

The Clapper

God
is still
speaking,

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

June 2011
www.2ccucc.org
(207)439-3903



Kittery Block Party!

On Saturday, June 18th, from 10-4, the town of Kittery is having a block party, right outside our doors, in our neighborhood. As part of this community we have decided to open our doors and join the party. At the last quarterly meeting of the congregation we voted to have an indoor yard sale and bake sale that day.

So, I am asking you to do a bit of spring cleaning and donate those wonderful gently used items for the yard sale. Bring them to the church, or let me know if you need to have them picked up. I am asking though that there are no electronics. They really don't sell and are hard to dispose of after.

Eddie Niles also volunteered that day to coordinate a bake sale.

So, to make this exciting piece of mission and outreach happen, there are lots of places that you can be involved. Donate to either or both of the sales. Come and help! From set up to clean up, from welcoming to sharing, there is a place for you that day.

Contact either Eddie or myself for more information.

In God's mission,
Patty Higgins

(see page 5 for more info on the KBP!)



June 18, 2011, 10-4



June 25th, 8:00 AM Start Piscataqua River, Eliot to Mt. Agamenticus Summit, York

The 2011 Aggie Man Triathlon is SOLD OUT! But there are still plenty of opportunities for you to volunteer and be part of the action and fun that day. Please contact Ernie Wiswell (439-2668) for more information.



Spread the Love! Strengthen the Church

On Sunday, June 12, we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special offering. Strengthen the Church is the UCC's annual offering to help build our denominational future. Directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and The Stillspeaking Ministry, these gifts help invigorate congregations, foster new leaders and grow the UCC's presence as a community of extravagant welcome.



From the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Over the past few months you may have heard people around Second Christian talking about “Church Turnaround.” You've heard terms like *Germination team*, *Unbinding group*, *prayer team*, *mission field*, and even *freeing up 20% of the pastor's time for networking*. Sound like crazy talk? Well, it has evolved from my sabbatical work of two summers ago in which I focused my reading and study on the area of church renewal. The bottom line of my journey reminded me (again) that we need to “do Church” differently in 2011 than we did before – constantly reinventing ourselves into God's vision for our church. And this is the start of all that.

Anthony Robinson has written a little brochure, which you may have seen displayed around the church, which is titled *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Churches* (on the flip side he gives us *The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches*). Here are his first four:

1. **Strive for excellence in service to Christ.** Effective churches are churches where people enjoy what they're doing and do it well. Give God your best whether in care of the grounds, the food you prepare for [Table of Plenty], or the hymns and anthems you sing in worship.
2. **Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation.** Make “The Seven Last Words of the Church,” i.e. “We've never done it that way before,” a distant memory. Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.
3. **Take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community beyond your congregation.** Refuse to be isolated. Take to the streets, the coffee shops, the library and parks of your community. Be curious about what's going on. Get involved in community events. Meet people. Introduce yourself as a member of the church. Invite people to “come and see.”
4. **Accept responsibility for mistakes, learn from them, and in all things, let grace abound.** Christians aren't perfect; they are forgiven. So making mistakes is not the worst thing that can happen. Besides, we often learn the most from our failures. In the end, and in the beginning, it's about God's grace, not our achievements. Cut other's some slack. While your at it, cut yourself some too.

How do you think we are doing on these? I think we are doing pretty well, but there's always room for improvement. Are you giving God your very best? Have you had a really spectacular failure lately? Are you out

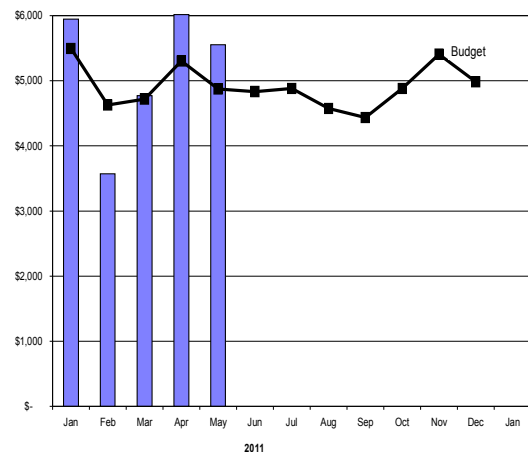
in the community as a 2CCUCC-er? Do you own your mistakes, and forgive? It's all about being intentional, and developing the habit of excellence. We'll look at the last three in next month's *Clapper*, but if you just can't wait, you'll find copies in the vestry.

