

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org

February 2019

Issue 2

February	2	Morning Meditation 9:30
February	3	Food Collection Sunday
February	9	Morning Meditation 9:30 Sweetheart Supper 6:00
February	10	Reiki Circle 11:30
February	11	Senior Momentum 11:30 Game Day & Appetizers
February	16	Morning Meditation 9:30
February	18	Senior Breakfast 9:00 Breakfast & Movie
February	22	Friendly Kitchen 9:30
February	23	Morning Meditation 9:30





We had our 2018 Annual Meeting yesterday. The minutes are included in the newsletter. The meeting was well attended. The brunch that preceded it was delicious; one of the best we've ever had at an Annual Meeting. Scott, our youth, and a few others adults did a very nice job.

Before moderator Alexandra Breed-Hill called the meeting to order, I looked around the room. At every table there were lively conversations taking place. I love that we enjoy each other. No one seemed to be in a hurry to get things going. Eventually, the meeting began and we worked our way through agenda. Having wrapped things up a motion was made and the meeting adjourned.

People began to clean-up the room; others headed home. A number of people commented that they thought the meeting went well. There wasn't a lot of discussion but there were opportunities for that to take place.

Something happened today that I can't remember happening before. Almost every year, minutes after the meeting is over, someone will approach me and say "I wish I had said ..." or "I wanted to ask ..." I hope we feel free to share whatever is on our minds.

I hope in our desire to run an efficient meeting we don't inhibit anyone from sharing their thoughts. We are at our best when we are all offering the gift of who we are. I wish I had done a better job of thanking all of our many outstanding volunteers. Without your hard and faithful work, we wouldn't get much done. Week after week your devotion to the Gilford Community Church enables us to do what we do. I'm so grateful and consider myself very fortunate to work with such gifted positive people.

Thanks for making 2018 such an outstanding year; I look forward to even better things this year and beyond.

Michael

GILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Directly after morning worship a fantastic brunch was served in the Fellowship Hall by the youth group, followed by the Annual Meeting. Alexandra Breed called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

Pastor Michael Graham opened the meeting with a prayer.

Michael then offered a prayer for those loved ones who passed away in 2018.

Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting held January 28, 2018, moved by Sue Allen and seconded by Doug Hill. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt the minutes of the Faith Proposal Meeting held October 28, 2018 moved by Sue Allen and seconded by Jane Rollins. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Souter, Finance Chair stated that 2018 was a very good year in terms of the P&L. Total Offerings were up which led to a \$23,858.31 surplus in the 2018 P&L. He stated that our investment accounts overall were down about 5% this past year and cautioned that 2019 could be similar. He also stated that we did not need to use the investment funds to balance the budget in 2019. He stated that the Church Council continues to work on a plan to use the Daniell funds and that the Finance Committee strongly recommends that we only use the returns and not the principal. Bob stated that there was still time to make a pledge for those who have not done so yet. In response to a question raised at the Faith Proposal Sunday regarding socially responsible investments, Bob stated that the Finance Committee after much discussion, defined socially responsible investments as not investing in companies that are involved with alcohol, tobacco, gambling or pornography. Morgan Stanley has confirmed that our investments comply with the above definition. He then thanked Rick E. and Carl C. and the Finance Committee for all their hard work this past year along with Nan F. and Kathy M.

Rick Edson reviewed the financial statement. He thanked Scott and the youth for the great job they did with the brunch. He also thanked all the committee chairs and committee members for their hard work. He then stated that 2018 met and exceeded our income goals. He stated that the 2018 surplus would be allocated to lighting, tech updates to include computers, sound system, a computer server and better internet connection and whatever was left over would go into the maintenance reserve fund. At the moment the maintenance reserve is at approximately \$137,000. There is also a surplus of \$2,227.97 from the mission trip which will be rolled over to the mission trip for this year. He noted that offerings/plates, gifts/donations were budgeted higher in the 2019 budget than the 2018 budget, but still less than the 2018 actuals. He also noted that the fund raiser line item was reduced in the 2019 budget due to the economy. The facility use line item was also decreased for the same reason. Committees and Community Service line item was increased as was the Youth Center line item.

