

# VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



GILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Volume 62

January 2012

Issue 1



2012 Pledge Drive comes to a close....but it is never too late! I am very pleased to announce, despite the tough economic times, that we are rapidly approaching our pledge goal for the 2012 budget, thanks to a successful pledge drive. At this time, we are over 95% of the way there, with a few of our annual pledgers waiting until the last minute, likely due to the holiday shuffle.

Thanks to everyone who shared input on "what's next and what's on your heart." It was overwhelmingly stated that there is a desire to focus our outreach attention locally, so this topic will be discussed within the Church Council in the New Year.

I am very happy to announce the winners of the Pledge raffle. The winners are:

**Prize #1: Elaine Shea**

**Prize #2: Jessica Fleck**

We thank Church Landing and Robin Baron for their generous donations and continued support. We hope our winners make good use of their prizes and share a thought/experience in an upcoming newsletter. We are blessed to have such a giving church membership and we look forward to an exciting 2012.

- Derek Tomlinson, Finance Committee



The Annual Business Meeting of the Gilford Community Church will be held on Sunday, January 29th, after the worship service. Written reports will be reviewed, there will be a vote on the proposed 2012 budget, nominated committee members will be approved, and we will consider such other important business that may come before us.

Our six confirmation students are fundraising for their service project with the City Mission Society of Boston and their overnight at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in NYC.

With that in mind, they are willing to pick up your undecorated and dried up Christmas Tree that you will be looking to discard. They will collect your tree after church on Sunday, January 8th. (If you would prefer an earlier date, please specify). Please call the church office and sign up to have your tree taken!!!

Any donations are appreciated.



## Take a walk with me...



I have a little ritual; I do it every December 31<sup>st</sup>. In fact, I've done it every December 31<sup>st</sup> since '83. This will be twenty-nine years, but who is counting? Cindie and the kids have usually spent the day making party plans for the evening. I have spent the day thinking about college football. They have baked and cooked and shopped for snacks and beverages appropriate to bringing in the New Year. Rather uselessly, I have obnoxiously dawdled about the house in my old Spartan sweatshirt. They have chilled the sparkling cider. I have chilled mugs for the following day's festivities. Meticulously, they have arranged plates with goodies. I have tossed an unopened bag of pretzels in a basket. On those rare financially prosperous years – they have lived on the edge – they buy party favors. Movies and music and television shows have been selected for the celebration. It is all carefully choreographed.

Years ago, I wrote a little responsive litany to accompany the ritual.

It's just another night.

**No it's not.**

I'm going to bed at nine.

**Don't be such a party pooper.**

It's just another night.

**You're just an old stick-in-the-mud.**

I am not . . .

**Oh, yes, you are.**

At lunch, I invite the family to stand and join me in that responsive litany. Inevitably, our guests are not sure what to make of it. The act is repeated throughout the day. Just before nine we say it one last time and then I go upstairs. The ritual climaxes when the family marches to the bottom of the stairway and chants, "Come down, come down." I do not, however, succumb to the pressure of bringing in the New Year. "Good night!" I say and close the bedroom door.

Truth is, it *is* just another night -- followed by just another day. And yet, maybe – just maybe - it is more than that. The New Year does bring with it a promise of a fresh start, a new beginning. Naïvely or not, we love to believe that this year might be different, better in some way. Not just *this year* – but that we ourselves might be better this year. Better might mean thinner, faster, more compassionate, more accepting, less harried. The list could go on and on.

Self-improvement is important. Goal setting can be significant. But, as we struggle to make changes, it is important to realize just how radically loved we are – just as we are. Pudgy and slow, self-righteous and radically insecure, we are loved. In a little book, *If Grace is True*, these simple, yet profound, lines are penned, "There is nothing we can do that will make God love us more. There is nothing we can do that will make God love us less." Nothing! Of course, poor choices and destructive behaviors can destroy our lives, but they cannot force God to stop loving us. So go for it! Stay up late or go to bed early, run harder, eat less, learn a foreign language, save more money, learn to dance. But always know just how loved and accepted you are!



### Attendance

December 4: 264

December 11: 249

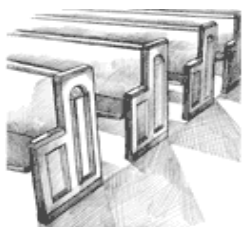
December 18: 204

December 24:

(6 pm): 346

(11 pm): 138

December 25: 78



New to our church? Would you like to learn more about it? Come join Rev. Michael Graham and others to learn about our church and what we can offer you. Watch your bulletin for a notice of the next meeting date.

