



Brookline Community Church **NEWSLETTER**



February/March 2011

Message from the Minister

Many years ago when I was serving a church in Maine and was invited to a home of some active members of the church to a meal, I was seated opposite a lovely picture of a beautiful winter scene. I commented on what a fine picture it was and believe me that was easy to do in the heat of a hot summer.

It was just recently that I was asked over a period of time to officiate at the funeral of both the woman and the man who lived there and owned the painting. The daughter of this couple then told me that the painting would be mine. I was delighted and have out it in our home and continue to enjoy its beauty.

However right now as I look at it a bit of the joy has gone down. This has been a snowy and cold winter and I think that we all look forward to warmer weather. May it be so. The good Lord does not ever really disappoint us as the seasons will come and they will go and we can depend on their accuracy. Up to this point the weather is one of those things in life that we do not control and I for one am grateful for this — because we know that in the nature of things we can depend on the Creator to do the right thing. God always has and I am sure that He will continue to do so. Amen.

Yours in His service,
David W. Smith



Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 27 Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
- Youth Group Meeting**
6:00-7:30 p.m.



MARCH

- 6 Communion Service**
10:00 a.m.
- Youth Group Meeting**
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 8 Town Elections**
7:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., CSDA
- 9 Ash Wednesday**
Service of Ashes 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Town Meeting**
7:00 p.m., CSDA
- 12 Senior Luncheon - Corned Beef & Cabbage**
11:30 a.m.
- 13 Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
- Youth Group Meeting**
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 16 CO-OP Annual Meeting**
6:00 p.m., HBHS Gym
- 19 Venture Crew Breakfast (last one until fall)**
7:30-10:30 a.m.
- 20 Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
- Youth Group Meeting**
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 27 Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
- Wild Game Supper Meeting**
11:30 a.m.
- Youth Group Meeting**
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Calendar of Events continued

APRIL

- 2 Confirmation Retreat** sponsored by NHCUCC
- 3 Communion Service**
10:00 a.m.
Youth Group Meeting
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 10 Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
Youth Group Meeting
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 17 Palm Sunday**
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.
Youth Group Meeting
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 21 Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae**
Service at 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Good Friday**
The church will be open 12 noon-6 p.m.
- 24 Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service at Musket Mountain
5:45 a.m.
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.
- 29 Youth Group Hampshire Hills Lock-In**

Important Announcement

We at the church are more than happy to have all groups use our church for functions that will be a benefit to the group and to the town. However — and this is VERY important — when you decide on a date when the function will be held you MUST let the secretary know right away. She does the scheduling and we can't have two groups meeting in the same place at the same time.

Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter Flowers need to be in by April 3rd. Order forms will be in the bulletins on March 27th and April 3rd, prices TBA.



Pretty In Pink Quilt Raffle

The Deacons are selling raffle tickets for an oversized lap quilt donated by Ethel Long. The drawing will be held during church on Mother's Day, May 8th. Tickets are 1/\$2 or 3/\$5.

Board of Outreach

Senior Luncheon

The next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for March 12th. We will be serving corned beef and cabbage.

The Heifer Project

We continue to collect donations on a monthly basis for the Heifer project. We are building toward our goal to purchase an "ark" of animals for Heifer. Our collections to date could already yield some benefits to needy families. One example of what we could purchase with our collections so far: 2 sheep, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 llamas and 1 heifer. Not a bad start toward our goal. We want to express our appreciation to everyone who has helped us so far. We will continue with this project through the end of the year.



Board of Deacons

Valentines' Chocolate Buffet

Many, many thanks to everyone who baked and/or made donations for our chocolate buffet fundraiser! We had an incredible variety of delicious homemade chocolate desserts. We could not have done it without the help of so many. We served 32 adults, 27 children, and made almost \$600. It was a great success and we hope to do it again next year.

Thank you also to The Mile Away Restaurant and Gifts by Beyond Belief for their donations of a gift certificate and a dozen roses to our Raffle Table, and to The Cozy Tea Cart for donating three delicious chocolate teas for us to sample.

Deacon Needed!

The Board of Deacons would like to thank Melanie Levesque for joining the Board, and would like to remind the congregation that we need at least one more member.

Sunday Service Sign-ups

Please don't forget to sign up to help with Sunday Services. We need volunteers to do the children's story, be lay readers, ushers, greeters, acolytes, and coffee hour hosts.

