

REFLECTIONS



If the timing is right, you should be receiving this newsletter at the beginning of Holy Week. This week on the Christian calendar marks the last days of Jesus' earthly journey. It begins with Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' entry into

Jerusalem, winds through Maundy Thursday, which marks the institution of the sacrament of communion, proceeds through Good Friday, the day on which Christ was crucified, and leads us to Easter Sunday, the commemoration of the resurrection of Christ. This is the most reflective week of the season of Lent for those of us who tend to reflect.

This time, more than any other time of the year, calls us to think about what it is Jesus has meant to us and our lives. During these weeks in the church we have thought a little about repentance and reconciliation and bottom lines. Now this last week the journey with Christ becomes a little more difficult and leads us through the valley of the shadow of death into the light. It leads us from confrontations with enemies to death to the resurrection to eternal life with God. This week brings us to hope that sustains us as we journey on throughout the days and years that lie before us. Be still a while and see what it is God has done for us through the life and teachings, death and resurrection of his Son.

Peace & love,

Pastor Alice

CHURCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Happy Easter. I wish you all a very blessed holiday. First, and foremost, I want to express how impressive it is that the Church Committee Meetings are attended so well, by so many dedicated people representing all Church Committees and other Church Members. I sometimes fear that I did not make enough copies of the Agenda and other hand-outs for each meeting. What a great problem to have!

The attendance offers such informative and



Colebrook Congregational Church

The Friendly Church on the Green

innovative conversation. So much information is shared, considered, and then built upon for the betterment of the Church.

The Church Committee always encourages, welcomes, and looks forward to more people attending these meetings. It is our goal to have all those that attend be listened to, and their ideas be acted upon for the betterment of the Church, Their Church, Our Church. You do not have to be a Church Member to attend...just attend to contribute to the Church's improvements.

If you cannot attend Church Committee Meetings, but want your ideas presented and addressed, please feel free to contact me at my home phone at 860 738 7701, my cell phone at 860 463 0478 or email at xemxija@megahits.com

As Church Committee Chair, you can probably deduce that my main "theme" and goal is to encourage, maintain, and improve upon COMMUNICATION throughout the Church. I want to give a very special thanks to Frank Thompson for what he has contributed to the incredible improvements in Church communication, constructing and maintaining a web site that is one of the best ones that I see Churches presenting. I visit the web site frequently. Also, from Frank's efforts, we now have a Monthly Newsletter that is so exciting in its presentation. You can visit the web site at:

<http://www.colebrookchurch.org/>

It is my pleasure and honor to serve you, the Church, in my role.

Sheila L. Postlethwait, Chair
Colebrook Congregational Church Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

With winter just about behind us, we can now look forward to spring activities! Such as our field trip to Lourdes in Litchfield on March 25th to walk the Stations of the Cross, the Sunday school children passing out palms on Palm Sunday, April 1st, gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7th to decorate eggs and Sunrise Service at Camp Jewell on Easter morning! We have been promised by some of our Sunday school children that the hot cross buns are worth the early rising on Easter morning! Many of the Sunday school children, and perhaps not so enthusiastically their parents, it is quite early to wake on a Sunday, are anticipating a lovely sunrise service!

The Sunday school children will be leading the Psalter reading on Palm Sunday as well as handing out the palms in the vestibule after the Church Service. On April 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 we will be decorating eggs in the Fellowship Hall to be placed in the windows in the Sanctuary for Easter morning and of course the children can bring some home as well! If you would like to join us, please bring in a dozen hard boiled eggs and join in the fun. Light refreshments will be provided.

Joyful Noises sang from the choir loft in March and did an excellent job singing Wherever I May Wander, a song from last year's curriculum! Many thanks to Vima for her continued support, and thank you to Judy Amato for helping us out with the singing! We think it is making a great difference!

Looking to May, we will be making and delivering spring baskets to our shut-ins on May 6th. Again, if you know of anyone that would enjoy the heartfelt joy of our Sunday school baskets, please let us know so that we may add them to our list!

