

The Clapper

God
is still
speaking,

SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
Pastor: The Rev. Brad Hirst

February 2012
www.2ccucc.org
(207)439-3903



Kittery-Eliot
Clergy Association

Ash Wednesday Service
February 22, 7:00 PM

Once again, the churches of the Kittery-Eliot Clergy Association will host a series of Wednesday evening Lenten worship services at 7:00 PM. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 22) here at Second Christain. Rev. Deb Shipp of the Eliot Methodist Church will be preaching that evening.

Fat Tuesday
Pancake Supper
February 21, 6:00 PM



Join us on February 21, at 6:00 PM as we celebrate the proverbial "last fling" before the more sedate days of Lent begin. It will be a pancake extravaganza! Please join us prepared to gorge on pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, and all the fixings as we prepare ourselves for our Lenten fast.

Unbinding Your Heart
40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing



Unbinding Your Heart (UYH) is a six week, 40 day, all-church study of prayer and faith sharing. We know that many of you have

already signed up to be a part of a group, but we really want everyone to know that **ALL** are welcomed and encouraged to join us on this journey. No experience necessary!

UYH is designed to enrich the life of our church community, to help each one of us grow our faith through face-to-face encounters with God, and help us learn together how to talk about our faith. Some of us are very comfortable sharing our faith and throughout the six weeks we will be learning from each other how rewarding this can be. For others, faith sharing is an intimidating prospect: "We just don't do that!" But it's really just that we never *learned how* to do that, or the fact that it's *vitaly important* in order to grow in faith and change the world. And that's precisely what we are to do as children of God and followers of Christ!

There are three main goals of *UYH*: To discover the role of *prayer* in developing a closer relationship with God; to teach us how to *share* our faith while increasing our comfort to share; and to provide opportunities to *practice* prayer and faith sharing as a means of spiritual growth and development.

The week of February 26, we will all begin reading *Unbinding Your Heart*. Our small groups will start meeting that week, led by a Small Group Leader, to discuss the chapters and learn and grow together. The book has 40 days of individual daily prayer exercises coordinated with each chapter and a personal prayer journal for us to use to help us grow spiritually. Each Sunday, worship will build on the work we do during the week. Our journey will conclude in worship on Easter Sunday and we'll celebrate with a special meal after worship on April 22.

This promises to be a **transformational time** in our life together. Won't *you* join us? Sign-up sheets and book bags are in the Vestry. And hurry, groups are filling up fast!



Dear Friends,

If you're like me, you get many solicitations in the mail for your money. Many worthy causes vie for our support. Recently I received mail from the American Cancer Society, the Red Cross, Fair Tide, and The Boston Project. These are organizations of which I have firsthand knowledge about what they do. I also believe in their work, and trust that they will spend my money wisely. But I also receive mail from other organizations which may well be worthy of my support, but I have less knowledge of what they do, and the letter often ends up unopened and recycled. What we know is critical when we decide how to spend our money.

So I want to tell you about Our Church's Wider Mission – OCWM. This is that line on our Faith Promise cards and offering envelopes that many of us leave blank. But our contributions to OCWM support the ministries of the United Church of Christ beyond the walls at 33 Government St., supporting the work of our wider church here in Maine, throughout the US, and around the world. What, you might ask, happens out there that merits my support? A fair question.

Our OCWM contributions are an important source of support for our Maine Conference. Maine Conference staff supports association committees that provide support and oversight to our local churches and clergy, offer vital assistance to local churches searching for a new pastor, and provide training and support to our congregations in the areas of stewardship and finance, leadership development, and continuing education. Our gifts also help keep our beloved Pilgrim Lodge the valuable outdoor ministry setting that it is today.

The national setting of the UCC in Cleveland also works to support the life and work of the local church and its members. Along with its administrative functions managing pensions, health insurance, and search and call for pastors and churches, OCWM helps the national church to strengthen our relationships with other denominations, support our missionaries around the world, and work to create a better world through ministries of justice making and peace building. OCWM is how we participate in the work to which our Stillspeaking God calls us every day.

