

The Clapper

God
is still
speaking,

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

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

Conference Minister Visit...

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Susie Craig to our pulpit on September 18. Susie is our Associate Conference Minister of our Maine Conference and relates closely to the churches of our York Association. Susie is a graduate of Yale Divinity School, and before coming to Maine served a church in Greenwich, Connecticut for over twenty years. Please plan to be with us for worship on September 18th to extend a special Second Christian welcome to Susie!



Missing: Valuable flock
If spotted, please call the
Flock Hotline at (207)439-3903

Our flock has been happily spending their summer sightseeing in the seacoast area, raising money for our church, as well as spreading the word about the United Church of Christ. They've even aroused people's curiosity about the Stillspeaking campaign, with a person stopping to knock on one door to ask what the sign meant.

If 10 w(holy) sheep should appear on your front yard, please contact the the Flock Hotline, and with a donation to the church we'll send out our shepherds to move them along.



Rally Day! *September 11*

Join us for Rally Day on Sunday, September 11th as we mark the beginning of another year of gathering, learning and going out together! We will also be welcoming back all those who have been traveling, away at camp, or "on holiday" for the summer, as well as those who have been away from Second Christian for awhile.

Following our Second Sunday Jazz Family Worship service, when we will extend an extravagant welcome to all as we gather round Christ's table for Holy Communion, we will continue our feast with a cookout of hamburgers & hot dogs and some delicious side dishes. We'll provide the burgers and dogs, just bring a dish to share!

See You All on Rally Day!

Reception of New Members **Sunday, September 18**

Join us on Sunday, September 18, as we welcome new members to Second Christian Congregational United Church of Christ.



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, September 11, following worship.

From the Pastor

Friends Along the Way,

I think many of you know I went on an extended ride on my motorcycle this summer. I had been thinking about it for a year or more, and it was several months in the planning, and finally was able

to schedule the time to ride down to see my brothers in Virginia and North Carolina, and I even got out to the western North Carolina mountains to see my in-laws!

It was kind of a whirlwind tour. It turned out I couldn't be out of town for quite as long as I had initially planned, so I had to rework my itinerary: I cut out a couple of visits with old friends, eliminated contingency days for rain, repairs, or even a detour here and there. I was on a tight schedule – 2,800 miles and seven days – and just had to leave some things for another time.

I did everything I could think of to prepare. I researched the best routes, checked out blogs, plotted when and where I would travel, figured out what I needed to pack, and had my bike serviced thoroughly. I even did a dry run down to see friends in Connecticut right before my long ride. I was ready to go – or so I thought. You see, there was always this nagging feeling: Is this really going to happen?

But I had been talking about it for so long I really couldn't not go. Even as I was loading the bike I was looking at the tires, checking the oil, re-examining the maps, checking, re-checking, wondering... Is this really going to happen? I've never done this before. Will it be OK? What is in store for me on the road ahead? No, I'm sure I can't do this! And then I gave Linda a hug and a kiss and pulled away.

Sometimes our life together is like that. We do the work of preparing ourselves for the journey ahead, we check our bearings, we seek guidance, we try to be sure we are ready. But in the end, we simply have to hop on and start moving forward. We can never know what the journey will be like until we start on our way – together.

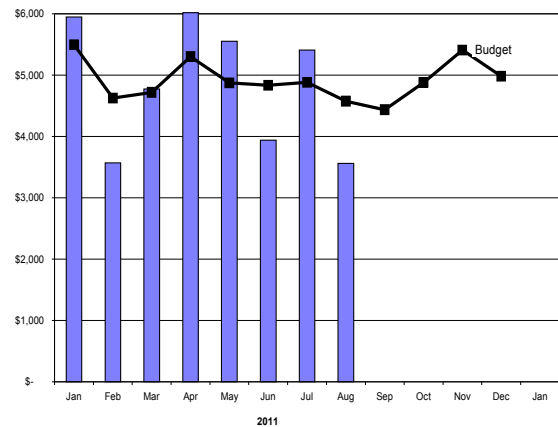
As we enter into the start of another church year, may we do so with renewed faith, deep courage, and the enduring love that binds us one to another – and to the God who walks beside us all the way. Remember the words we sing each Sunday that send us back out into the world: “We are going...”