Blessings,

Brad

From the Treasurer:

General Fund Offering and Plate Collection
Through 5/22/2011



The black line at the top of the chart represents the monthly target to meet budget. The vertical bars represent the actual offerings received each month, as of May 31.

SUMMER SCHOOL at

Financial *Peace University*

This class is for you if:

- Your credit cards ARE your emergency fund
- You want to know what God says about money
- You have to sell your house to put your kids through college
- Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds are friends you haven't met yet

Come to a free preview class on June 22nd at 6:30PM and decide if you could use some continuing education. In each two-hour weekly session, we will watch an entertaining DVD lesson presented by radio show personality and best-selling author, Dave Ramsey, and then engage in an active small-group discussion. The fee for the 13-week class is \$99 per couple which includes a life-time membership in Financial Peace University and all class materials.

For the cost of a month's worth of pizza and sodas, this class could change your life.

Call Pam Cooper with questions at 603-380-1070, or go online to [Financial Peace University](http://FinancialPeaceUniversity.com).

Quarterly Meeting Highlights – May 1, 2011

Finance Report: Pam stated that the giving in April is the best ever for a four Sunday month, only superseded by a December with six Sundays.

Unfinished Business

Aggieman Triathlon: Progressing very well. There is still an opening for someone at the top of the mountain to coordinate the food. The parking issue at the foot of the mountain is still being addressed.

Church Turnaround: There are four teams developing: Prayer Team – praying on the process. Research Team – Where should we focus for membership? Strategy Team – How does this work. Hospitality Team – Welcoming in those new people.

Fundraising: Another brown bag auction mentioned, perhaps we do that at the Fort Foster worship, July 10? What of another BBQ challenge? Patty Higgins, Linda Baran and Edith Morgan to head that up Kittery Block Party yard sale. Edie Niles to head the bake table. June 11 is the last Coffee House of the season, with the proceeds going to the church budget.

New Business

Nominating Team: Please pray about serving on the Council. Pam brought it to the attention that the Scribe's position is a legal position with the state. The Welcoming Liaison position is also open, and with the revitalization going on this is an important place to fill.

Delegates to Maine Conference: There are two lay leaders and one youth place open. Patty accepted the position of lay delegate.

Heating System: The system is still working, but needs to be addressed. Bill Baran made the motion to replace the heating system and asbestos removal post haste. Malcolm Heal seconded the motion. Friendly amendment by Brad to have the Finance Team and the Treasurer look at the invested funds to find the appropriate place and fund to withdraw the funds. As the motion has already passed to replace the system, this motion is to authorize the funding by loaning ourselves the money. Voted. The on demand hot water heaters can be installed at any time.

Parking Lot Issues: Our parking lot is the most popular place at this time. We have given Tulsi permission to occupy six places after 5:00 PM. Aneka Jenks, the tenant house and the grange have asked for some spaces. The current monthly parking fee is \$30 per month. Voted to have Finance Committee look at local rates and come back to the congregation with cost. Brad has suggested as part of the capital campaign to have the parking lot paved and striped. Discussed the two

handicapped spaces in front of the church. Is someone willing to help park cars on a Sunday morning? Voted to replace the handicapped sign in front of the church.

Hackmatack Playhouse: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (July 8-20) OR Singing in the Rain (Aug. 8-13) to be determined.

Lenten Journey: Edie Niles thanked Brad for a wonderful Lenten Journey and Holy Week here at church.

Ministry Team Updates:

Welcoming: Request for another Family Game Night.