### **GUYS' NIGHT OUT— January 19, 2012**

This is our first get-together in 2012 and it will be a time to learn how to communicate online with your family and friends. Debbie Bolduc will be sharing the difference between Blogs, Twitter, and Facebook and just exactly what these Social Media devices are. A Social Media for Dummies Night! What are the pros and cons of these new ways to communicate? (You may not be interested in these tools, but your family and friends are! Don't be left out in the cold!) 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a social hour, 7:00 dinner catered by Ellie Murphy. Cost: \$10.00 Reservations are needed by Monday, January 16th. Come and bring your friends! A good night to get out of the house and learn a little something so that you can at least "talk the talk" regarding Twitter, Blog and Facebook!  
- Warren Hutchins and Carroll Stafford

### **LADIES' NIGHT OUT—January 20, 2012**

Brendan Smith, weekly columnist for the *Weirs Times*, will be the speaker. Mr. Smith writes Humorous Flatlander articles for that newspaper every week. Mary Hutchins and Eloise Post will be catering the dinner. Cost: \$10.00. Please submit your reservations and payment to Lynne DeVivo by Monday, January 16th.



**The Village Newsletter** is a monthly publication of  
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**Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist**

**Carlos Martinez, Choir Director**

**Scott Hodsdon, Director of Youth & Family Programs**

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Church Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00-3:00 pm



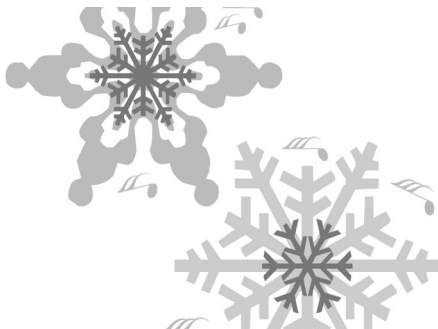


### January Birthdays

- 1 Jennifer Watson
- 2 James DeBettencourt, Danielle Baron
- 3 Kandi Edson, Dan Brown
- 4 Christine Guarene, Mary Swain
- 5 Dale Curtis
- 6 Jeffrey Baron
- 7 Susan Walsh, Alex Richardson, Scott Hodsdon
- 8 Sue Cutillo, Monica Melbourne, Kyle Gandini
- 9 Barbara Ponsart, Nancy Carsen
- 10 Ginny Littlefield, Shawn Chase
- 11 Margret Eddy, Heather Richardson
- 14 Delores Seager, Ernie Roy
- 15 Mark Swain
- 16 Zelma Price
- 17 Ryan Nelson, Carolyn Ames
- 18 Barbara Dewhirst
- 20 Mark Godek, Susan Noyes
- 21 Jonathan Wixson, Holly Bannon, Michael Lungarelli, Alexander Goehausen
- 23 Carole Hopper
- 25 Faith Rupert, Matthew Herbert
- 26 Linda Ferruolo
- 27 Yvette Johnson
- 28 Janet Paddack, Liam Weldon, Thomas Boucher
- 30 Caleb Devarney
- 31 Derek Blackwelder, Lionel Paradise

### January Anniversaries

- 29 James & Joann Cowan



## Music Notes



From  
**Carolyn Ames**  
 (Music Director/Organist)  
**Carlos Martinez**  
 (Choir Director)

This holiday season has been filled with wonderful music from our talented church family. They share their love of music with us and many consider it a large part of their ministry with this church.

Thank you to Michael Wernig, Sam and Sophie Leggett, Mary Snow, Emily Watson, Emily Arnold, Emily Hanf, Kelly Nix, Sarah Cook, Kelsey and Catherine Buckley, Kelli Vieten, Rachel Blandford, Mackenzie Roys, Skye Devarney, Carl Carder, Heather Richardson, Cindie Graham, AJ Coppola, Heather Blandford, Brittany Murphy, Lindsay Nelson, Lynne DeVivo, The Bell Ringers, May and Alex Stewart, the Christmas Pageant kids and youth singers, Carlos Martinez and last, but certainly not least, the Chancel Choir. All of these musicians have made each of our services something special.

We look forward to the Christmastide season and the musical celebration of Epiphany. Many musical composers such as Handel and Thomas Tallis wrote thematic music/hymns for this special time of the church year. Some titles include, "As with Gladness, Men of Old", which describes the visit of the Magi, "Now the Silence, Now the Peace" and "Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness."

