

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



GILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Volume 64

September 2011

Issue 9

GUYS' NIGHT OUT

Thursday, September 22nd, at 6 pm, the GUYS' NIGHT OUT will kick off their season with Howard Chandler, formerly Executive Director of the Taylor Community and currently vice-president of Meredith Bay Colony Club.

The topic will be housing. **What options are there to consider as we move through life and our housing needs change?** Not a sales presentation and not a program just for the old folks.

Dinner catered by Ellie Murphy.
Cost: \$10.00. Call the office to make your reservation by Sept. 19 (524-6057).

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

The first gathering of Ladies' Night Out for the season will be Friday, September 23rd at 6 p.m.

Belknap County Sheriff Craig Wiggin and Deputy Sharon Cavanaugh will speak to the **"Do's and Don't's of Crime Prevention."** Sign-up sheet will be downstairs at coffee hour starting September 4th. Cost: \$10.00 payable to Carolyn Ames by the 19th. Dinner by Ellie!



Rally Day

RALLY DAY is Sunday, September 11th. The day will begin with a pancake breakfast at 9 am followed by worship and the first day of Sunday School.

After church, in Conference Room A, Emily Clement will meet with students and parents of interested or curious confirmation students.

Confirmation is open to all high school-aged students. The program will begin in September and conclude in March. There are 3 components to the Confirmation program: working with mentors, visiting other places of worship, and a weekend service trip in Boston. We will also sleep overnight at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Sunday School teachers are needed—see Scott or Judy Cook (293-0279)

OUTREACH will be collecting for New Beginnings on Sunday, Sept. 4th. **Needed are:**
All sizes of women's under-clothing as well as socks and underwear for kids.

Our **FOOD PANTRY** in the church needs **FOOD**.
Thank you for your donations!



Take a walk with me...



“Without a dream, the people perish”

“Are we there yet?” If you have children and you traveled this summer, I wouldn’t be surprised if you got tired of hearing those four words: “Are we there yet?” As a church, you may wonder the same thing. Although we officially dedicated our renovated sanctuary two years ago, and the Gilford Youth Center shortly thereafter, the expansion project has just finally come to a conclusion, as work on the Wixson Community Center was wrapped up in August. Another generous gift from Bob and Barbara Daniell made that work possible, and also allowed us to pay off the construction loan that would have become a mortgage. How grateful I am for generous people.

So are we there yet? Perhaps a better question is, “What’s next?” Now that we’ve done all this, now that the Gilford Youth Center is off to such a great start, what now? I suppose a great temptation would be to put things on auto-pilot, but the needs of our community and world remain significant. As we move forward, it is important not to overlook the many important things we are currently doing, but what is it that will captivate our hearts and be the focus of our attention?

In a very general sense, my dreams and hopes for us remain the same. It’s that we remain a vibrant hub of a deeply ecumenical Christianity. In this dream, we are true to the words we say – “all are welcome.” We are an affirming, welcoming, and non-judgmental faith community. Our worship is spirited with lots of people participating. We have stimulating and thought-provoking educational events that nurture, shape, challenge and develop our spiritual lives. We are a light in our community and beyond. Collectively, we are engaged in the public life of Gilford. We work together on community projects. Our presence makes a difference.

All of us have dreams. They reveal a lot about us, don’t they? In late September and early October, we are planning three meetings where we can share what the church means to us, lay out some priorities and listen to your thoughts. Derek Tomlinson’s article in this newsletter has more information about these meetings. What might our preferred future look like? A simple, but valuable, question to think about is: “Why does the church exist?” That answer ought to drive our mission. I hope you will think about that, too.

How wonderful it is to be in a church where so many are excited about what is happening. How stimulating it is to be a part of a community that isn’t afraid to dream. We aren’t a church bound to some mythic “good old days.” Rather, our past compels us forward, challenging us to be as vital and relevant as those who have gone before us.

Keep up the good work. Check your bulletin or our website for updates.

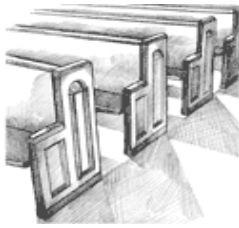
Sincerely,

Michael C. Graham



Attendance

August 7 170
August 14 149
August 21 132
August 28 107



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 this space for the next meeting date.