Learning: Sunday school is small but vibrant. Bible Study is the Book of Acts. Look for more information on a jump start

Communications: Please help direct information to where it needs to be.

Deacons: The sheep are out.

Trustee: Ernie thanked everyone for helping with the cleaning. The floors looked great after the stripping and waxing.

Going Out: Church World Service kits, AMIGOS, and Linus Project blankets are set to go.

Stewardship: Mike finds it rewarding and encourages all to prayerfully consider serving on the council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Higgins
Scribe, pro tem



The Nominating Team Needs You!

The July Quarterly Meeting will mark the start of a new term for our Leadership Team, and the Nominating Team is hard at work filling out the slate of nominees. If you would like to serve, please contact Mike Badger (439-8732).

Don't forget to wear **RED** on
Pentecost Sunday!
June 12th



The Liturgical color of Pentecost is red symbolizing the Holy Spirit, which in the form of "tongues of fire" rested upon the disciples and empowered them to preach, teach and heal!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Deacons Meeting Highlights – May 10

Unfinished Business

Unbinding the Gospel: Pam Cooper will convene a Noon meeting group involving a ten week commitment. The Turn Around Team, meeting tomorrow at 6 PM with Paul Nickerson.

Sheep: Will contact the last flockee about next pasture.

Congregational Care Groups: To begin meeting with pastor. Nadine to coordinate time.

New Business

Visitations: Discussed those in need of visits.

Nursery: Paisley Heal is providing nursery care.

Upcoming Dates

Aggieman Triathlon June 25. Registration is full. Need help for luncheon.

Fort Foster Worship July 10. Portable sound system will be available.

Kittery Block Party June 18. Church open for crafts, flowers, and baked good tables.

ME Conference Annual Meeting June 24-26. Pastor Brad to attend. Bill Baran to preach.

Pastor's Report

Brad will be away May 18-23 to attend memorial service in Iowa for a close friend. The York Association of the UCC has asked Brad to fill the vacancy of Vice Moderator. Acceptance includes commitment to Moderator for two years. Brad encouraged to accept.

Edie brought up the Good Friday service, noting that it seemed more celebratory than in the past. Overall Lenten series was most meaningful and inspirational.

Next meeting June 14 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully and lovingly submitted, Bill Baran, Scribe

Doorkeepers Dinner June 2, at Fogarty's

The Doorkeepers cordially invite all ladies in our church and guests to join us for dinner at Fogarty's in South Berwick on Thursday, June 2.

We will plan to meet at the church at 5:00 PM to carpool or you can meet us at Fogarty's at 5:30.

There is a sign up sheet available in the vestry so we can have idea of who will be attending. If you have any questions, please speak to Linda Baran.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Ps. 84:10

Going Out Ministry News

Church World Service Kits

Our thirty-two school kits and nine hygiene kits were dropped off at Woodford's Congregational Church, the collection point for the state of Maine, on Thursday, May 5. From there they are transported to the warehouse in Maryland, from which they will be sent to refugees and victims of natural disasters. Many thanks to all who participated.

We have ten handmade baby blankets for baby kits. All we need are the remaining items to complete the kits for next spring. If you're interested in supplying some of these items, please see Laurie Rowan for a list.

More Linus Project Blankets Needed

The York County Director for The Linus Project has asked that a request for additional blankets be issued. There has been a great demand this spring and the blankets are running low.

Ro Curtis has a couple made since our Sewing Bee and plans to deliver them in the next month or so. She would be more than happy to bring up any others from the congregation with her. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Ro.

Hilda Fife Scholarship Applications

Hilda Fife Scholarship applications will be available June 1, 2011 in the church office and from Scholarship committee members, Jean Briggs Badger, Judy Jumper, Edie Niles and Laurie Rowan. Completed applications are due back September 1, 2011.

AARP Driver Safety Program

A reminder if you registered to attend the AARP driver safety classroom course on June 8, please bring to class that day your valid driver's license and your AARP membership card, as well as a check made payable to AARP for the correct amount (\$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers).