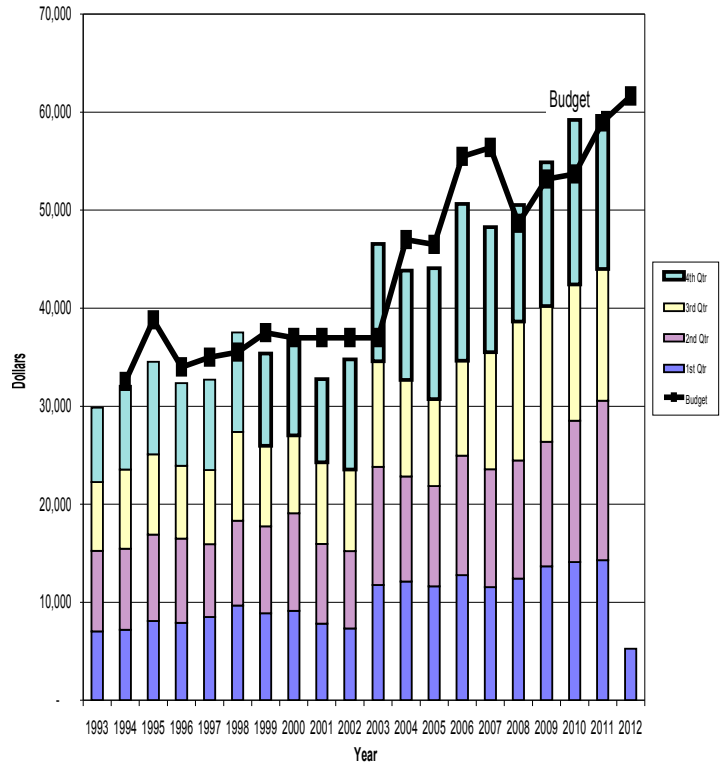
Our Church's Wider Mission: It's who we are. It's a worthy cause, worthy of your support. How much should you give? I might suggest a *tithe* – 10% of what you give to the church. But please join me in giving something to support the ministries of our wider church. It only works when we do it together!

See you in (the wider) church, Brad

From the Treasurer:

The black line at the top of the chart represents the yearly target to meet budget. The vertical bars represent the actual offerings received each year. (as of January 1, 2001 – January 22, 2012)

General Fund Offering and Plate Collection Through 1/22/12



2011 IRS Church Giving Receipts

If you have not received a receipt for your 2011 church giving to be used for IRS purposes, please contact Pam Cooper or Joy Leclair.

Offering Plate Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that if you do not use designated numbered offering envelopes, please write your name on the pew envelope if you would like your cash donation credited to your giving statement. This also holds true for special offerings as well. If you normally write a check, that information will automatically be credited to your name. Thanks!

Attention Snowbirds & Friends!

If you would like to receive a copy of the 2011 Annual Report, please contact the church office.

Quarterly Meeting Highlights – January 22

The following are highlights from the January Quarterly Meeting, if you would like to read the full transcript please contact the church office.

Finance Report: We had several large expenses this past year. They were the new heating system and the heating oil pre-buy. Money was transferred for the Bradbury-Knight and Gerry Funds to cover the costs. These funds will be paid back. We have tightened our belts in the past year and are in good financial shape. It was suggested that when a church member purchases anything at Staples, we should give the church's phone number, as we get rewards credit that are used to purchase office supplies. Also we should bring our used ink cartridges to the church and put them in the box, as we get credit for them towards new supplies. We need to plan ahead for maintenance and repairs.

Trustee Report: Programmable thermostats are installed. Heating system is installed and working. Thanks were extended to Robert McDonough for all of his expertise and time in designing and overseeing the installation of the heating system. His work on the project saved the church at least 30% in costs.

Turnaround Team: The team meets Thursdays and is working with Paul Nickerson. The church, as a whole, will be taking a Faith Journey with *Unbinding Your Heart* during Lent beginning Feb. 26.

Evergreen Festival: We did the best ever. It was a great success and everyone was thanked for their hard work and effort. It was suggested that a monthly craft day be held to work on projects for the fair.

New Business: Pam Cooper and Larry Hansberry presented the 2012 budget. Budget voted for as presented. Annual Report accepted as presented.

The position of Vice President is still open.

We need to have a Capital Campaign to support the improvements that need to be done to the building.