**DEADLINE for items for the FEBRUARY newsletter will be Friday, January 27, 2012. THANKS!**



## SENIOR Breakfast

Saturday, January 28, 9-10:30

We will continue our senior outreach with a free breakfast and bingo event for the residents of the Village Knolls. This has become a wonderful event, and the residents are very grateful that we do this.

Youth group members are invited to help set up, serve meals, run bingo, and clean up. If you would like to help, please contact Scott and be at Fellowship Hall at 8:15am



## GCC FAMILY NIGHT OUT DISNEY ON ICE

Friday, January 20

Young children of our church are invited to attend "Disney on Ice" at the Verizon Center in Manchester.

We will take a bus down together.

Parents, you are invited to attend but it is not necessary. I have invited a select few older youth mentors and a few adults to accompany me to the show.

Tickets only \$15 per person.

To reserve your spot, please contact Scott at [gccscott@metrocast.net](mailto:gccscott@metrocast.net)



## MISSION TRIP 2012

The GCC is proud to announce that the 2012 Mission Trip will be to **Jacksonville, Florida**. The trip will take place July 28-August 3.

Because of flight reservations, we will need an accurate count of participants this January.

**There will be a meeting for those interested (and parents) on Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, following church service.**

We will cover costs, fundraisers, transportation, and other information.



## TUBING NIGHT @ GUNSTOCK

THURSDAY, JAN 26<sup>TH</sup> 6-8PM

We will continue our annual tradition of Tubing at Gunstock on Thursday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>.

We will meet at the church at 6pm.

If interested, please contact Scott. We are in need of a few parent chaperones/drivers.

## IN THE PEW.....

Meal times are very important to the Barons; as a family, they plan and create meals together. Lynne and Mike resolved that their family would always sit down together to eat meals. Danielle and Monique and later, Jeff and Zach, were encouraged to help in the kitchen; they stirred things and frosted cupcakes as tiny children. When their lives became more complicated with teen and business activities, no drive-thru fast food places for this family; they simply arranged dinner time to accommodate whatever the evening activity was.

Recently, the girls were home from college and suggested a complete sushi dinner; the whole family enthusiastically agreed. Jeff even “invented” a sushi dessert using various candies as substitutes for ingredients. “We all were on a sugar high for a while”, says Mike. Lynne adds that they had so much fun just chatting and laughing. As the family investigates more healthy approaches to eating, they are learning to cook gluten-free meals- nothing “out of the box” for this family. The boys are experimenting with various teas and coffees while the girls are inventing delicious salads.

Lynne, a native of Nashua, went to Catholic schools until 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She recalls as a first grader, her class was visited by the Sister Superior who carried a whip in her hand and tapped it as she told them to behave or they would come to see her. Suffice it to say Lynne was a very good girl! She is a graduate of Rivier College in Computer Science and Business.

Mike grew up in Chelmsford, MA, until he was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and led into the “special” living room to be asked if he would like to move to NH. The family had spent many weeks at a summer cottage on Lake Winnisquam and his dad, an engineer, wanted to begin his own business in Laconia. He was inspired by his brothers, who owned a TV and radio repair business in Lawrence, MA. Mike remembers a picture with 20 trucks parked outside. “It took 20 trucks to service TVs for 100,000 families; today it takes one to keep televisions running for the entire state”. His dad opened Baron’s Appliances in 1979. From age 15, Mike worked for his father; he eventually bought the business and expanded it. From

Laconia High School he went to Bentley College for his undergraduate degree and to Babson College for his MBA.

For three years after graduation, he worked for Sanders Associates in Nashua. He applied for a position with the company in CA and was rejected; instead was sent to work in the “arm pit”, the original old building on the river, “where you were worried about leaving the office after dark”. It was his last choice, but “I found the love of my life in the ‘arm pit’”, he adds.

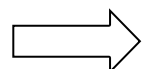
Mike was living in Concord, working on weekends at Baron’s Appliances and at Sanders during the week. Lynne began commuting north to work for Mike’s dad designing their computer system; they would look for each other on the highway and would toot and wave as they passed. Finally, they married in 1988 in Laconia and lived there as they both worked fulltime for Baron’s Appliances.

Danielle was born in 1990 and Monique in 1992, and that was “it” [they like things to be “even”]. They built their present three-bedroom house in 1994; it was perfect—two bedrooms for two girls and one for them. However, once they settled in, they decided they would like more children. Jeff arrived in 1997. They had to even it up, so Zach followed in 1998.

