deacons to attend.

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

On December 7 our El Salvador travelers will present their stories to the congregation over a potluck lunch after worship, and Deb Scott will report on her visit to Guatemala. The trip was a success and everyone came home very inspired. The group managed to build a house for a family with \$6,000 in funding from FCC.

The Mission Committee seeks ideas from the congregation for ways to raise funds to replace some of the resources used for the El Salvador trip, so that we’ll be able to plan for another one! Please contact Corrine Erskine or Jon Scott with any ideas.

We are also working on clarifying the requirements for Community Dinners. We are hoping to involve the Methodist church and perhaps a few other organizations to help us. There is a Community Dinner menu binder in the kitchen for those who wish to lead a supper but need a menu or recipe. The revised requirements will appear in the January newsletter. Please think about leading one of these suppers!

FCC Seeks Assistant Treasurer

The church needs a dependable volunteer to serve as Assistant Treasurer. This vital position is responsible for collecting the weekly offering and recording and depositing all receipts in the bank. **If you’re willing to serve the church in this way, please contact Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976/ amykdriscoll@gmail.com).**

From the Nominating Committee: Volunteer Opportunities Available!

As we approach a new year, and soon after, a new term for our volunteer committees, Council and the Nominating Committee ask you to think about how you might best contribute your skills and interests to our mission and ministry.

If you’re interested in learning about a particular committee or available opportunities, **contact Barry Schuster (603-448-5937/ivylegal@gmail.com) or Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976/amykdriscoll@gmail.com).**

PLEASE NOTE:

ANNUAL REPORT CONTENT

must be submitted to the Church Administrator
by Monday, January 12, 2015

The 2015 Annual Meeting

will be held after worship on
Sunday, February 8, 2015

Report on the 213th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference, UCC

Linda J. Jacobs

Delegates Marcia Corkins, Ike Jacobs, and I attended this conference on October 25, and once again these notes do not do justice to the day. The conference theme, “Proclaiming Our Unity,” was expressed throughout in a variety of ways. There were 336 folks in attendance, which represented only 95 of 138 churches in the state.

Unlike in past years, the morning began with a full worship service, including the choir, hymns, homily, offering, and communion. In prior years full worship had been in the afternoon, and many people left before or during the service, as they have long travel distances. Personally, I prefer the full worship service in the morning, as it sets the tone for the day.

Once the business meeting started, we heard the Treasurer’s report and received the 2015 Mission Income and Spending Plan. We learned that there was a deficit of \$62,000 at the end of September and also that the Horton Center in particular will have a deficit for the year, because its revenue doesn’t cover all of its costs. Other resources, however, can help with this most worthwhile ministry—endowments, the cell tower, and some rental space in the conference center. Balancing the budget is a good goal, but it’s important to keep the program alive, as it is the investment in the future of our churches.

The conference also needed \$220,000 for Our Church’s Wider Mission. We had all received a “Count Us In” form in our packets, by which our church would promise to send funds to OCWM. (I did not sign the pledge form, as I do not feel that should be up to me alone. I am all for it though, since Christ calls us to be connected and one, in unity.) When put to a vote, the budget passed.

“Speak-Outs” were next on the agenda, and fourteen people spoke for just one minute on something important to them. Here are a few of the topics: the NH Women’s Fellowship Conference, which will be April 6-8, 2015, in Portland, Maine; the Sustainable House of Worship Workshop, which gathers information to evaluate and reduce energy use and costs in our churches; the NH Campus Ministry; the Ukama Partnership, which supports the Zimbabwe representative, a youth director who thanked the conference for the partnership; the lack of a state-mandated minimum wage and the need to push legislators for economic justice; the Horton Center, which is fully accredited now and had 300 campers this summer (from 50 churches and 8 states), with 70 volunteers; the Cornerstone Fund, which gives loans for churches wanting to go green and provide affordable housing; the Christmas Fund, which gives vital assistance to both retired and active clergy in need of financial help.

During lunch, there were four break-out sessions: UCC Leaders Circle (Listening Post); Horton Center; A New Thing Task Force (new and renewing local churches); Resolutions. All three of us joined the Horton Center session, where we heard from three young women who had been campers there during the summer. Made me want to go to camp!

After we gathered again in the main conference room, they read the names of ministers who have served from five to 65 years. Former FCC pastors Norm Dubie (ordained September 27, 1959) and Richard Slater (ordained September 22, 1974) have served 55 and 40 years, respectively. All those in attendance received a certificate.