We are also asking participants to bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee, beverages, and desserts will be provided. Also, because parking is limited we ask that you carpool if possible. For further information please call Gini Barron at 439-1678.



For a complete schedule of the day's events go to www.kitteryblockparty.org

Bike & Build

On **Tuesday June 21** we will be hosting overnight the participants of Bike & Build.

Bike & Build organizes cross country bicycles trips which benefit affordable housing groups. This year, approximately 34 riders will be peddling from Portland, Maine to Santa Barbara, California while stopping along the way to build affordable housing. A portion of the money raised will go to the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity as well as Bike & Build's competitive grant program. We are delighted to be able to host them overnight on the first leg of their journey.

To welcome them, along with our friends from First Congregational Church of Kittery Point we will be hosting a potluck dinner here at 5:30 PM. They will be providing a presentation on Bike & Build at 7:00 PM. And we will serve them breakfast Wednesday morning at 6:00 AM, and then send them on their way. Anyone who would like to help please contact Brad. For more information on their amazing journey, please visit their website at [Bike & Build](#).

*A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren.
~ Proverbs 13:22*

If you would like to include Second Christian Congregational United Church of Christ in your estate planning, please contact the church office for a copy of an Estate Planning Record. Or speak to our Treasurer, Pam Cooper, for more information.

Church Turnaround

Second Christian Church reminds me of a huge ship sailing in a rough sea of society. The challenge, as we get tossed around by the wind and the waves that batter us, is to stay on course.



The Turnaround Team has been meeting to develop a strategy to revitalize our church and keep us heading in the right direction. With the help of our church turnaround coach, Paul Nickerson, we have identified four navigation tools to keep us on track: Strategy, Research, Prayer, and Hospitality. We are forming teams to delve into each of these four areas and are looking for input from you to help us chart our course. If you are interested in being on one of these teams, please see Tom Baran, Edith Morgan, Pam Cooper, Mike Badger, Nadine Donnell or Pastor Brad.

Although it is reassuring to have a plan and know where we want to go, the bottom line is that God is in the details. While the captain is charting the course, checking provisions, and maintaining morale, the real work on a ship is being performed by the crew. Likewise, while the church leaders are strategizing, budgeting and doing what leaders do, God's work is being done by you.

God is interested in small things and is probably not impressed by our grand plans. James 3:3-6 says that large ships are turned by small rudders and a word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything. What do you think the small things are? Perhaps the small rudders that steer our church are the phone calls and visits to the sick. Or the meals served with a warm smile at Table of Plenty. Or the time spent comforting someone who is needy. Or _____ (fill in the blank here with what God is calling you to do, then let the Turnaround Team know what that is and we will work it into the plan.)

**United Church of Christ
General Synod 2011
July 1-5**
ucc.org/synod



The Book of Life...

*We mourn the passing of
Betty Farr
1930-2011*

**Congratulations to our
Graduates!**

We have several young people in our church family who are graduating from high school and college this year. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done!



- ◆ Taylor Baran, son of Tom & Linda Baran, is graduating from Traip Academy and will be attending Colby Sawyer College in the fall.
- ◆ Lindsey Contella, granddaughter of Vick & Bobbie Contella, is graduating from York High School and will be attending Anderson University in South Carolina.
- ◆ Catherine C. Fowles, granddaughter of Dexter Fowles, graduated from Columbia University and Fordham University with a Bachelor of Science degree from each. She is currently the Production Stage Manager for her off-Broadway show "The Boychick Affair," and is Assistant General Manager for St. Luke's Theater also off-Broadway.
- ◆ Paisley Heal, daughter of Malcolm & Cathy Heal, is graduating from Traip Academy and is considering joining Americorps.
- ◆ Nate Hirst, son of Brad & Linda Hirst, graduated from the University of Maine with a BS in Survey Engineering Technology.

On Sunday, June 12 we will be honoring our graduates during the worship service. So that all of us at Second Christian can wish them the best in all of their future endeavors!

