

The Messenger

February 2008

REFLECTIONS

At our meeting on January 20, we had an opportunity to take a look back at 2007. It was a rewarding and reassuring look. It told us that this is a very viable community of faith that is working on opening its doors into the community around us. As Alison reminded us, "We are not just a church community but a community church." This is what we must set as our goal as we move forward together.



Colebrook Congregational Church

The Friendly Church on the Green

We have some very good beginnings. The Auxiliary has just begun to discover what it can do in supporting the church through fund-raising events and special programs. We are only limited by our imaginations. This group needs more support so that those who feel they are the ones "doing all the work" do not burn out. Opportunities to volunteer for one or several projects are always available. Please consider offering your assistance.

The Sunday school is moving along under the leadership of Linda Farnham and her devoted teachers. New ideas are always coming to the fore and are being implemented. Outreach to the community has grown and is appreciated by the recipients of the baskets the children fill and deliver so lovingly. The Youth Group led by Tammy Johnson is taking off. Tammy has enough energy to match that of the kids. She has discovered the right blend of "church stuff" and fun and is gathering a good group of young people around her. This group is open to ages 6th grade-9th grade.

The Deacons are working to enrich the worship experience. The church has never looked more lovely than during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Do you know how many of the decorations are donated by those who serve as Deacons? This group sponsors the yearly Open House and offers vital support for many church programs.

Building and Grounds has its work cut out for it as it works hard to catch up with maintenance that has been deferred. Joyce Hemingson has led this group for the past several years. The addition of workdays at the church and parsonage has given folks a chance to help out with chores that sometimes go wanting.

The Finance Committee and our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer all work long and hard at their volunteer duties. Sometimes I know Alison Jassen, Sue Coggins, Manuel Cords, Dick Hemingson and Elizabeth Vergo feel overwhelmed. But they go on and take us with them. They depend on all of us to help support the church.

The Music Committee does a fine job in steering the music program. Melanie Johnston keeps the choir tuned up and sounding beautiful. Vima, well, who can say enough about our Vima? We are truly blessed by her presence.

I would go on but I am sure Frank Thompson, our wonderful webmaster, newsletter putter together-er and all-round go-to person with calendar schedules and changes, is sighing right now about the length of this piece. So I will end with one more thought.

Please thank all those who work so hard and so diligently for the church. In those thanks, include yourselves, we are all on this journey together, My Friends, and what a journey it has been and continues to be.

Love and Peace, *Pastor Alice*

CHRISTIAN ED. NOTES

Sunday School is in full swing following the holidays! The teachers have been very busy and extremely enthusiastic, and attendance has been the highest it has been in a long time! The Youth Group has also been very busy with their activities including a trip to Otis last week to get in some Friday night skiing!

The field trip to the Heifer International Farm, Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29th! Look for a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall soon! There is also an opportunity to attend their Pancake Breakfast with a tour of the sugar houses! We have a Kelly Bus secured for this trip and want it filled, so please make sure to sign up for this enriching trip!

Confirmation Class is in full swing. There are six young people in the class. They will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 16.

~ *Linda Farnham*

COMMEMORATIVE FUND

Several newsletters ago the idea of a Commemorative Fund was introduced. Donations to such a fund allow individuals to memorialize loved ones or acknowledge special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. The donations will be used for "special" purchases to enhance our sanctuary and our worship. Donors are acknowledged in the monthly newsletter and in the future will also be acknowledged once a month in the Sunday bulletin. There have been several donations to the Fund already, and soon we hope to have donation forms available in the vestibule.

~ *Susan Coggins*

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL PROGRAM

On Sunday, February 24, at 4 PM Tom Vergo will act as our travel guide for a trip from Vienna to Amsterdam. This promises to be an interesting afternoon program followed by refreshments consisting of regional foods and drinks. Be sure to plan on attending and bring a friend.

NEW HYMNALS

New hymnals, Hymns for a Pilgrim People, have appeared in the church. The Pilgrim Hymnal is being kept and will be used for worship, also. The cost of the hymnals came from a bequest made to the church by Harry Pinkham. Harry and Grace were long-time devoted members of the congregation. The new cloths on the pulpit and the communion table were also made possible by this bequest. Gifts of this type are always gratefully received. If you have not considered making a bequest to CCC in your will, please do so.

BUILDING & GROUNDS**Volunteers Needed for Buildings & Grounds**

Please consider volunteering to help clean at the church. Vacuum cleaners are located in the choir loft, in the closet of the vestibule of the sanctuary, and in the kitchen closet off Fellowship Hall.

Cleaning supplies and instructions are located in the closet off the men's bathroom and there is a notepad on the kitchen bulletin board to write down supplies that should be replenished. A sign up sheet for weekly cleaning is posted in Fellowship Hall--choose any day of the week and bring a friend. It's good exercise, too!

If you would like to help in other ways, such as painting inside during the winter months, talk to a member of the B&G committee or stop by a monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall (on the second Tuesday, at 7pm). Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

~ *Joyce Hemingson*

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On February 3, Super (Souper) Bowl Sunday, it is the tradition in many churches for members to bring a can of soup to be donated to local food pantries. This year CCC is going to join in. The need our pantries have for non-perishable food items is ever-growing, especially in these difficult times. Please bring a can of soup or two on February 3 to be donated to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Winsted. Thank you.

SUPER BOWL

SUB SANDWICH AND BAKE SALE

On February 3 we will be holding our 2nd Annual Sub and Bake Sale. Three types of subs are offered with a variety of toppings. They will be made at the Community Center and can be picked up there following church (11:30AM). There will also be a variety of baked goods for sale to satisfy any sweet tooth. Please plan on ordering your sub by January 30. An order form can be found on our website or call Linda Farnham-379-9308. Proceeds will go toward Fellowship Hall Improvements.



3.

TREASURER'S CORNER

January to December 2007
Net Balance - \$9679

The above figure does not include the bequest we received from the Estate of Harry Pinkham totaling \$6788.

As we examine our financial picture for 2007, we need to thank many people. Our newly formed Auxiliary raised \$6000 last year. The Matching Gift campaign was extremely successful. We, of course, must thank our generous benefactors. Their generosity provided the incentive that encouraged an increased level of giving. One of the most creative ways in which people made donations was demonstrated when a member performed a service or supplied merchandise to another individual and asked that instead of repayment, a donation be made to the Church.

Other factors in our success include the donation made by the Colebrook Women's Fellowship for more than \$3600 and interest income that exceeded our expectations. We also received a donation from the Ross Foundation for \$3000 that has been allocated to partitioning for Sunday school and new flooring for Fellowship Hall.

We must now turn our attention to 2008. I am optimistic that we will be able to carry our enthusiasm into the New Year. We expect that our expenses will increase and there are a number of repairs that must be made to the parsonage. If you have not done so, please consider returning your Estimated Annual Donation card. If you have misplaced your card, another is available at the church.

~ *Alison Jassen*



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