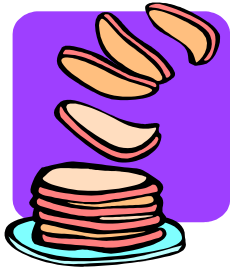


The Clapper

God
is still
speaking,

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

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



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper March 8th at 6:00 PM

Join us on March 8, 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.

Why pancakes? Traditionally the day before Ash Wednesday is a day of feasting and celebration. According to historians, feasts of pancakes were held to use up the supplies of fat, butter and eggs... foods that were forbidden during austere Lent. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* meaning *Fat Tuesday*.

Please join us for this fun family event!



Footprints Food Pantry

On Sunday, March 13, we will be collecting our monthly donations for Footprints Food Pantry.

They are particularly low on healthy snacks for children including small boxes of raisins, nuts, and fruit cups. They can also use baked beans, mac & cheese, hash, peanut butter, hot cereal (oatmeal), dry pasta, and meals in a cup. As well as toiletries including tissues and toothpaste would be helpful.



Journey to Jerusalem

Wednesdays Ecumenical Worship

Once again, the churches of the Kittery-Eliot Clergy Association will host a series of Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 9) and culminating with a dramatic Good Friday worship service (April 22), we will *Journey to Jerusalem* guided by talented preachers and spirit-filled worship. Be sure to add this nourishing hour to your Lenten fast. Each service begins at 7:00PM.

- March 9 St. Mark's UMC, Kittery
Rev. Brad Hirst, preaching
- March 16 So. Eliot Advent Christian
Pastor Bill Humphrey, preaching
- March 23 St. Raphael's, Kittery
Rev. Deb Shipp, preaching
- March 30 First Congregational, Kittery Point
Fr. John Skehan, preaching
- April 6 Eliot United Methodist Church
Rev. Gary Havener, preaching
- April 13 Second Christian Congregational
Chaplain Chris Lanzara, preaching
- April 22 First Congregational, Eliot
Good Friday Drama



Dear Friends,

Many of you have already heard that last month we sent a team from Second Christian to *Turnaround Boot Camp* in Framingham, Mass.

At the start of this day and-a-half long workshop, Tom Baran, Pam Cooper, Nadine Donnell and I, along with dozens of leaders from other churches, were presented with some eye-opening statistics:

- In New England only 8.7% of the population attends worship
- Between 1990 and 2010, 125,000 churches closed
- Nationally, 80% of *all* churches are in decline

The rest of the 36 hours was focused on giving the church leaders present the tools needed to turn-around those years of stasis and decline. The basic message was “Times have changed, so we have to do things differently today.” And they told us that it was up to us! They did caution us that there are no quick fixes – that years of movement in one direction cannot be reversed overnight. They cautioned us that turnaround work is not easy – that it inevitably involves change and we all know that change can sometimes be daunting!

But we also heard quite clearly that it *can* be done. They told the story of a church in Quincy, Mass. that has dramatically reversed years of decline – growing from 24 in worship on a Sunday to over 100 today; from no Sunday school to over 30 children today. They are not out of the woods yet, but they are on their way! Yes, church turnaround *can* be done. And we learned that *we* can do it too!

Our desire to grow must not be simply to fill up the pews or balance the budget, not to get more volunteers for the fair or more voices in the choir – though these are all worthy goals! Our desire for growth must be rooted in our desire to share what we have experienced here with others, to share the gospel, to build the world of justice and peace we so often talk about.

We came back from that weekend energized – one might even say *inspired* – Spirit-filled – but also a bit overwhelmed with the work that is before us. We are about to enter the season of Lent. It is traditionally a time of self-examination and repentance, of *turning around*, right? What better time to start our church Turnaround! But where do we start? How?

