

***THE MESSENGER***

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, UCC; 301 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, NH 03275-3234

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## Growing a Garden of Faith – II

What a delight it was to worship at the Outdoor Chapel on July 25<sup>th</sup>! Over 75 were present to worship, relish in the beauty of God's creation, and hear special music by

Connor Chown, Ed Kruczynski, and Mircea Geana (music teacher at Pembroke Hill School). We felt "tucked in" by the fences of the chapel, bounded and bonded as the people of God, gathered for praise and prayer, re-created for new life and service in Jesus' name. The gardening theme for the day was fences and arbors, so being at the fenced-in chapel added to our appreciation of boundaries and stakes and trellises to guide our faith development. Weather permitting, we will worship outdoors again on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Keri Wyatt Kent, in her book *The Garden of the Soul* which is guiding my sermon series, remarks: "In order to really examine our souls, to listen to what God is telling us, to be able to bask in his love and forgiveness, we are going to have to get quiet. We are going to need to go to the garden alone. Transformation begins to happen when I set boundaries in my life that create some sacred space, when I enter into solitude and find God there." Now, in these waning summer August days, carve out some time for solitude and bask in the love of God. (Trust me, it is easier to do this now than next month, when the pressures and routines of the school/program year are upon us). Establishing some quiet time for God (although you will really discover it is quiet time for YOU, and a true gift from God) however brief, will be the equivalent of

weeding, watering, pruning, fertilizing a garden, in short, quiet time will grow the garden of your soul and reap life rewards you can't begin to imagine!

Faith grows when nurtured; it wilts when ignored; it dies from neglect. One of our hymns says it well: "Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word... Take time to be holy; the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone... Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above."

So, do join us as we continue to grow a garden of faith! Remaining topics, along with special events are:

August 1 – Stewarding (caretaking what is entrusted to us), Communion

August 8 – Weeding, Baptism of Cole Landry (son of Jillian and Mark)

August 15 – Pruning (need for hard work and diligence)  
Joyful Blend in worship and concert at 4 p.m.

August 22 – Patience (importance of timing, nature's schedule)  
Stacy Weigler, guest soloist

August 29 - [Outdoor Chapel Worship] Reaping.

September 5 - [Communion]  
Lessons from the Garden  
(conclusion)

Happy Gardening, Growth, Solitude and Summer Re-creation,



**Join Us For Worship  
at the Outdoor Chapel**  
*weather permitting*  
**August 29<sup>th</sup>**

To our knowledge no one has reported that their talents have gone missing, so continue to use what God has given you.

**USHERS FOR AUGUST ...**

- 1 – Peter, Sharon & Eric Chase and Rick Hochsprung
- 8 - Lynn Matava and Alan & Anna Gibbs
- 15 - Kurt & Jodi Ehler and Don & Laurie Hill
- 22 –Eric & Judy Pearson and Floyd & Dot Smith
- 29 - Randy Shuey, Dean Hopps, Helen Chapman and Marc Herring

**If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.**



**COFFEE HOUR ...**



During the month of August, the Deacons have the responsibility to supply refreshments. Join us after the worship service!

**SUNDAY FLOWERS ...**



As always, donations of flowers are welcomed for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the Flower Sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee member know. Please contact Robbe MacKenzie 485-7295 (**August**), Doris Rowden 485-3664 (September) and Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (October).

**JUST FOR LAUGHS ...**



*Plane Programming*

At a recent computer software engineering course, the participants were given an awkward question to answer: “If you had just boarded an airliner and discovered that your team of programmers had been responsible for the flight control software, how many of you would disembark immediately?” Among the ensuing forest of hands only one man sat motionless. When asked what he would do, he replied “that he would be quite content to stay aboard. With his team’s software,” he said, “the plane was unlikely to even taxi as far as the runway, let alone take off”.

**STEWARDSHIP ...**

Last year, we embarked on a unique opportunity where the members of the church were given talents (money) and were then told to use what has been given.

## WORLD SERVICE ...



THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **CROP WALK FOR HUNGER**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, **September 25**, 2010 (sign-in/rally at noon, walk @1pm); **Place:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 90 Clinton St., Concord, NH **Sponsored by:** The Greater Concord Interfaith Council. Help fight hunger by walking yourself or sponsoring someone else. You can help make a difference! Last year participants in Concord raised nearly \$19,000 – let's all pitch in and make it even more this year! For more information on the walk, please **contact Pat Hill 485-4740**.

Start accumulating your change! We will be participating in the *Neighbors in Need* collection in October and November.

The **Interfaith Food Pantry** is open on **Wednesdays** from **1-3pm** and **5:30-6:30pm**.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ...

Summer Sunday School is going great guns so far! We're focusing on Mission work. The kids have launched a canned food drive—it's a Brown Bag Summer! Bring in a bag full of canned and boxed non-perishable food each Sunday. Bring it right into Church, because during the service the brown bag collection "van" will "drive" around to collect the cans. The kids' goal is to cover the altar with food! If you haven't already, pick up a bag custom-decorated by one of our kids.

Sunday School will meet every Sunday except Labor Day. We have great things planned, so don't miss it. Bring a friend!

The CE committee will be hosting Teacher Orientation Workshops in August. Returning teachers, new teachers, anyone interested in teaching Sunday school in our Rotation Workshop Model is strongly encouraged to attend the one hour workshop. What is the big spiritual picture of Sunday school? What is expected of me as a teacher? What are the resources available to me? How do I engage kids effectively? These questions and more will be answered. We'll also have a Q&A session.

You have two opportunities to attend this workshop: either Sunday, 8/29 from 11:30am-12:30pm or Wednesday, 9/1 from 6:30-7:30pm. Both will be held at the church. Peter will be telling can jokes at both sessions.

Have a blessed remainder of your summer!

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ... LAST CALL

The **August 10<sup>th</sup>** date has many appointment times available in the afternoon, and only 1 or 2 left for the evening. Sign up now to arrange a time for your family's portrait! Sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall at the Olan Mill's table.

## EARLY DEADLINE ...

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **September Messenger** will be moved up to **August 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please have your submission in the church office no later than that.

## ADDRESS CHANGES ...



If you are planning to move, kindly drop a note to or e-mail the church office or call 485-9639, so that your *Messenger* will go to the correct address. Thanks!

## CALLING ALL WOMEN!

Do you ever feel like your life is just constant running around, waiting on other people? Do you hardly feel like you have time to breathe? The **Camp Berea Women's Retreat** is being held on **September 24-26** and Judy and Jodi will be attending again this year and would love to bring a bunch of people with them. This is a quiet, peaceful weekend with time to relax, breathe and connect with God in an absolutely beautiful place. We would love to have you join us! Please see Judy Pearson or call 210-1687 if you are interested in attending.

## THE DEACONS ...

The Church Picnic was held on June 27 at Bear Brook State Park. It was a great day of fun and fellowship and a good time was had by all. Keep cool and have a great summer! Remember that worship is every Sunday at 10 AM see you there!



## JOYFUL BLEND AUGUST 15, 2010

Joyful Blend, an 8 person vocal ensemble will perform "A Tribute to Broadway" in the church sanctuary at 4pm on August 15, 2010. The show features many of your favorite Broadway tunes and some Broadway trivia too!

The show is about an hour long and proceeds to **benefit the Work Camp mission trip.**

Tickets are available from work campers and at the church office and cost \$10 each. Please plan to have you, your family and friends join us for a fun afternoon of music! Proceeds to benefit the work camp this year. Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall.