



Brookline Community Church NEWSLETTER



April/May/June 2016

Message from the Minister

What a joyful season of growth it has been since Easter! The forsythias are just a memory, the daffodils and crocuses are long gone. The irises and peonies along the side of the church are in full bloom.

Things are blooming inside the church as well. After diligent work from the Faith Formation Action Team, we have a job description posted on our website as well as a plan to help the new Faith Formation Director hit the ground running. But we need you, too!

The best place to find our new Faith Formation Director is among the people you know. So take a look at the job description inside this newsletter. Think of all the folks you know, maybe a retiree, maybe a stay-at-home parent, maybe someone working part-time looking to broaden their skill set. Share the job description with them. Point them to the church's website.

We're looking for the right person, and we're more than willing to help them develop any skills they need. If they're not sure, or you just think I should talk with them, please have them contact me.

We're also planting seeds in our Lay Preaching Program. This group will work together to teach lay members of the congregation the steps to leading a worship service. I'm part of the group as well and will work to make sure everyone has the resources and encouragement they need. If you're interested in seeing what it would be like to lead worship, please join us.

Summer can be a time to more deeply experience God's abundance as our pace slows down and the weather warms up. Take time this summer to plant the spiritual seeds you want to see bloom in your life. After all, time began in a garden.

In faith,
Reverend Catherine
minister@bccnh.org
(603) 673-7511



Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 26 **Worship Service**
9:00 am *Begin Summer Worship Time*
- Coffee Hour**
10:00 am

JULY

- 3 **Worship Service at Lake Potanipo**
9:00 am
Bell Ringing
Midnight
- 9 **Grand Opening Celebration: Andres Instit.**
BCC table: noon - 6:00 pm
- 10 **Worship Service at Lake Potanipo**
9:00 am
- 17 **Worship Service**
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
10:00 am
- 24 **Worship Service**
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
10:00 am
- 31 **Worship Service**
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
10:00 am

AUGUST

- 7 **Worship Service at Lake Potanipo**
9:00 am
- 14 **Worship Service at Lake Potanipo**
9:00 am
- 21 **Worship Service**
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
10:00 am
- 28 **Worship Service**
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
10:00 am

Board of Outreach



Senior Luncheon, Saturday, May 14, 2016

We served 40 people at our Senior Luncheon in May, and also delivered meals to seniors who could not make it to the church. Thanks to everyone who brought in donations of canned goods that were distributed to the Brookline Food Pantry & Share Food Pantry. The next Luncheon will be in October.

Books & Magazines for NSKS

Many thanks to those who donated books and magazines for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. We delivered 10 boxes of books to benefit individuals and families coming in to the Nashua Soup Kitchen for a meal. They are able to choose a book or magazine to take home to read.

Guest Speaker from Bridges

On May 22nd we welcomed Amy Jo Muscott from Bridges. With locations in Milford and Nashua, NH, Bridges is a nonprofit organization that provides free and confidential services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence and stalking. They also provide crisis intervention, emergency shelter, court advocacy, support groups, education and outreach to both women and men. If you or someone that you know are in a dangerous or unsafe situation Bridges has a 24-Hour Support Line: 603-883-3044.



Many thanks to all who donated items for Janice's House, an emergency shelter that is part of Bridges.



From our church to your kitchen . . .

Take-Home Meals on Sale, 3/\$20!

Meals available: Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Divan and Chili Mac. Containers serve 2-4 depending on appetite.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to make this fundraiser such a great success! Contact info: Megan King: 673-2846 or kingmegan7@gmail.com

Board of Deacons

Lay Preaching Program

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift . . . The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. ~ EPHESIANS 4:7 & 11-12

The Deacons and Rev. Catherine are starting a lay preaching program to let the congregation explore its gifts for preaching. Six times a year, we'll have a lay member of the congregation lead worship, from designing the worship service to delivering the message. The team of 6 to 8 lay preachers will meet every two months with Rev. Catherine to select texts, outline services and sermons and support each other through the process of developing a worship service.

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to lead worship, please join this group! Leading worship will strengthen and deepen your relationship with God and open you to the amazing things that God is doing in all our lives. The first meeting will be in July with the first lay lead worship service in August.

Sunday Service Participation

Please sign up to help during worship services as Lay Reader, Greeter, Ushers, or Acolytes, and/or to host coffee hour. Youth are more than welcome to be lay readers.

Videotaping Assistance

If anyone is interested in assisting with video taping our weekly services please speak with Russell Haight.

Our current Deacons are: Barbara Haskell-Higgins, Carol Cherian, Russell Haight, Mike Santoski, and Deacon Emeritus Art Fenske.

Board of Finance

The NH Conference is transitioning management of local church endowments to the Connecticut Conference and allowing each church to decide whether to go along with this transition or make their own arrangements. The Finance Committee looked into offerings at the national UCC level as well as self-management of investment options and concluded that the CT conference's plan is our best option. If you have any questions please contact Ron Long or Bob Ashton.

If you would like to receive a copy of the monthly BCC newsletter in the mail please email secretary@bccnh.org or call 673-7511.