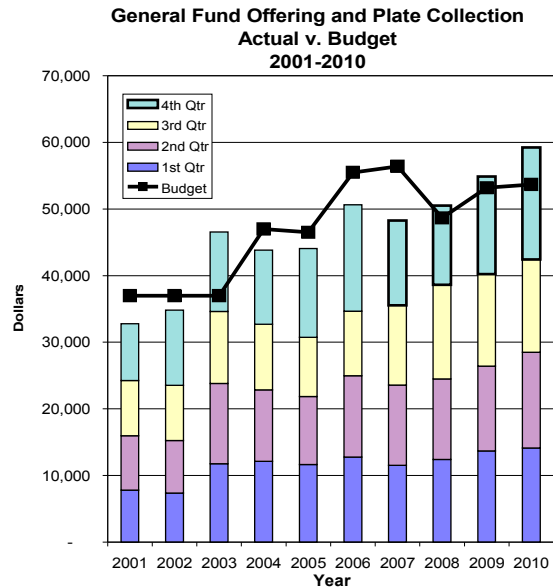
Pray. Pray every day. Pray for our church and for our leaders, that we will be guided on the path God

will lead us. Pray for the community around us, that we might know how to best meet the needs of our neighbors. And pray for the un-churched, the 91.3% of our friends and neighbors who are seeking their way in this world – and a welcoming place to continue their search. I think we might be just what they're looking for! Remember, we're all in this together.

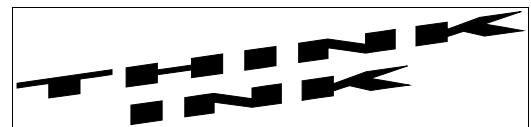
See you in church,

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 – December 31, 2010)



Staples Rewards Update

Thank you to everyone who dropped off used ink cartridges at the church. Last year we earned \$248 in the Staples Ink Recycling Rewards program! Combine that with Staples Rewards points earned on purchases and coupons, we saved a total of \$590.61 on office supplies!

If you would like to help in 2011, please drop off your used ink cartridges in the “Think Ink” box, currently located in the Resource Room next to the church office. For each cartridge we recycle we receive \$2. Also when making purchases at Staples, when asked if you have a Rewards Card mention the church phone number and we will receive additional Staples Rewards. This really goes a *l o n g* way to cut expenses. So Think Ink!

Diaconate Meeting Highlights – February 8

Opening Share by Edith Morgan, “Daniel's Gloves.”
Five in attendance. Walking in the way was shared.

Old Business

- A. Nursery moved to parlor.
- B. There are still openings on our yearly schedule for Deacons and Alternates of the Month.
- C. Feedback from service with Chris Lanzara positive.
- D. Council/Deacon meeting went well with Paul Nickerson from the MA Conference, who discussed Church Growth and Development.
- E. Winter worship in vestry going well. Pastor Brad felt there is possibly a need for a portable sound system for when we use the vestry.

New Business

- A. Nadine and Pastor Brad will be attending the “Turn Around Bootcamp” with Tom Baran and Pam Cooper, Feb. 11-12.
- B. Visitations were discussed.
- C. Discussed helping those in need to get out to appointments. We encourage anyone with need or knowledge of a specific need to bring it to the attention of the church office and Joy will get the message out.

Upcoming Dates

March 8: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00 PM set up at 5:00 PM. See sign up sheet.

March 9: Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mark's.

March 20: First Day of Spring!

April 17: Palm Sunday

April 21: Maundy Thursday

April 22: Good Friday

April 24: EASTER

Pastor's Report

Pastor Brad had a good mission trip to New Orleans with the deRochemonts. He noted that 5 years after Hurricane Katrina there is still much to be done there. He has been asked to serve on the Church and Ministry Committee of the York Association.

Next Meeting: March 8 following Fat Tuesday supper (approx. 7 PM)

Respectfully Submitted, Edith Morgan

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, February 20, we welcomed our newest Covenant Members:

Paulette Beers, sponsored by Elaine Hansberry

Valerie Brock, sponsored by Cheryl Beckert

Ro Curtis, sponsored by Lucille Melhorn

Dexter Fowles, sponsored by Pam Cooper

George and Toni Leonard,
sponsored by Sharon Wiswell

Laureene McQuade, sponsored by Constance Herron

Carrie Varney, sponsored by Edythe Niles

HELP WANTED DEPT.