Stewardship Committee

It is still not too late to make a pledge to the church for 2011! Stewardship Booklets are available in the church near the bulletin board and on the small table as you enter the sanctuary.

This year 33 families have made pledges for a total of \$36,920, which is a dramatic decrease from last year.

Board of Finance

The 2011 Budget—approved by a vote at the Annual Meeting—is balanced, thanks to a potential loan from “unrestricted investment funds.” The actual use of these funds requires the Cabinet’s approval.

In our God’s Grace and Peace,
Bruce M. Garvin

Pastoral Search Committee

In preparation for Reverend Smith’s eventual departure, the Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting since January. They have met with representatives from the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church to learn about each Conference’s search process and timetable. Over the coming year, the committee will be engaging the congregation in the process of understanding the Church and its needs. This should be an exciting and informative period. We hope to share the progress and results with everyone as we go. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Sanjay or one of the other committee members.

Committee Members:

Bob Ashton	Megan King
Sanjay Cherian, Chair	Melanie Levesque
Peter Cook	Adam Ouellette
Bruce Garvin	Susan Santoski
Christina Gialluca	Dona Taylor
Russell Haight	

Christian Education

Children’s Corner



Sunday School Teachers & Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of teachers and classroom helpers for Sunday School. Please speak with Ann Desrochers if you have questions or would like to help.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to Jen Coutu for volunteering to be the VBS Director this year! SonSurf Beach Bash VBS is tentatively scheduled for June 26-June 30 (depending on when school gets out with all the snow days we’ve had!). Look for more details and registration information in March.

Confirmation Class

This year’s Confirmation Class has had two events: a Potluck Supper with Comfirmants, Mentors, and Parents, and a Kick-Off Mini-Retreat for team building, getting acquainted, and beginning Faith Journey activities.



Alyss Lombardi (Confirmant) and Susan Santoski (Mentor) attended the Confirmation Class of 2011 Team Building/Getting Acquainted Event on Sunday, Feb 20.

Adult Education

The Beginners Study of the Bible class is meeting at 7:30 on Thursday evenings at the church, all are welcome to join. Please contact Rev. Smith at the church, 673-7511, or Ann Desrochers at 672-3937, if you are interested in participating or would like more information.

Youth Group



☮ Regular Meetings are being held each week.
Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

☮ The Youth Group will be participating in the
Hampshire Hills Lock-In.
Friday, April 29th

☮ Let Ann or Vicki know if you'd like to
participate in this year's Crop Walk.
Sunday, May 15th

Save the Date

CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, May 15th



Update on Open Positions

Some of our Open Board Positions have been filled! We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the following members who have filled open positions:
Dona Taylor, Assistant Moderator and Pastoral Relations Member

Ron Long, Board of Finance & Property

Jen Coutu, Vacation Bible School Director

Dottie & Lisa Haight, Cradle Roll Coordinators

Melanie Levesque, Board of Deacons

Some of our Boards are still in need of members to help them perform their duties. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Full descriptions of the responsibilities associated with each position can be found in the Appendix of the church Constitution, available online at: <http://www.bccnh.org/files/Appendix2010.pdf>.

Board of Christian Education:

Director of Christian Education (open August 2011)

Adult Area Coordinator

Children's Area Coordinator

Intergenerational Worship Service Coordinator

Contact for all Christian Education positions:

Ann Desrochers 672-5806

Board of Deacons:

Deacon, one position open

Contact: Barbara Haskell-Higgins 882-2446

Board of Trustees:

Trustee, one position open

Contact: Clarence Farwell 673-4786

Housekeeping Guidelines

The following guidelines have been drawn up for those using the church facilities. We are hoping to maintain the cleanliness of the church and to deter rodents.

1. Please do not drag tables on the floor. By lifting the tables instead, the finish will last longer.
2. Please do not take food out of Fellowship Hall.
3. Please do not put liquids, ice or coffee grounds into the trash bags. Empty all liquids into the sink before throwing out containers. There is a container for coffee grounds next to the coffee machine.
4. No one is allowed in the Sanctuary except during services or when preparing for services.
5. No child is allowed in any of the Sunday School classrooms without adult supervision.
6. Please notify the custodian, Susan (673-3227) if there is a change in meetings. This will allow the church to be used for other purposes.

Newsletter Submissions

Please send any submissions for the next newsletter to Carol at ccherian@charter.net by March 13th.