The Village Newsletter is a

monthly publication of
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Youth Center: www.gilfordyouthcenter.com

(603) 524-6978

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



Starting September 4th, the worship service will resume it's regular time of 10:00 a.m. until next summer.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As I walked around the church grounds during the Old Home Day Fair, I was truly amazed! I saw many people attending all of the activities in our wonderful facilities, and endless volunteers being directed by Steve and Monica Melbourne. The Youth Center hosted the Pancake Breakfast for the second year, allowing hundreds of people the opportunity to see what we have managed to accomplish. The entire campus is impressive, thanks to generous donations and the extensive hours donated to make the entire project happen!

So.....WHAT'S NEXT?

Well, we would like to once again get together some small group sessions early in October to share some initial thoughts, and to receive valuable input from our members. We plan on having some entertainment, a new video to highlight some of the church activities, and some informative discussions.

Please keep an eye on the weekly bulletins for further information.

Best regards,
Derek Tomlinson





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Branden Lemay
- 2 Matthew Miller, Bill Davies
- 3 Maria Dalton
- 4 Guy Nickerson, Doreen Waitt,
Caitlin Herbert
- 5 Lisa Papps, Don Allard
- 6 Nancy Maiorano, Karen
Winkelmann
- 7 Lois Juris, Ann Carlson,
Emily Wernig, Monica Sawyer, Judy
Brown
- 8 Cindy Keenan, Mark Richardson
Chris Dormody
- 11 Rita Crossley, John Dawson
- 12 Stephan Nix, Kendal Ames
Lisa Buckley, Jessica Fleck
- 14 Daphne Fortin, Georgie Wixson
- 15 Hannah Christensen, Hilary
Devarney
- 16 Karen Williams, Debra Hastings,
Joe Sawyer
- 17 Amy Northup, Chuck Leonard
- 18 Paul Chase, Ashley Gleeson
Peter Stewart, Michael Murphy
- 19 Tiffany Selig, Len Coppola,
Dick Waitt, Rebecca Shambo, Mel Van
Dyke
- 20 Shon Grice, Kallista Wixson,
Heather Blandford,
Sara Fitzpatrick, Joey Voivod
- 21 Warren Noyes
- 22 Joan Flemming
- 23 Robin Woodman, Kenneth Erickson,
Greg Gallien
- 24 Mandy Ewing
- 25 Ann Phinney, Preston Kennell
- 26 Lucile Godek
- 27 Barbara Harris, Bob Price,
Ashley Hood, Jeff Bonan, Cathy
Squires
- 29 Grace Blanchette
- 30 Marla Brangaccio

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 David & Sue Austin 1994
- 03 Don & Barbara Allard 1960
- 06 Arthur & Natalie Wermers 1958
- 07 Gordon & Helen Denley 1946
Keith & Gretchen Gandini 2002
- 10 Margret & Dale Eddy 1955
- 12 Dick & Lynne DeVivo 1964
- 11 Peter & Kathie Ames 1993
- 13 Sue & Peter Allen 1980
- 15 Tom & Valerie Chase 1979
- 16 Scott & Maria Dalton 2007
Joe & Jessica Fleck 1995
- 24 Shawn & Wendy Smith 1995

Music Notes



From Carolyn Ames
(Interim Music Director)

I am happy to announce that Carlos Martinez is returning to our church as Choir Director, starting September 1st. Carlos brings energy, teaching experience and a varied musical background. We are thrilled to have him back with us.

Choir rehearsal will begin on Thursday, September 8th at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Please consider joining the Chancel Choir for a wonderful musical experience and an opportunity to share your talent in the church service.

Thank you to the Old Home Day Singers for all their hard work—particularly Mike Warmington, May Stewart and David Greenlaw!

Thank you for all the prayers and support that I received during my recent hospitalization. You are an amazing group of people and I have benefited more than you know from your love and friendship.



SUMMER FAIR 2011—Thank You!!

Two years ago, we had our Summer Fair interrupted by weather conditions, but this year we had just enough time to have beautiful weather before the tropical storm “Irene” drenched our area.

The Fair Committee extends their "Thanks" to all who helped to make the Summer Fair a success.