RECYCLING - We are looking for a person or persons willing on a weekly basis to bring the recyclables to their home or the Kittery Transfer Station. This includes paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, etc. If you are interested, please speak to Ernie Wiswell or Pastor Brad.

**Fair Tide Volunteer Opportunities**

Fair Tide - Kittery's own locally grown and operated housing program, provides homeless individuals and families with decent, affordable housing and the needed support services to help them make the move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. The Fair Tide Thrift Store, located at 15 State Rd., offers quality used items at affordable prices, and the proceeds go directly to provide the essential support services we offer our residents. There are currently opportunities for you to get involved. If you have a couple of hours a week to offer, volunteers are needed at the Thrift Store to sort donations, stock shelves, and help keep the store looking good.

Also, if you have a strong back (and a pick-up truck!), we can definitely use your help! We often have to turn down donations of furniture and other large items because we cannot always arrange to get the items to our store. We would be so grateful for a couple of people to offer their time to help bring these quality items to the store. We would need someone to help out once a week on a regular basis once it gets warmer. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or think you can help us in other ways, please call the Fair Tide Thrift store at 439-2427 and ask for Barbara.

NOLA Mission Trip 2011

As I sit and reflect on the week that we spent in New Orleans, I am reminded of the reasons that we go to do mission work. The gratitude of the people of New Orleans is just overwhelming. Anytime that we mentioned why we were there, we got the biggest THANK YOU possible. It didn't matter if it was in the coffee shop or working on our project house, the appreciation was expressed with joy and happiness at our willingness to be in their city helping them out. We get great satisfaction by knowing that we are helping people get back into their homes. I lived in my camper for 5 months and it was a challenge, but they have either lived in a FEMA trailer, apartment or with other families during this trying time.

Our home owner was overjoyed that we were there to help her get into a home that she bought just before Katrina hit. She was planning to move in that weekend, but instead she and her son were evacuated. Maybe by the end of March or early April she'll be home. What a blessing it is for the people of New Orleans to know that others still care 5 ½ years later. We are blessed to be able to do this for them.

Priscilla & Orville

Doorkeepers Reminder

This month the Doorkeepers will be meeting in the evening at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 3.

Carpooling is available. *Please contact Linda Baran, Edie Niles, or Gini Barron if you'd like to carpool.*

Kittery Coffee House

March 12, 6:30 – 9:30 PM

An evening of live Blue Grass, Country, Folk and Rock, hosted by Shades of Grass. Any type of acoustic music is welcome. Please call 207-438-6087, 603-842-3818 or 207-676-9630 for more information. Suggested donation \$5 for a local charity.



Sunday
March 13th
Spring Ahead!

The A.M.I.G.O.S. Project 2011

American Mission in Grace Offering Sustenance
A Program of "A Friendly Hand"
with the assistance of the York Association

Honduran School Lunch Program

The AMIGOS program was founded in 2004 to provide school lunches to impoverished children in rural Honduras. Originally organized by the Mission Committee of the York Association of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ in partnership with "A Friendly Hand" (AFH), the Association now only supplies the food in AFH buckets, and helps to load it. Food distribution and preparation is accomplished by AFH with a local congregation of the Evangelical & Reformed Church of Honduras.

The short-term goal of the program is to provide children with a nutritious school lunch so that they will attend school and be better able to learn. The long-term goal of the program is to support children to continue their education and eventually break the cycle of poverty. This "food for education" program follows the guidelines of the United Nation's World Food Program.

The original commitment of the York Association was through 2010. The program continues this year in partnership with AFH, providing nutritious lunches for many weeks to more than 200 children.

Aside from the food itself, one of the unexpected benefits of the program has been the atmosphere of hope generated in the Honduran schools and villages – the idea that someone cares about them and reaches across the miles to ease the struggles of their daily lives. This intangible benefit is not something anyone could put a price on!