See you in church,

Brad

From the Treasurer:

General Fund Offering and Plate Collection
Through 8/23/2011



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 August 30.

Our 2011-2012 Leadership Team

President: Charles Donnell*

Vice President: vacant*

Scribe: Priscilla deRochemont*

Chief Financial Officer: Larry Hansberry*

Welcoming Liaison: Edith Morgan

Learning Liaison: Malcolm Heal

Going Out Liaison: Laurie Rowan

Trustee Liaison: Ernie Wiswell

Communications Liaison: Linda Baran

Senior Deacon: Nadine Donnell

Deacons: Betty Baran, Bill Baran, Patty Higgins, Lucille Melhorn, Edythe Niles

*Members of the Executive Team and Pastor-Parish Relations.

The Vice President position is currently vacant. The Vice President is responsible for providing leadership to the Church Council and the congregation in the absence of the President. S/He is responsible for overseeing the work of the Stewardship Ministry Team. If you think God might be speaking to you about serving in this position, please speak to Charlie Donnell or Pastor Brad.

Quarterly Meeting Highlights – July 24

Approval of Minutes: May 1st minutes accepted.

Finance Report: The income line is down by \$500 with expenses up by \$1,500. Fuel was over budget by \$2,700.

Unfinished Business

Aggieman: Great results regardless of the weather. To date the monetary intake is approximately \$1,700.

Block Party: Very well done. Great time to welcome the community. Unlikely barricades will be moved next year to incorporate the church.

Worship with Your Hands: Lots of good work accomplished in a short amount of time. Great way to worship and be productive. Suggestion to do it in September.

New Business

Elect Delegates for October 23 York Association Meeting – Larry & Elaine Hansberry, Patty Higgins, Melanie Fetterolf and Linda Baran volunteered to attend.

Hoffman Installation: Beth is to be installed as Pastor to the Eliot Congregational Church on September 18 at 3:00 PM. Second Christian will have a delegation there.

Church Heating System: Three bids received. Contract awarded to Higgins Burner Service for removal and replacement of existing boiler. The boiler will be replaced with two Buderus boilers giving the church 6 zones. New radiators and an on-demand sixty gallon water heater will also be installed. This system will allow the furnace to be turned off in the summer months.

Asbestos Removal: Church is seeking bids to remove asbestos covered pipes. Council will vote on that bid when they come in.

Oil Pre-Buy: Oil prices reviewed. Council given authority to make pre-buy decision.

Emergency Fund Repayment: \$1,500 was used recently to pay bills. Motion approved to replace funds.

Piano Donation: Mike Effenberger is offering to loan a grand piano, from his father, to the church.

The cost would be for three tunings a year at \$90 a tuning. Approved.

Ministry Team Updates

Learning: Car Care Clinic Aug.20. Invite your friends.

Communications: Let the liaison know what is going on and it will be posted.

Diaconate: Once you are a Deacon, you are always a Deacon of the church. Your talent and time are and will always be appreciated. Sheep are grazing, and earning their keep.

Going Out: Table of Plenty has lower numbers in the heat. There is a need for clean up buckets for the Midwest flood victims. Baby blankets are waiting for the rest of the kit.

Nominations of Church Council Positions for July 2011-July 2012

Patty Higgins made the motion to accept the slate of officers and liaisons as stated:

President – Charlie Donnell, Vice President – Vacant, CFO – Vacant, Scribe – Priscilla deRochemont, Senior Deacon – Nadine Donnell, Trustee – Ernie Wiswell, Welcoming – Edith Morgan, Learning – Malcolm Heal, Going Out – Laurie Rowan, Communications – Linda Baran. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patty Higgins,
Scribe pro tem

**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,**

Diaconate Meeting Highlights – August 28

We met at the home of Nadine and Charlie Donnell for a cookout with all Deacons.