Many thanks go out to the leaders of committees or groups that took the leadership of an area and made the fair come together in a well-coordinated effort. Each committee had their own helpers, who were numerous, and our thanks go out to them, as well.

Early in the spring, our long-time artist, Beth DeMeo, completed artwork for the featured publicity for "Gilford's Jungle Safari", and we thank her once again.

The **Expanded Silent Auction** was located in the gym once again this year, utilizing the great space to expand to over 100 items—with a great turnout! Sue Allen and the diaconate crew did legwork behind the scenes to come up with this great showing of support from the community. Thanks to our congregation for their baskets and other donations. **Toys** were also sold in the gym, thanks to the organization of the Educational Ministries leader, Judy Cook, and her group. Our Christ Quest Missions people entertained the young toy shoppers with games and face painting.

The **Dunk Booth** was run this year by Heather Richardson, and we are grateful for the “dunkees” who always make the beginning of our Fair exciting.

The long-standing tradition of **Fried Dough** for the Church Fair was enjoyed once again by the combined effort of the Lawrence/Greenlaw families, Mark Richardson and the Nelson family.

The **Welcome and Information crew**, headed up by Dot Labonte and her group, welcomed the public to our grounds.

Michael Murphy sang two sets on Saturday, showcasing his musical talents. Rick Hopper had the DJ spot once again this year, to keep spirits up when we did not have live music.

The **Ice Cream Sundaes**, created by the Stafford and Hutchins families, provided a delicious cold treat to be enjoyed by all.

The chair of the Pastor Staff, Mike Warmington, with the help of Bill Littlefield, ran the **Chuck Wagon**, to feed anyone who could smell the grilling of great hamburgers and hot dogs. The Finance crew, including the Tomlinson family and Kandi Edson, gave the thirsty crowds cold drinks throughout the fair.

The **White Elephant** items were sold in the Fellowship hall with dishes, household items, and all the remaining “stuff” in the center of the floor. Kathi & Rick Hopper started the accumulation and the pricing at the beginning of June, and continued pricing, boxing, and sorting throughout the summer. The Outreach committee leader, Ron Dudley, and his crew, gave assistance to the “Elephant” when needed. The days leading up to the Fair, we had several consistent helpers. Ferol Curtis and Helen Denley, and their group, took the linens and carefully cleaned, folded, priced and displayed them. Our thanks go out to all the sales helpers mentioned above who on Friday and Saturday cheerfully sold and bagged our goods.

The leadership of Pete Allen brought the **Books** area to life once again, to the delight of everyone.

The **Jewelry** showcased their shining goods in the large conference room. Margret Eddy and her crew set up a beautiful display once again.

Sally Clark and her crew showcased the varied and extensive baking skills of our church at the **Country Store** and experienced excellent sales.

Nancy Peterson and Barbara Allard, and their crew, once again created the **Luncheon**, with two seating areas for the diners to enjoy.

Bill Littlefield, chair of Facilities, his crew, and many others, helped with the set up and the breakdown of the outdoor tents and tables. Thanks to the crew that helped unload at the Laconia Goodwill, with the use of Bill’s trailer. Walt Flinn handled the cash and change before the Fair and totaled up the cash received throughout the two days.

Thanks to Dianne Anthony for her photography skills in recording the event.

Thanks to the many church members and friends who not only brought out boxes of stuff on Tuesday, but also helped to break down and to clean up Fair areas on Saturday, in anticipation of Sunday’s storm.

Thanks again!

Steve & Monica Melbourne, Fair Chairs

THANK YOU!

The Friendly Kitchen Crew would like to thank everyone who helped this summer at the Salvation Army Friendly Kitchen. We serve lunch every 4th Friday of the month and our counts are up to about 70 served.



Starting September 23rd, we will go back to the fall and winter menu. (American Chop Suey, green beans and brownies. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, so when you are at coffee hour, sign up!

Thank you again from the Kitchen Kitchen Crew. If you have a question call 455-9853 (Dot Labonte).



THANK YOU!!!

Dear Michael & the Church Community,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the last two youth mission trips as a chaperone. It was my privilege. I not only got to know the youth of our church and community better, I also got to experience one of the greatest weeks of their teenage years.