AMIGOS Shopping Lists are available in the vestry. Ask friends, neighbors or family members to help. Make it into a scavenger hunt for a good cause! In addition to the cost of items to fill the bucket, the total cost to obtain the bucket, lid and label, and shipping fees is \$12.00/bucket. Please return your packed bucket by Sunday, April 10, so that we have time to label and deliver them to the Association's coordinator. Additional information can be found in the shopping list instructions, or speak to Priscilla deRochemont if you have further questions.



**Sharing Brings Joy
To us. To Others. To God.
One Great Hour of Sharing
APRIL 3**

Deciding to share is tough sometimes, especially when we feel we barely have enough to get by ourselves. But compared to people whose lives have been ravaged by disaster, or who live on less than \$1 a day, we have a great abundance.

Soon, we will be invited to help people in need around the world and in communities impacted by disasters in the United States through the One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) offering. As the church, we are called to help one another, even through the sharing of our own resources.

Giving changes so many things, for the receiver and the giver. Can you imagine the joy on a mother's face, who because of your gift, can send her children to school or provide them with a meal before bed? OGHS supports many initiatives that help women start their own businesses or learn a wage-earning skill. Programs that through you gift, you become a partner.

By sharing our resources, combined with offerings from thousands of other congregations in eight denominations across the United States, we:

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty
- bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable
- nurture stronger futures and self sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods.

We are blessed that God is able to provide when and where help is needed through us. (2 Corinthians 9:8-15)

On April 3, when you make your gift, please give generously.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:
sharing resources, changing lives, bringing joy!**

Going Out Ministry:

Table of Plenty: A big thank you to all of our team members who helped to cook, serve, and clean up on February 3. Everyone seemed to enjoy the shepherd's pie and we had many requests for second helpings and for take-home meals. Our next serving date is Thursday, March 31.

CWS Kits: We've made a good start on the Church World Service kits. We currently have three completed hygiene kits, three completed school kits, and some items for two more. Thank you to those who've donated items for the kits. Lists of supplies for each of the kits, along with the completed kits, are on the table in the vestry. We have until the first week in May to get our kits finished. They are to be delivered to Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland during the week of May 2-7, 2011.

S(o)uper Sunday: Our Souper Bowl of Caring collected \$169.22 for Footprints Food Pantry, right here in Kittery, the highest total in the last five years. Previous amounts were \$135 in 2007; \$149 in 2008; \$164 in 2009; \$118 in 2010. Nationwide, with over 10,000 groups reporting, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised 8.4 million dollars to feed the hungry so far. It's a thrill to know that our congregation was part of that. The Super Bowl Subs brought in \$275.50 to be divided between Fair Tide and The Boston Project.

Knit One, Save One: somewhere in the world there will be forty-eight newborns wearing cute and colorful caps made by Melanie Fetterolf, Paulette Beers and her daughter. These caps, sent to Save the Children, will keep these new little ones warm and give them a better chance of survival. The drive ends February 28, but we can always keep collecting the caps for next year.



Thanks go out once again to **Wildcat Pizza** (1 York Street, York 351-3378) for making our Super Bowl Subs fundraiser a huge success!

We couldn't have done it without you!

Notes of Appreciation...

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and expressions of concern and support in the passing of my mother. It has been a long journey since her diagnosis and she is now at peace. With your support that journey was made much easier.

~ Ann Clough

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers, thoughts, cards and flowers. I feel blessed to have you as my friends.

Fondly,
Betty Chapman

Many thanks for all of the cards, visits, calls and prayers while I was in the hospital and restricted to the house. It is so great to finally be getting back to a normal life schedule. The love and concern for others that is shared within and outside of our church body continues to be beyond overwhelming. If everyone in this world could be part of our church, what a wonderful world it would be to live in for all.