Danielle is a senior at UNH in the Whittemore School of Business and Economics; she is an accounting and Finance major and currently interviewing as she job hunts.

Monique is at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, studying “Visual Histories”, chronicling events using photography and narrative form. She leaves January 29<sup>th</sup> for Spring Semester in Cuba where she will focus on Cuban culture and family life.

Jeff and Zach both attend The Derryfield School in Manchester in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades respectively. Zach’s loves are skiing and mountain biking and guitar—of all kinds. Jeff loves skiing, distance running and building things; he wants to be an engineer. His musical love is the bagpipe. “This is often a pretty noisy house”, Lynne says. “and all of them



play the piano”.

The family came to us at GCC from St. Joseph’s five years ago. Lynne is on the Educational Ministries Committee and on the Board of the Gilford Youth Center. Mike is a side-line supporter. “This church allowed us to be open-minded, open-viewed and inclusive; we are turned off by establishments that are not inclusive”, Mike says. Lynne adds, “The kids have opportunities to live their faith rather than to just show up at church every week”.

We are certainly happy to include the Barons among our members.

- Faith Rupert.

4TH QUARTER GIVING OF OUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

African Food & Peace (Uganda)	\$450.00
Doctors Without Borders	\$475.00
Unicef	\$500.00
Partners in Health	\$700.00
Heifer Project	\$500.00
TOTAL:	\$2,625.00



This Christmas season, the Outreach Committee put together and distributed 36 baskets. 24 baskets for the community, 4 baskets for Carey House, 3 baskets for New Beginnings and 5 baskets for the Gilford School system.

*To the members of the Gilford Community Church:*

*My heartfelt thanks and prayers go out to all of you. The Thanksgiving basket was wonderful and made my holiday very special. Thank you and blessings to all during this holiday season.*

- *Dorothy Forbes*



**JANUARY 2012**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>1</b> 10:00 Worship/ Communion	<b>2</b> 11:30 Senior Women- tum	<b>3</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 3:45 Al-Anon	<b>4</b> 12 noon Adult Study 4:00 Chordsmen Q 5:00 Brownies 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Troop 243	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 10:00 Worship at Genesis Healthcare 4:45 Brownies	<b>7</b> 9-11 Girl Scouts 10-5:30 Birthday Party 5:00 Gifford Football
<b>8</b> 9:40 Hymn Sing 10:00 Worship Confirmation students will pick up your Christmas Tree (schedule with the church office.) 2:00 Belknap County Nursing Home Worship	<b>9</b> 11:30 Senior Women. 7:15 Chordsmen	<b>10</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 3:45 Al-Anon 7:30 Chess Club	<b>11</b> 12 noon Adult Study 4:00 Chordsmen Q. 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Troop 243	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me	<b>14</b> 8:30-4:30 Quilter's Guild 5:00 Winnepesaukee Yacht Club
<b>15</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>16</b> 9-12:15 Senior Mentum	<b>17</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 3:45 Al-Anon 7:30 Chess Club	<b>18</b> 12 noon Adult Study 4:00 Chordsmen Q 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Troop 243	<b>19</b> 6:00 GUYS' NIGHT OUT	<b>20</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 4:45 Brownies 6:00 LADIES' NIGHT OUT GCC Family Night Out DISNEY ON ICE	<b>21</b> 9-11 Girl Scouts 11:00 Baptism
<b>22</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Mentor Gathering 11:15 Meeting for all interested Mission Trip participants and Parents.	<b>23</b> 9-12:15 Senior Mentum 6:30 Pack Meeting 7:15 Chordsmen	<b>24</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 3:45 Al-Anon 7:30 Chess Club	<b>25</b> 12 noon Adult Study 4:00 Chordsmen Q. 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Troop 243	<b>26</b> 6-8 TUBING NIGHT at GUNSTOCK. Meet at church.	<b>27</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me	<b>28</b> 9-10:30 Senior Breakfast for Village Knolls
<b>29</b> 10:00 Worship ANNUAL MEETING	<b>30</b> 11:30-2:30 Senior Momentum 7:15 Chordsmen	<b>31</b> 9:30 Mommy/Me 3:45 Al - Anon 7:30 Chess Club				



GILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH  
& WIXSON COMMUNITY CENTER  
*19 Potter Hill Road*  
*Gilford, NH 03249-6803*

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