A Note of Appreciation...

Just a quick note to thank you for your generous donation toward the Class of 2011's gift of an activity sign. We are very grateful.

Hailey Frisbee, VP
R.W. Traip Academy

**It's Not Too Early to Start Planning
for the Evergreen Festival!**



We know there is a lot of talent out there! We need lots of crafts to sell, so whether you quilt, paint, sew, make jewelry, do woodworking or whatever...Help! Don't hide your talents, make them shine for the church. Now is a great time to start working on those projects. We already have several projects in the making and we have a wish list of items we need. So check your closets, basements and attics for:

Yarn, yarn, and more yarn!
Nylon netting to make dish scrubbers
Please see Melanie Fetterolf

China cups and saucers
We need a few pretty china plates
Please see Valerie Brock or Cheryl Beckert

Do you have a neat old wooden chair, tray, stool or small piece of furniture that could be painted?
See Linda Wentworth or Cheryl Beckert

If you have any crafts to donate or have any questions please contact Melanie, Valerie or Cheryl. Thanks for all your help!

**Kittery Coffee House
June 11, 6:30 – 9:30 PM**

Don't Miss the Final Coffee House of the Season!
An evening of live Blue Grass, Country, Folk and Rock, hosted by Shades of Grass
Suggested Donation of \$5 to benefit 2CCUCC
Donations of refreshments greatly appreciated
See Kathy Runey or Patty Higgins for details

Footprints Food Pantry



On Sunday, June 12, we will be collecting our monthly donations for Footprints Food Pantry.

Staples such as baked beans, Spaghetti'Os, mac & cheese, meals in a cup, healthy children's snacks such as small boxes of raisins, and sides dishes including instant potatoes, pasta and rice are appreciated. Donations of toiletries and cleaning supplies are also welcome.

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

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Nadine Donnell

ALTERNATE: Lucille Melhorn

June Ushers:

05 Mike & Jean Badger
 12 Dick & Judy Jumper
 19 Lucille Melhorn & Wilma Wheeler
 26 Charlie & Nadine Donnell

June Greeters:

05 Valerie Brock
 12 Nita Mitchell
 19 Beryl Hill
 26 Nadine Donnell

June Liturgists:

05 Tom Baran
 12 Kathy Runey
 19 Patty Higgins
 26 Priscilla deRochemont

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Kathy Bales	Molly Banville	Lynda Buckinger	Carl Burbank	Greg Chapman
Ann Clough	Jim Cole	Carolyn Consaga	Vick Contella	Sandi Folmar
Sandy Garland	Sam Legasse	Susie Legasse	Mildred Leland	Anna Lesswing
Howard Moulton	Priscilla Reuter	Lezlye Shea		

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Jim Cole
 June 4 Brenda MacKenzie
 June 6 Susan Foye
 Wanda Syphers
 June 8 John Robbins
 June 9 George Fecteau
 June 12 Laurie Rowan
 Teryn Damsell
 June 14 Charles Rodis
 Sierra MacKenzie
 Harold Shea
 June 18 Carol Cole
 Kayla Perry
 Patty Higgins
 June 20 June Rodis
 June 21 Hannah Nightingale
 Malcolm Heal
 June 22 Jeff Folmar
 Ted Feldmeier
 June 24 Megan Boyd
 June 26 Justin Heal
 June 30 Haile Hamlet

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 6 Larry & Elaine Hansberry
 June 25 Jeff & Sandi Folmar
 June 26 Mike & Joy Leclair

Lectionary Readings for June	
June 5	Acts 1:6-14, Ps 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11
June 12	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30, Ps 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
June 19	Gen 1:1-2:4a, Ps 8, 2 Cor 13:11-13, Matt 28:16-20
June 26	Gen 22:1-4, Ps 13 or Jer 28:5-9, Ps 89:1-4, 15-18, Rom 6:12-23, Matt 10:40-42

Don't forget to visit our online calendar click here
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