Two resolutions then came before the conference. The first was entitled, “Jobs Should Lift Workers Out of Poverty, Not Keep Them There: A Resolution of Christian Witness in

Continued on next page

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Scenes from Thanksgiving and the first Sunday of Advent. We are grateful again this year to Kathie Schuster, ably assisted by husband Barry and Carolin Bassett, for our sumptuously beautiful Thanksgiving altar display—which provided an ideal backdrop for Stewardship Sunday as well! The next week on November 30, with the adults busy decorating inside, the Church School kids sculpted some impressive snow angels with the season’s first serious snowfall.



Continued from previous page

Support of Increasing the Minimum Wage (at Both the State and Federal Level).” This had been submitted on August 29 and adopted by the Board of Directors, acting on behalf of the conference, on September 20.

The second resolution was “A Plan of Action for the Resolution of Christian Witness Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” which had been submitted August 8 with the recommendation of the Peace & Justice Ministry of the NHC-UCC.

Many attendees spoke both for or against this resolution; there were great arguments on both

sides, and none of them overlapped either. The resolution passed with a two-thirds majority, and it will now be submitted for a vote at the 30th General Synod in the summer of 2015.

The meeting was completed with a short worship service, which included the hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” a concluding blessing, and the praise response.

Our folders of conference materials are available in the Parish Hall for anyone who wishes to look at the information I kept.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

The entire FCC congregation joins in wishing

Ginee Hough

Happy 100th Birthday!!!

December 20

Congratulations Ginee—we're proud to have had you in our church family all these years!

If you'd like to send Ginee birthday wishes, her address is Harvest Hill #107, 121 Mascoma St, Lebanon

Below: A blast from the Teeter past. Serendipitously found folded in a hymnal recently, an FCC bulletin from October 2, 1977 lists Rev. Norman Dubie's baptism that morning of Erin Beth Teeter. Ron Bailey was a greeter, and Harold and Doris Morse served as ushers. Parents using childcare during worship were asked to donate 50 cents per child weekly. And later that week, a Christian Ed class discussed "God, Man, and Archie Bunker." Barb and Steve Teeter supplied a few photos for period context (top to bottom): one from that day with Barb's parents, a 1979 Parlor shot with a fussy Erin and tiny Justin, and 5-year-old Erin in a more agreeable mood.

Sunday, October 2, 1977

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of the Campbell Family by Mr. & Mrs. C. Truman Carr.

Greeters this morning are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bailey

Ushers this morning are Harold and Doris Morse.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|
| Today | 9:00 | Christian Education classes from four years old to eighth grade |
| | 10:30 | Morning Worship
INFANT BAPTISM. Today we baptize into the Church of Christ, Erin Beth, daughter of Barbara and Stephen Teeter.
NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING
HOLY COMMUNION |
| | 7:00 | Junior Pilgrim Fellowship will meet with Sally Pushee, their new advisor, at church. |
| Monday | 7:30 | Senior Choir |
| Tuesday | 9:00 | A.M. Christmas Bazaar workshop at Jean Cole's. Bring your lunch. |
| | 6:30 | Junior Choir |
| | 7:00 | Diaconate |
| Wednesday | | Women's Fellowship Fall Field meeting at the Conference Center in Pembroke. |
| | 7:30 | Christian Education class for Senior Highs and Adults on "God, Man and Archie Bunker". |
| Thursday | 7:00 | Christmas Bazaar Workshop at Jean Cole's. |

Sunday, October 9, during morning worship, we will hear, from our delegate to the General Synod, what happened in Washington, D.C.

At three, October 9, the Grafton Orange Association will meet in the Bradford Congregational Church to review the church's and the Rev. John B. Knight's credentials, and install him as their pastor.

Tuesday, October 11, we are invited to join the Women's Fellowship at their meeting, and hear Mr. D. Barnes Baffey, Ed. D., on "Reality Therapy". This is for husbands and wives, and teenagers, a terrific program on living a better life of communication and love. Don't cheat your family or yourself by staying away!

The Women's Fellowship Fall Rummage Sale will be held Friday, October 14 from 10-3 and Saturday, October 15, from 9-12 Noon. Setting up for the sale will be done on Wednesday and Thursday, October 12 and 13. Items can be left at church on Wednesday and Thursday. Anyone needing items picked up may call Helen Currier, 448-3906 or Sue Nevel, 448-2846.

Sunday, October 16, the Dubies invite everyone to OPEN HOUSE at the Parsonage, following morning worship.

Sunday, October 23, at 2:45, the Grafton Orange Association Fall meeting begins in the Bradford Congregational Church.