Pastor Brad thanked all those who participated in the worship services in his absence.

Old Business

Unbinding the Gospel groups have been recently completed. The next step is either another couple groups engaging in the *Unbinding the Gospel*, or an all church event (*Unbinding Your Soul*). This would be a commitment from approximately 50 Parishioners over a six week period were there would be no other meetings (no Deacons, Council, or other church meetings). Choir would still meet. Possible start date of Lent 2012.

The flock is out in the community eating the grass and spreading the joy!

Congregational Care Groups will start meeting in the Fall in small intimate groups to converse with the Pastor.

New Business

All Deacons are reminded to keep our sick and shut-ins on our radar for visitations.

Patty Higgins was welcomed as our newest Deacon.

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 11 Rally Sunday

Sept. 18 New Members Sunday

Nov. 13 Paul Nickerson will be preaching then presenting a workshop on Church Vitality and the Turn Around Church model. Deacons will host a soup and bread luncheon.

Nov. 26 Stroll the Square

***Next meeting will be September 13 at 6:30 PM.
Note the new time!***

Respectfully submitted,

Edith Morgan

Bible Study Returns...

... but when? We would like some feedback on what day works best for *you*. Options include:

- Tuesdays at 1:00 PM
- Thursdays at 4:00 PM
- Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Please let Pastor Brad know which time you'd prefer

Financial Peace University

"More than 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Thirty-three percent of Christian marriages end in divorce, and money problems are the number one cause." ~Dave Ramsey

Finances can be complicated. So when I came across a class that simplifies personal finances, I felt called to teach it here at Second Christian. Our first class has 12 members and we get together once a week to learn and share (and eat). This week we watched the video titled "From Fruition to Tuition." I remembered that when I first watched this lesson, I realized that I had been missing an important component of my retirement plan. Just by tweaking what I was already doing a little bit, I would earn an extra \$7,000 per year during my retirement. That's a pretty good return on my \$100 investment in the class!

But more important than that, Financial Peace University has taught me a lot about what God has to say about money. He's got some profound ideas about giving and saving and how we live our lives. The Bible mentions the subject of money more than 800 times. It's one of the most popular topics and I've been skimming over it all these years.

If you're interested in learning what the Bible has to say about money (and getting your finances in order at the same time.) Let me know. There are already 6 people lined up to take the class this winter and I've saved a spot for you. There is a scholarship available if you can't swing the \$100 tuition, too.

MISSION: 1

11.1.11 – 11.11.11

One United Church

on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice

For 11 days in early November, the entire United Church of Christ will make good on its "that they may all be one" motto with a coordinated mission campaign to gather more than one million food and household items for local food banks and marshal its 5,300 congregations to advocate collectively — and loudly — for hunger-related causes, both domestically and around the world.

This is [Mission:1](#).

This is the United Church of Christ.

Going Out

Table of Plenty: Many thanks to all the team members who helped out at our serving on July 21. There was a smaller crowd than usual, but everyone seemed to enjoy the meal. Our team will be serving again on September 15. If you're interested in joining us, please see Laurie Rowan. We have a really good time working together to serve our neighbors.

Knit One, Save One: Our thanks to Mildred Leland, who has donated twelve adorable little knot caps for newborns. We'll be sending those in when the program starts up again in November. The caps go to newborns around the world to keep the little ones warm to increase their chance of survival where the infant mortality rate is high. Speaking of that...

Church World Service Kits: We have ten beautiful homemade baby blankets just waiting for the rest of the baby kit contents. It would be super if we could put together ten baby kits between now and the beginning of May to go with those ten blankets. Brochures with lists of kit contents are on the table in the vestry with other announcements or please see Laurie Rowan. Our church has received a certificate from Church World Service thanking us for the 32 school kits and 9 hygiene kits we sent. The total number of kits collected last spring at the Woodfords Congregational Church Collection Depot was 1,959. Good Work!

Hilda Fife Scholarships: Applications are available from committee members Jean Briggs-Badger, Judy Jumper, Edie Niles and Laurie Rowan. Completed applications are due in the church office by September 1, 2011.