Providing this opportunity to our youth is like most things we do as parents and mentors - we may never really know the true impact on any of their lives. But after being there, having my children attend, having asked the question "why do you come?", and having watched the youth grow over the next year, I can say that it makes a difference! Marvelous Light, Judy Cook



And thanks once again to our unparalleled Steve and Monica Melbourne, for their time, efforts, patience and calm preceding, during and after another successful Summer Fair — we couldn't do it without you both!

**DEADLINE for items for the OCTOBER
newsletter will be Friday, September 23, 2011.
THANKS!**



Senior Breakfast and Bingo

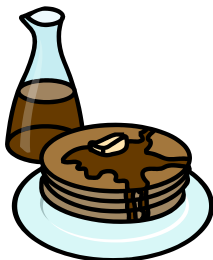
Saturday, Sept 10

9-10:30am

We will be continuing our senior outreach this month with another breakfast and bingo event for the seniors of the Village Knolls.

The past events were a huge success. We are in need of both middle and high school students to help set-up, cook, serve, run bingo, and clean up.

If you wish to help, please contact Scott. Helpers should be at Fellowship Hall at 8:15am.



The 2011 Christ Quest and Mission Trip Video can now be seen on Youtube, or by visiting our church website:
www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org



The 2nd Annual

RECORD BREAKERS NIGHT

Saturday, September 17th

7:00pm

All middle school and high school youth group members (and friends) are invited to the 2nd Annual Record Breakers Night. Last year we enjoyed various competitions, including the “Marshmallow Spit” and “Egg Toss from the Balcony”

This promises to be a night of fun, laughs and record breaking!!!!

Apple Day

Sunday, October 2nd

Following Sunday Service, we will head to a local apple orchard to pick the area's best apples. We will then return to Fellowship Hall to make pies, crisps, candy apples, etc. Participants will be able to bring some food home, and other food will be donated to local families.





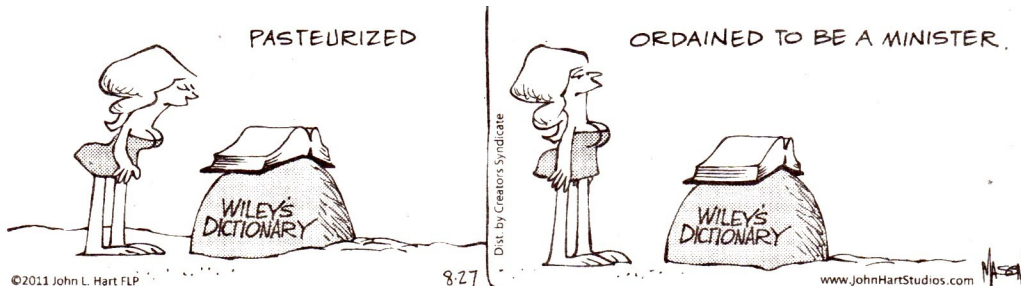
Adult Study Group

Adult Study Group, facilitated by Michael Graham, will resume on **Wednesday, September 14th** at noon in Conference Room A. We'll begin our study by reading Philip Gulley's latest book, *THE EVOLUTION OF FAITH*.

For too long, American Christianity has been poisoned by a narrowness of mind and spirit, demanding that we believe the implausible, affirm the absurd, and despise the different. For many, the concepts of original sin, a God who sends people to hell, and Jesus as being the only path to God, can no longer be stomached. Thus, thoughtful people leave the church in droves, no longer willing to diminish their lives or the lives of others for the sake of faith.

*But what if there were another way? What if God wanted us to grow and to change, both in our theology and our beliefs? In *THE EVOLUTION OF FAITH*, Philip Gulley invites us to put aside slavish obedience to antiquated faith claims and world views that no longer ring true, and discover what we really believe, rather than what we've always been taught. Instead of looking for answers outside ourselves, Gulley encourages us to develop our own apologetics, a belief system open to change. In this paradigm, faith should always be seen as a work in progress.*

Only when we break free from the tenets of Christianity that no longer further the faith can we create a vital and believable Christianity—a Christianity that brings out the best in us, not the worst; a Christianity at home with people of other faiths; a Christianity grateful for scientific knowledge. This is a Christianity many of us have longed for, but haven't yet found.



GILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH
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