People using the babysitting service downstairs during the service are asked to donate 50¢ per child each week if possible.



OUR LOCAL MISSION

Benefit Concert for the Upper Valley Haven

Friday, December 12, 7:00 pm
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Norwich, VT

As part of the **19 DAYS OF NORWICH**, CAMEO Arts and St. Barnabas present this benefit concert featuring **Cameo Baroque**. The program offers music by Telemann, Handel, and others, performed on original instruments by Leslie Stroud (traverso), Beth Hilgartner (recorders and voice), Ernie Drown (harpsichord), and Margaret Gilmore (cello).

Direct contributions are also accepted by check, payable to the Haven with "Benefit Concert" in the memo line and sent to CAMEO Arts Foundation, PO Box 6, Orford, NH 03777. Concert proceeds qualify for matching funds from the Byrne Foundation. **For more about 19 DAYS OF NORWICH and the Byrne Foundation matching grant, visit <http://uppervalleyhaven.org/modules/19-days-of-norwich/>.**

Christmas Giving Tree



Thanks so much to all those who contributed a gift to our Listen Center Giving Tree effort this year!

If you're offering a gift, please deliver it to church no later than Sunday, December 7, so that it can be delivered in a timely fashion. (Contact Barb Teeter at 603-448-4529.)

Local Interdisciplinary Geriatric Homecare Team



LIGHT PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Person- and family-centered care
- Health assessment and education
- Individualized care plans developed by interdisciplinary team
- Resource information and referral
- Coordination with primary-care teams and community agencies
- Service provided without insurance or other payments

LIGHT MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to provide respectful, proactive, person-centered care to older adults in our region. We will accomplish this by partnering with our clients' medical team and with other agencies that serve them. LIGHT will seek to provide a community-focused, best-practice safety net to assist older adults who wish to remain in their homes.

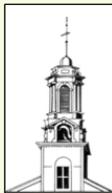
The LIGHT team consists of a team coordinator, an outreach worker, and a wellness nurse. **For more information, please contact Jane Conklin at 603-448-1835 or jconklin@gcsc.org.**

020 CALLED TO CARE

Called to Care offers special assistance to those in our congregation who need it, for whatever reason—illness, loss of a loved one, loneliness, depression, aging issues, and divorce, to name a few. We offer support in the form of cards, phone calls, visits, meals, and transportation.

Now with just eight caregivers, **Called to Care** needs help! If the Spirit moves you to join this rewarding group, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrandmrs.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251) or Steve Silver.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music *at the* Meetinghouse

December Concerts

All in the Sanctuary
First Congregational Church of Lebanon

A COUNTERPOINT CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 13, at 7:30 pm

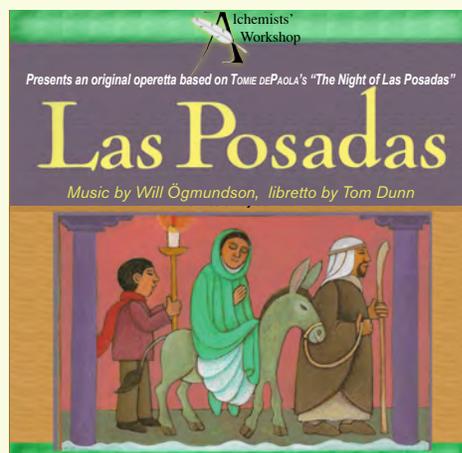
Directed by Nathaniel Lew, Counterpoint is Vermont's premier professional vocal ensemble, recording and performing a wide range of repertoire with skill, clarity, and sophisticated musical expressiveness. Ring in the season with this concert of classic carols and Christmas songs from around the world! *Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students and limited means \$5. For more, visit www.counterpointchorus.org or call 802-540-1784.*



The Night of Las Posadas

Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 pm

Former FCC music director Will Ögmundson returns with another production of *Night of Las Posadas*, a clever and spirited Christmas musical based on Tomie de Paola's children's book, with a libretto by Tom Dunn. Families are most welcome! *Free-will donation. For more, contact Tom Dunn at dunn.t@comcast.net, visit www.alchemistsworkshop.org, or call 603-568-5102.*



Lebanon High School Choral Concert

Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Enjoy a seasonal program offered by the choral ensembles of our local high school's fine music program, directed by Dan Signor. *Free.*

MESSIAH SING!

Saturday, December 21, at 6:00 pm

Join the chorus—or just the audience—for Handel's beloved oratorio, with local soloists and accompanied by our own Henry Danaher. *Free-will donation.*

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
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