Footprints Food Pantry

On Sunday, September 11, we will be collecting our monthly donations for Footprints Food Pantry. They are low on everything, including Spaghetti'O's, baked beans, mac & cheese, meals in a cup, Saltines, Jello, and pudding. Sides dishes such as instant potatoes, pasta and rice, that help make a meal go further are also appreciated. Donations of toiletries and cleaning supplies are also welcome.

Kittery Coffee House Returns!

September 10, 6:30 – 9:30 PM

Our monthly gathering of live Blue Grass, Country, Folk and Rock, hosted by Shades O' Grass, starts up again on September 10. Join us the second Saturday of each month from 6:30-9:30 PM. Any type of acoustic music is welcome. For more information, or if you'd like to play center stage, please call 207-438-6087, or 603-842-3818. Or email them at shadesofgrass@hotmail.com.

Suggested donation \$5 for a local charity. This month's proceeds to benefit Second Christian. Donations of refreshments would be greatly appreciated. Please see Kathy Runey or Patty Higgins for more information.

**Good Music for a Good Cause
Come on Out for Some Pickin' & Grinnin'!**

Kittery's Fuel & More River Dance *Dance to keep families warm this winter!*

The fourth annual River Dance to benefit Kittery's Fuel & More program will be on September 10, at the Weathervane: Lobster in the Rough on Badgers Island. Tickets are \$30 per person / \$55 per couple, and can be purchased at Town Hall, Weathervane Seafoods, or at the door.

Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day Monday, September 5, 2011

Thanks to legislation passed unanimously last year, September 5 is officially "Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day" throughout New Hampshire, recognizing the importance of the treaty and our citizen diplomacy that helped President Theodore Roosevelt earn his Nobel Peace Prize.

Once again Second Christian will be participating in the bell ringing celebration at 3:47 PM on September 5. For more information on the day's events or the history of the 1905 treaty, including Second Christian's role, please visit the [Portsmouth Peace Treaty](http://PortsmouthPeaceTreaty.com) website.

Table of Plenty

Table of Plenty is publishing its own cookbook as a fundraiser! If you have a recipe to share, please contact Ro Curtis at 603-770-5476 or mrsrocurtis@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Attention Doorkeepers!

To celebrate the start of another season, the Doorkeepers invite *all* the women of Second Christian to join them for dinner at Boson's Landing in York, on Thursday, September 8. We will be gathering at the church at 5:00 PM to carpool to the restaurant. If you prefer to head there directly, please let them know when you RSVP, so that they don't wait for you at the church. If interested in attending please call either Gini Barron (439-1678) or Lucille Melhorn (439-0529).

The Doorkeepers began as a Sunday school class in the 1920s under the guidance of Mrs. C. Charles (Effie) Manson, with the goal that all young ladies in her class should grow up to be good Christians and to work for their church and God. Today the Doorkeepers continue that goal, and welcome all the women of the church to join them for their monthly meetings, normally held the first Thursday of the month.

Welcome Women of the USS Virginia!

The Doorkeepers are pleased to announce that they will be hosting the women and children of the USS Virginia, for their monthly meeting, on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 PM, here at the church.

We will be serving desserts and punch, and offered to provide childcare while they meet. We would greatly appreciate any and all help, so that we may give the women of the USS Virginia an extravagant Second Christian welcome! If you are available, please speak to Lucille Melhorn (439-0529).

This is a great opportunity to open our doors to those in the community and to thank the wives whose husbands protect our country!

Coffee Tyme

The 2011 – 2012 Coffee Tyme sign-up sheet is available in the vestry. Coffee Tyme is a formal coffee held on special Sundays during the year, when we use the silver set given to the church in memory of Mrs. Doris Hosmer. If you have any questions about hosting Coffee Tyme, please speak to Carrie Varney, Edie Niles, or Lucille Melhorn, or our Welcoming Liaison, Edith Morgan.

Evergreen Festival is Sooner than You Think!