Fundraising ideas, such as raffles, concerts, restaurant dinners and jazz concert combo were mentioned.

Team Reports:

Stewardship: Tom expressed thanks for the pledges and continued support for our church.

Welcoming: Gift bags for visitors are being well received.

Learning: Bible Study is in recess.

Diaconate: They are continuing to work with Pastor Brad on worship.

Going Out: Laurie referenced her report on page 7 in the Annual Report. We will again be doing the AMIGOS buckets.

Trustee: Ernie Referenced his report on page 6 in the Annual Report. With the support of many helpers, the building is kept neat and clean. The floors were stripped and waxed by John's Floor Cleaning Service. We need to schedule another workday.

Prayer Team: Pam spoke on the need to keep friends and church members in our prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe

Wednesday Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services, 7:00 PM

Feb. 22	Second Christian UCC, Kittery Rev. Deb Shipp, preaching
Feb. 29	First Congregational, Kittery Point Fr. John Skehan, preaching
March 7	First Congregational, Eliot Rev. Jeff Gallagher, preaching
March 14	St. Raphael's, Kittery Pastor Bill Humphrey, preaching
March 21	St. Mark's UMC, Kittery Rev. Brad Hirst, preaching
March 28	Eliot UMC, Eliot Rev. Chris Lanzara, preaching
April 6	First Congregational, Eliot Good Friday Drama

Work Day Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 AM

Please join us on Saturday, February 11 for some good clean fun! There are plenty of projects and with the support of many helpers we can get them completed!

Diaconate Meeting Highlights – January 10

Unfinished Business

Congregational Care Group: Edie hosted an event in December. Eight in attendance.

Communion Schedule: Feb 19, next Communion

Unbinding Your Heart: Feb 26th is the first Sunday of Lent. This will be the start of the all church event. The Turnaround Team is starting to look at how the small groups will be gathered.

Child Care/Nursery Space: Discussed moving large table out of space, and ESL moving upstairs. Should we check into local high schools or Head Start for paid nursery care person?

Honoring Longtime Members: May 20 with a special Coffee Tyme. The Church's 169th birthday is May 25.

Jazz Concert: Nash has not followed up to his availability as of yet.

Christmas/Epiphany: Great feedback and fun was had by all.

New Business

Visitations: How can we better facilitate visitations?

Seminary Donations: Traditionally monies from the Rogers Fund, with a balance of \$35,000+, has been used to support the church's donations to Bangor and Andover Newton theological seminaries. Pam Cooper is requesting \$500 from the Rogers Fund to each school. Voted.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: Bill Baran motioned to move \$500 from the Rogers Fund to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Voted.

Upcoming Date: Feb. 5 Souper Bowl Sunday

Lucille to contact Town Hall to reserve Fort Foster.

Pastor's Report

Brad is inviting, encouraging and asking for support for Unbinding Your Heart. Brad is looking to have Feb 7 – 13 off, not being in the pulpit on the 12th. Patty will be pulpit supply.

Next Meeting February 12, following worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Higgins

Prayer Requests

We have a Prayer Team in place that is waiting to take your requests. This devoted group is committed to praying for our church, community and YOU every day. We are already on day #11 and can feel the Spirit moving among us! Please feel free to send your prayer requests to Pam Cooper at Pam@2CCUCC.org or call her at 603-380-1070 and she will get your request to the prayer team. If you would like your request to be confidential, you can use initials or leave off your name.

Soon you will also see Prayer Request Cards in the pews that you can fill out, too.

Book Suggestions from the Prayer Team

The Prayer Team is reading some uplifting books to inspire us in our daily prayers. Check these out at your local library or online:

The Bible - pick your favorite version and order (chronological, beginning to end, etc.) You can read the whole Bible online in one year at E-Word Today.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People, Harold Kushner

Have a Little Faith, Mitch Albom

For One More Day, Mitch Albom

Beginner's Grace, Kate Braestrup

Still Speaking Daily Devotional sign up for emails on the UCC Website at Feed Your Spirit or like United Church of Christ on Facebook.