Summer Services at Lake Potanipo

Weather permitting, the Brookline Community Church will hold worship services in the beauty of nature at Lake Potanipo on the first and second Sundays in July and August (7/3 & 7/10, 8/7 & 8/14).

Lake Potanipo is located on Mason Rd, just off of Rt. 13. Services will begin at 9:00am. Please bring your own chair or blanket as available seating at the lake is limited to just a couple of picnic tables.



Abundance Celebration

At our 2016 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to allocate \$2,000 of our 2015 budget surplus for a "Celebration of Abundance" with our broader community.

The Cabinet solicited feedback from the congregation about what kind of celebration you'd like to see. The consistent theme in the responses was that we should host a social event for the congregation and the Brookline community with food and entertainment.

At present, we are considering holding an event in the fall. We could use help with planning the event, i.e. what food, what kinds of activities and entertainment, and the like, so if you are willing to help figure out how we can share our blessings with the folks around us, please contact Sanjay Cherian at scherian@charter.net or 603-672-8960 and we'll get a brainstorming and planning group started.

We have funds budgeted, so all you need is a heart for hospitality and a desire to create an atmosphere where we can build or reaffirm our connection with our friends and neighbors.



4th of July Bell Ringing

We are looking for church members who are willing to help out at this year's annual bell ringing. Please let Rev. Cath or a deacon know if you can help.

Date: Sunday, July 3

Time: 11:30pm

andres institute of **ART**

The Andres Art Center at Big Bear Lodge

Community resources in Brookline have been invited to attend the Grand Opening Celebration for The Andres Art Center at Big Bear Lodge on Saturday, July 9th.

The Brookline Community Church will have a table at this event, and we are looking for people to join us in representing the church any time from noon-6:00pm. Please let Rev. Cath know if you can help!

“*Andres Institute of Art at Big Bear Lodge is a community resource supporting the arts, technology, and cultural exchange*” . . . and will . . . *“create the space for community connections and cultural bridges to form.”*

This celebration will also feature: local bands, neighborhood food vendors, games, locally made art work, dancing, face painting, crafters, karate demonstrations, jewelry makers, farm stand, and sculpture park tours.

WANTED

Individuals who are looking for a way to become more involved or to find a different connection with the Holy Spirit!

Open Board Positions:

Clerk

Finance Member

Deacons

Stewardship Committee

Please see Rev. Catherine for more information.



BCC Faith Formation Director Position

The Brookline Community Church is searching for a Faith Formation Director. This is a part-time position of 10 hours/week at \$14.00/hour during the months of Sept. through May, with the summer months off. The weekly schedule is fairly flexible but will require frequent meetings either before or after our Sunday morning 10:00am worship service.

We are looking for someone who would like to create a program in our church from the ground up. We have found that the current Faith Formation needs of families with grade school children are changing. As a church we have many resources to meet those families' needs, and we want to do the best we possibly can in sharing the blessings of our faith.

Mission for the Faith Formation Director

To reach out to the community of Brookline, NH so that the children can gain access to the blessings of Christ.

Responsibilities

- To ensure that children and youth who seek the word of God have the opportunity to learn about and experience it.
- To ensure that the Brookline Community Church meets the needs, both known and yet-to-be-discovered, of the young people of our community.
- To discover how to meet our community's Faith Formation needs and to continuously refine the approach as you learn more.
- To create, refine and disseminate the message of what BCC can offer to the young people of Brookline, NH and their parents.
- To help the congregation find the volunteer teachers and assemble the curriculum components for the Faith Formation activities.
- To assist the minister and the Faith Formation committee with review and refinement of curriculum
- To provide ongoing communication with the entire congregation and the wider community about the opportunities for children's Faith Formation

Attributes

- A willingness to adapt your mission and priorities to what you learn and discover through the process.
- A love of learning about people, both from what they tell you and from what you can discern from the unspoken.
- The courage to go to where the children and parents are, rather than waiting for them to walk in the door.
- An openness to the varying paths people may take to finding their faith and their relationship with God.
- A recognition of the differences between the young of today and prior generations and a willingness to honor those differences in the service of those young.
- Joy in what Christianity has done for you and a burning desire that others should experience it.

Skills

- Active listening
- Experience in a volunteer-driven environment is preferred
- High proficiency in face-to-face and electronic communication, both with individuals and with groups.
- Self-organized and self-motivated

We are a federated church of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church, with a growing but busy congregation. Core to our mission is to help families strengthen their faith as much as they strengthen their bodies in sports and their minds in school. Finding the best ways to do that for the families will allow our whole community to thrive.

This is the ideal job for someone with curiosity and the desire to explore how God is bringing something new into the world. Someone seeking to develop a highly desirable set of skills that will be useful in many settings well beyond church would find this challenge intriguing. We are eager to provide the mentoring and development that these skills require. With the assistance of our pool of volunteers, a great candidate will find their time and efforts will yield surprisingly fertile results. We have plans already in place to make sure that the right candidate will be set up for success!

To apply: Please send a resume or a description of your talents to minister@bccnh.org.
Have questions? Email minister@bccnh.org.