From the deepest corner of my heart, I thank you all,
~ Larry Hansberry

Relay for Life June 5-6 Hampton Falls

Relay for Life of the Seacoast needs Volunteers and Teams to participate in their annual fundraising event, which will be held on June 5-6 at Governor Weare Park in Hampton Falls. Together with millions of supporters, the American Cancer Society (ACS) saves lives and creates a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

To learn more about how you can participate in this worldwide movement to end cancer, please join them for their kick-off celebration on March 2, 2011 at 6:00PM at Winnacunnet High School, 4 Alumni Drive, Hampton. For more information or to register to volunteer or race, please visit their website at www.relayforlife.org/seacoastnh.

Be a Friend of Second Christian Church!



From the Maine Conference:

The Witness Life Commission encourages all congregations and members to make "earth care" a priority by participating in a Lenten calendar activity called:

At Least 10% for God's Creation

Living the "Environmental Tithe" - A 40-Day Calendar for Lent or ANYTIME

Change wasteful, extravagant habits into Creation-Conserving Earth friendly ones.

The 40-day Lenten goal is to reduce our consumption by 10%. You can download a copy of the calendar online at the Maine Conference UCC website by clicking [HERE](#)

Craft Day and Pot Luck Lunch Saturday, March 19th

Gather your craft projects and plan on a fun day at the Hansberry's - [4 Red Mill Lane, Kittery](#) - Saturday, March 19th beginning at 10:30. Bring anything you'd like to work on - and a friend! There will be plenty of tables, and a lot of craft supplies will be available. If you're planning to purchase anything for your project, call Elaine first to make sure she doesn't already have it. A friend gave her a lot of wine bottles for crafts, so if you have any ideas for them, you're welcome to them. Please bring something to share for a pot luck lunch. Iced tea, dessert and paper products will be provided.

RSVP to Elaine at (207)439-6731 so we can plan ahead. We're hoping for a large group, and that this might be a regular thing, a fun time to visit, meet new friends, share craft ideas, and eat!

Reminder: FOOD FOR FOOTPRINTS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (March 13th)

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Edith Morgan

ALTERNATE: Lezlye Shea

March Ushers:

06 Robert McDonough &
Orville deRochemont

13 Cheryl Beckert & Melanie Fetterolf

20 Ernie & Sharon Wiswell

27 Vick & Bobbie Contella

March Greeters:

06 George & Toni Leonard

13 Charlie & Nadine Donnell

20 Edith Morgan

27 Mike & Jean badger

March Liturgists:

06 Melanie Fetterolf

13 Helen Kiehl

20 Wilma Wheeler

27 Laurie Rowan

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Kathy Bales	Molly Banville	Bill Baran	Taylor Baran	Gini Barron
Kathy Berrios	Lynda Buckinger	Betty Chapman	Greg Chapman	Jim Cole
Carolyn Consaga	Charles Curtis	Betty Farr	Sandi Folmar	Larry Hansberry
Hilda Hoffstetter	Helen Kiehl	Sam Legasse	Susie Legasse	Mildred Leland
Anna Lesswing	Priscilla Reuter	Lezlye Shea	Richard Syphers	Collin Trefethen
Walter Wheeler				

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1 Orville deRochemont
 March 4 Ellen Bickmore
 March 7 Julia Clough
 March 10 Kristy Cole
 March 11 Tony Morgan
 March 12 Chris Folmar
 March 13 Tammy Sullivan
 March 16 Priscilla deRochemont
 March 18 Elaine Hansberry
 Lydia Hoffman
 March 19 Larry Hansberry
 March 23 Rebecca Barbour
 March 26 Connor Rooney
 March 27 Brian Shea
 March 28 Nadine Donnell

Lectionary Readings for March

March 6	Ex 24:12-18, Ps 2 or Ps 9, 2 Pet 1:16-21, Matt 17:1-9
March 9	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa 58:1-12, Ps 51:1-17, 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
March 13	Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Ps 32, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11
March 20	Gen 12:1-4a, Ps 121, Rom 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17, Matt 17:1-9
March 27	Ex 17:1-7, Ps 95, Rom 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 1 Orville & Priscilla deRochemont
 March 8 Malcolm & Cathy Heal
 March 9 Ken & Patty Higgins