Also in May, we are very excited about our first coach bus field trip to a Heifer International Farm, the Overlook Farm, in Randall, Massachusetts on Saturday May 19th! The bus will depart the Church at 7:30 a.m. and return to the Church at 4:30 p.m. We will all bring a bag lunch to enjoy together at the farm! We will have 55 seats available for this once in a lifetime trip and would love to see the bus filled with many Church members and their

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families! You needn't be in Sunday school to join us! Please, the more the merrier!!! The Sunday school has \$300.00 in the budget and has raised \$400.00 in the Bake and Super Bowl Sub Sale towards the field trip. At this point we are short just over \$300.00 to cover the cost of the coach bus.

Just to note that we are joyful to have people back with us that haven't had the greatest health this winter, it is good to see everyone!

Linda Farnham

AUXILIARY NOTES

The Auxiliary continues to move along planning a variety of fundraising activities and fellowship opportunities for the members and friends of the Church. The Auxiliary is open to anyone and everyone concerned about the welfare and the future of the church. Membership is open to all. If you are "not into meetings" your helping hands are appreciated at any of the events. If you have any questions, or would like to offer your help, please call Pastor Alice, 379-2517. We have scheduled the following activities for the upcoming months:

- June 2, Plant and Bake Sale at the Church and on the Green
- August 4, Saturday, Community Corn Roast on the Green, 4-7 PM
- September 1, Participation in the Colebrook Fair
- September 29, Tag and Bake Sale and Cafe at the Church and on the Green; spaces will be available to rent.
- December 8, Breakfast with Santa and participation in the Colebrook Christmas Fair

COMMEMORATIVE FUND

Each of us has events in our life or in the life of someone dear to us that we would like to celebrate and share in some way with others. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, births and special honors received are some of the happy events we may wish to share. There are also those occasions on which one wishes to memorialize a loved one.

To mark these occasions we are establishing a Commemorative Fund. Gifts may be given for a specific purpose (such as support of the music

program or the Sunday school). The Church also needs many things on a regular basis, such as candles, communion cups, new cloths for the communion table, hymnals, etc. Any gift earmarked for a specific purpose will be used as directed. If not specified, the gift will go into a general commemorative fund.

All gifts will strengthen and sustain the Church and such gifts will be recognized regularly in the newsletter and/or Sunday bulletin. Forms for such donations will soon be available in the vestibule.

Susan Coggins
Assistant Treasurer

JOSEPH FIRECROW CONCERT



On Sunday, March 11, at 3 pm, Native American Joseph Firecrow came to Colebrook, bringing his unique brand of traditional music into the Colebrook Congregational Church. Joseph, who grew up in a cabin on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, without indoor

plumbing, is a multiple music award winner, including a Grammy nomination for his remarkable CD, "Cheyenne Nation."

His flutes, many of which he makes himself, drumming, singing and stories come from a deeply spiritual source and filled the space with alternating feelings of joy and deep peace. The audience, which filled all of the pews from wall to wall, sat with truly rapt attention from the very beginning until the last notes drifted away. A remarkable experience.

Ken Andresen

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On Thursday, April 5, at 7 PM there will be a communion and Tenebrae service held in Fellowship Hall to mark Maundy Thursday. The tradition of Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") goes back to the 8th century or before. The service is one of progressing from light to darkness. Candles are extinguished after scripture readings symbolizing the shadows that descended around Jesus just before his death. A single candle remains lit in anticipation of the light of Easter morning. At the end of the service, all depart in silence.

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YOUTH GROUP NOTES



The Colebrook Congregational Youth Group met this past Thursday, March 22nd. The group discussed how bread is at the base or foundation of the food pyramid. This led to talking about "give us this day our daily bread". The conversation included that "we don't live just by having our material needs fulfilled, we need something: more: and one of the things more that we need is hope, hope for tomorrow" (Williams, p. 7)". The group made pancakes while they held their discussion. After, the group worked on car models and enjoyed each other's company.