Prospective New Members Gathering on Feb. 19 Reception of New Members Sunday, February 26



Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ, and explore what membership is all about? If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak to Pastor Brad or any of our Deacons, and join us for an informational session on Sunday, February 19, following worship.

Join us on Sunday, February 26, as we welcome new members to Second Christian Congregational United Church of Christ.



Making an Impact on Hunger in America

In the Tackle Hunger Challenge of 2011, the Souper Bowl of Caring scored a huge victory for hunger-relief charities and people in need, while showing the nation that in the fight against hunger and poverty, every dollar counts. More than 11,000 groups participated in 2011, including us here at Second Christian. The total collection reported nationally was \$9.2 million. It's a thrill to know that our congregation was part of that bigger movement.

Last year our Souper Bowl of Caring collected \$169.22 for Footprints Food Pantry, the highest total in the last five years. Lets see if we can do even better this year! Following worship on February 5, please put your monetary donations in the soup pot, so together we can make a difference!

Super Bowl Subs Are Back!



In addition to fighting hunger through the Souper Bowl of Caring, we will also be raising money through the proceeds from our annual Super Bowl Subs sale. Order forms are available in the vestry or by calling the church office. Once again we will be making our famous ham, salami, turkey, veggie, and deluxe subs! Subs cost \$7.00 each and include soda, chips and a brownie. For more information or to volunteer to help, please speak to Tom Baran.

Kittery Coffee House

Join us for an evening of live bluegrass, country, folk, and rock music on Saturday, February 11, 6:30-9:30 PM.

Proceeds to benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in need. In order to help defray costs for refreshments, donations of finger foods and desserts would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Kathy Runey or Patty Higgins for more information.

Footprints Food Pantry



In 2011 Footprints Food Pantry found that more people needed assistance than in 2010 with 1644 people needing a helping hand with 1472 more bags of groceries. We all hope that 2012 will see an improvement in the economy. However, in the meantime they could still use your help. Please remember your monthly donation to Footprints on February 12.

In addition to food, they could use cleaning supplies and paper products, including dish detergent, cleaners, bar soap, tissues, paper towels, and diapers. They also need food that help to make meals last longer such as Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper; and rice, potato and pasta side dishes.

Going Out

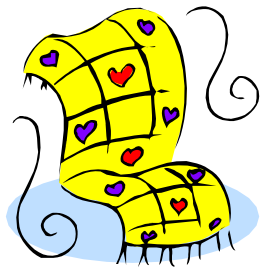
Table of Plenty: Our January date of the 26 was changed to the 19, due to a glitch in another team's schedule. I'd like to thank all the team members who, on short notice were able to swap dates and help us prepare and serve the meal on Thursday, January 19. Upcoming dates to cook and serve are Thursday, March 15 and Thursday, May 3. We usually serve a very tasty shepherd's pie and salad. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Laurie Rowan, if you'd like to join us.

Caps for Newborns: As announced last month, Save the Children has suspended their "Knit One, Save One" program, but we've found other places here that could use caps for newborns. I've delivered some adorable hats and a sweater to New Generation in Greenland. Thank you to Mildred Leland and an anonymous crocheter for the caps and sweater that will keep several little ones warm this winter.

Carewear.org has addresses of several hospitals in the United States that will accept handmade items for babies.

Aggieman Triathlon Saturday, June 30th

Mark your calendars for the annual running of the Aggieman Triathlon – Saturday, June 30! Special thanks to Ed Harvey who will once again be the Race Director, and Ernie Wiswell our coordinator for the church.



Project Linus Saturday, March 3, 9-3

Mark your calendars for the return of Project Linus! On March 3, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM we will be gathering to make blankets for children

who need love, a sense of security, and warmth. Some of the children who receive blankets are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of the gift of a new handmade blanket lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

Cotton kits will be provided and all you need to do is show up with sharp scissors.

Items you can bring that are helpful include:

- Rotary cutters
- Sewing machine
- Cutting board
- Cotton material
- 1 ½ yards of fleece
- 1 ½ yards of fleece (solid for backing)

Additional information will be available as the date approaches. In the meantime, please contact Denise Dodge Baran (neccyne@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS:

There has been some discussion about having a monthly gathering to work on projects for next year's Evergreen Festival. We have a lot of talented crafters in this church and I am sure we can come up with some great crafts for next year's fair. It would be an awesome opportunity to work on projects, learn some new skills, and enjoy the fellowship of some truly wonderful people.