An Autumn chill is creeping into the air reminding us that the Evergreen Festival isn't far behind! We need lots of crafts to sell, so whether you quilt, paint, sew, knit, make jewelry, do wood working, or anything else, please donate your crafts to the fair!

If you have items to donate, or would like more information on how you can help out at our annual fair, please speak to Melanie Fetterolf, Valerie Brock, or Cheryl Beckert.

York Association Service of Installation for Rev. Beth Hoffman September 18

At the request of the Church and Ministry Committee, you are called to an Ecclesiastical Council and Service of Installation for The Rev. Beth Hoffman at the First Congregational Church of Eliot on Sunday, September 18, at 2 pm for the Ecclesiastical Council and 3 pm for the Service of Installation.

In our covenant as an association, each member church is represented by both lay and clergy delegates. Active participation is both a privilege and a responsibility. Churches may send five elected delegates, including a youth delegate, and clergy. Visitors are welcome! For more information, please speak to Pastor Brad.

Looking ahead...

Join us for worship on November 13 for Turn Around Sunday with guest preacher, Paul Nickerson, followed by an all church workshop.

Mark your calendars! Stroll the Square will be Saturday, November 26.

Looking even farther ahead...

We will be hosting a Project Linus Blanket Day on Saturday, March 3.

Looking for Joy??

Joy Leclair will be out of the office
September 25 through October 10

Reminder: FOOD FOR FOOTPRINTS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (September 11)

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Wilma Wheeler

ALTERNATE: Edythe Niles

September Ushers:

04 Dick & Judy Jumper
11 Charlie & Nadine Donnell
18 Ernie & Sharon Wiswell
25 Wilma Wheeler & Edith Morgan

September Greeters:

04 Lucille Melhorn
11 Rich & Ann Clough
18 Wanda Syphers
25 The Muscarello Family

September Liturgists:

04 Wilma Wheeler
11 Nadine Donnell
18 Brad Hirst
25 Edith Morgan

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Kathy Bales | Molly Banville | Dee Bickmore | Carl Burbank | Jim Carpenter |
| Jim Cole | Carolyn Consaga | Vick Contella | Alvin Fletcher | Jean Fletcher |
| Sandi Folmar | Sandy Garland | Beth Glover | Larry Hansberry | Constance Herron |
| Esther Karianas | Margaret Launer | Sam Legasse | Susie Legasse | Mildred Leland |
| Anna Lesswing | Laureene McQuade | Howard Moulton | Hazen Nelson | Wanda Orino |
| Gene Pereisich | Priscilla Reuter | Tim Runey | Lezlye Shea | Ian Stewart |
| Jim Thurlow | Marie Trudel | | | |

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| September 6 | Slaid Taylor |
| September 7 | Amy Kotsonis |
| September 9 | John Cole |
| September 12 | Aidan Sullivan |
| September 13 | Bradley Williams |
| September 14 | Dexter Fowles |
| September 18 | Philip Seaward |
| September 19 | Bill Wheeler |
| September 26 | Andrew Hirst |
| September 29 | Bill Mroz |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| September 5 | Tina & Scott Damsell |
| September 6 | Katie & Matt Jones |
| September 12 | Judy & Dick Jumper |
| September 19 | Wilma & Bill Wheeler |
| September 21 | Tammy & Tom Sullivan |
| September 27 | Jean & Mike Badger |

Lectionary Readings for September

| | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 4 | Ex 12:1-14, Ps 149 or Ezek 33:7-11, Ps 19:33-40, Rom 13:8-14, Matt 18:15-20 |
| Sept. 11 | Ex 14:19-31, Ps 114 or Ex 15:16-11, 20-21 or Gen 50:15-21, Ps 103: 1-7, 8-13, Rom 14:1-12, Matt 18:21-35 |
| Sept. 18 | Ex 16:2-15, Ps 105:1-6, Ps 37-45 or Ps 145:1-8, Jon 3:10-4:11, Phil 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16 |
| Sept. 25 | Ex 17:1-7, Ps 78:1-4, 12-16, or Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9, Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32 |

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