The group meets every fourth Thursday of the month at the church basement from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will not be a meeting in April, because there is a conflict with school vacation and the Colebrook student's sixth grade trip to Cape Cod. The next meeting will be on the second Thursday of May. Anyone who is a member of the church in grades 6 - 8 may attend the youth group.

Schedule for May:

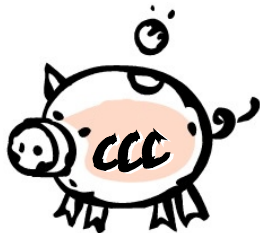
May 10th: Youth group meeting continue to work on car models and sew critter pillows. Discuss "Our Father" and family relationships.

May 20th: The group will go on a bike ride after the church service. The course will begin at the church parking lot, continue to the Church in the Wildwood for a bagged lunch. After the course will travel up Prock Hill, turn onto to McClave Rd to Cobb City Rd. Follow Beech Hill to Sandy Brook, turn back onto Route 183, and conclude at the church parking lot.

May 24th: Youth group meeting- Discuss "Hallowed be thy Name". Enjoy board games

If you have any questions about the youth group, please feel free to call Tammy Johnson at 379 - 8366. Also, any parent or adult who would like to attend the bike ride on May 20th please call Tammy Johnson.

Williams, Rowan.
Reflections on the Lord's Prayer.
bbc.co.uk, July 20, 2005
(Accessed March 20, 2007).

TREASURER'S CORNER

February - Results

Income

Pledge and Plate -	\$2030.50
Interest and Dividends (from Permanent Fund)	\$2,468.15
Institutional Gifts	\$ 626.32
Fundraising	\$ 0.00
Total Income	\$ 5,124.97

Expenses -	\$ 7,451.7
Income Less Expenses	(\$ 2,326.73)

We have also received a bequest from the Estate of Harry Pinkham for **\$6,788.36**. The Church committee has agreed to allocate this for Capital expenses.

Pledge total **\$28,870**

Expenses were a bit higher than last month primarily as a result of payment for expenses that were actually incurred during 2006. We estimate that to meet expenses we need to raise approximately **\$6300** per month. We are very fortunate to have the Permanent Fund interest and dividends to help us to meet income goals; however, it is not enough to meet our expenses.

Year-To-Date Totals

Due to the fact that not all interest income from the Permanent Fund was included in the original January totals, the actual year-to-date totals are a bit more encouraging. The totals are presented below

TOTAL INCOME	\$12,832.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$12,929.74)
Operating deficit	(\$97.80)

Alison Jassen, Treasurer

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The choir is now in the process of rehearsing for the Easter Sunday Worship service to provide us again with the traditional festive music for this joyous holiday.

Unfortunately the choir will lose two valuable members due to retirement and relocation to another state in early summer: they are Noel Nilson, Co-Choir Director and his wife, Carolyn, who were serving this congregation for numerous years. In gratitude there will be a farewell brunch for the Nilsons on Sunday, June 3 in Fellowship Hall. More details will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Astrid Tury

Important Dates

April 1: Palm Sunday

April 5: Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM, a Tenebrae and Communion Service Fellowship Hall

April 7: Egg Decorating in Fellowship Hall, 2-4PM for all ages. Bring hard-boiled eggs and creative spirits.

April 8: Easter service at 10:30 AM

April 22: Betsy Ewert preaching

April 30: Newsletter Article deadline

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Postage goes up in May. In an attempt to keep this budget item in control, we would like to send out as many newsletters as possible using email addresses. Many of you are already receiving the newsletter this way. If you are not and would like to save a few trees and a lot of cents, please send your email addresses to Pastor Alice at: revmum645@aol.com Please note "newsletter" in the subject line. Paper copies will always be available for those who do not care to have an electronic newsletter or do not have access to email. Thank you for your help with this matter.



Please visit us at...

www.colebrookchurch.org

The Messenger

April 2007