If interested, please call Valerie Brock (207-703-0321 ykb2020@comcast.net) or Cheryl Beckert (207-439-8660) and let us know what times would be most convenient and we'll come up with a schedule.

Something to think about...

Live in Such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you.
Maine ACE

A Note of Appreciation...

To My Church Family,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a big "Thank You" to all who sent me Christmas cards. They were very much appreciated. I would have like to have responded in kind but, unfortunately, it seemed like too much for me to do this year.

I also very much appreciate the group that came to sing Christmas Carols. They gave joy to not only me, but also to everyone in the building where I live. Their visit was doubly nice in that it also gave me a chance to say hello to choir members that I have sung with in the past but may not have seen recently.

I have email so I get the church newsletters and I'm fortunate to have Larry and Elaine, and Wilma to keep me informed on what is going on. They are a blessing.

The church has been a part of my life since early childhood, and God has been very good to me. For that I am extremely grateful.

Thank you again, one and all.

Mildred Leland

Second Sunday Jazz Musician of the Month Herbie Hancock

Herbert Jeffrey "Herbie" Hancock (b. April 12, 1940) is an American pianist, keyboardist, bandleader and composer. He was one of the first jazz musicians to embrace music synthesizers and funk music. Hancock's music is often melodic and accessible; he has had many songs "cross over" and achieved success among pop audiences.

Herbie Hancock is a true icon of modern music. With an illustrious career spanning five decades and 12 Grammy Awards including the 2007 Album Of The Year for *River: The Joni Letters*.

Please join us for worship on February 12, when our Second Sunday Jazz Trio will feature the music of Herbie Hancock.



Reminder: FOOD FOR FOOTPRINTS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (February 12th)

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Elaine Hansberry

ALTERNATE: Ernie Wiswell

February Ushers:

05 Sharon & Ernie Wiswell
 12 Kathy & Tim Runey
 19 Wanda Syphers & Rob McDonough
 26 Jean & Mike Badger

February Greeters:

05 The Runey Family
 12 Nita Mitchell
 19 Nadine & Charlie Donnell
 26 Wanda Syphers

February Liturgists:

05 Elaine Hansberry
 12 Lezlye Shea
 19 Laurie Rowan
 26 Pam Cooper

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Kathy Bales	Molly Banville	Bill & Betty Baran	Gini Barron	Carl Burbank
Jim Cole	Carolyn Consaga	Pete Contella	Sandi Folmar	Mary Heal
Guy LaClair	Margaret Launer	Sam Legasse	Susie Legasse	Mildred Leland
Anna Lesswing	Laureene McQuade	Howard Moulton	Kim Polak	Priscilla Reuter
Gregory Sanborn	Lezlye Shea	Rosella Spears	Ian Stewart	

If you are aware of anyone who should be added to or taken off our prayer list, please contact the [church office](#).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1 st	Taylor Baran
February 2 nd	Thelma Ferguson
February 7 th	Toni Leonard
February 10 th	Sharon Fecteau
February 13 th	Betty Baran
February 16 th	Sonny Boyd
	Kayleigh Lytle
February 17 th	Cathy Heal
	Kieran Cole
February 21 st	Morgan Dion
February 27 th	Paulette Beers

Lectionary Readings for February

Feb. 5	Isa 40:21-31, Ps 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Cor 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 12	2 Kings 5:1-4, Ps 30, 1 Cor 9:24-27, Mark 1:40-45
Feb. 19	2 Kings 2:1-12, Ps 50:1-6, 2 Cor 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9
Feb. 22	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isa 58:1-12, Ps 51:1-17, 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb. 26	Gen 9:8-17, Ps 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

Don't forget to visit our online calendar [click here](#)

**Second Christian Congregational
 United Church of Christ
 is a God-centered, Christ-formed, Spirit-led
 gathering of God's people.**

Our mission:

To welcome all people
 into our community of faith,
To learn together
 the cost and joy of discipleship,
 and

To go out into the world
 to follow the teachings of
 Jesus Christ,