A motion was made by Molly Notkin seconded by Bill Tucker to accept the 2019 budget as proposed. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Lynn Bartlett seconded by Anne Colburn to use the surplus from the 2018 budget for lighting, IT upgrades and the remaining balance to go to the maintenance reserve fund. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael stated that the Church Council voted to approve the creation of the Hospitality Committee as a standing committee with a vote on the Church Council.

A motion was made by Michael Graham, seconded by Doug Hill to add the Hospitality Committee to the list of standing committees. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael stated that the slate of committee members needed to include Jessi Fleck as Congregational Life Chair, the removal of Alexandra Breed from the Pastor/Staff committee and added to the Finance Committee and the removal of Nancy Castellon from the Flower Committee.

Motion to accept the amended list of committee members was made by Doug Hill and seconded by Penny Franciosi. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.



It was asked that the Church Council Chair cast one vote to approve the amended slate of committee chairs and members. It was so voted.

Molly N. wanted to thank Muriel Middleton for all her hard work and noted that she was stepping down as chair of the Friendly Kitchen.

Michael presented Muriel Middleton and Barbara Allard with the 2018 Outstanding Volunteer Award for their many years of service.

There being no other business the meeting was closed with a motion to adjourn by Sue Allen, seconded by Douglas Hill and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey L. Pate
Church Council Secretary





OUR CHURCH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2019

CHURCH COUNCIL	Jessica Fleck	jfleckjr@metrocast.net	728-5671
PASTOR/STAFF	Lori Marsh	milo2001@metrocast.net	524-8677
FACILITIES	Eston Ross Rick Snow	lasergrading@metrocast.net snows@metrocast.net	455-8092 832-3195
FINANCE	Bob Souter	rsoutergilford@gmail.com	494-2321
OUTREACH	Molly Notkin Jan Briggs	mpnjuggler@gmail.com jan.briggs@ymail.com	781-910-6548 630-6593
DIACONATE	Stacey Pate	staceyl@metrocast.net	370-8248
FLOWER COMMITTEE	Penny Franciosi Jane Rollins	pfranciosi44@yahoo.com 57pilot@metrocast.net	524-8384 524-9507
MEMBERSHIP	Jessica Carder Nancy Carsen	daisies621@hotmail.com ncarsen@metrocast.net	998-5142 387-5799
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES	Bill Tucker	billt568@gmail.com	524-5501
CARE & CONCERN	Nancy Milligan Wendy Boysen	nmilligan4@aol.com wendyboysen@earthlink.net	527-8941 516-807-1556
FAIR COMMITTEE	Dan Vieten (Christmas) Rick Hopper* (Summer)	sleddude@aol.com lrcomp@metrocast.net	387-4899 455-9123
MEMORIAL GIFTS	Doris MacHaffie	dcmachaffie@metrocast.net	524-1169
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE	Dale Dormody	ddormody@piperwebs.com	731-2336
VILLAGE NURSERY SCHOOL	Katie Bryant	dukefans@metrocast.net	520-6660
WIXON MEMORIAL GARDEN	Joe Wernig	jjwernig@metrocast.net	528-6474
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE	Eloise Post	eloise@metrocast.net	986-6723
PRAYER LINE COORDINATOR	Brian Arenstam	barenstam@metrocast.net	520-6034





New to our church? Would you like to learn more about it? Would you like to join the church?

Come join Rev. Michael Graham and others to learn about our church and what we can offer you.

Watch this space for notice of our next Meet and Greet, held on a Sunday after worship service in conference room A.

The Village Newsletter is a

monthly publication of

Gilford Community Church

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Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist

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gccscott@metrocast.net

Rick Edson, Treasurer

rick.edson99@gmail.com

Carl Carder, Financial Technician

gccfinance@metrocast.net

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 to 2:00 pm

February Birthdays



- 01 Neal Miller
- 02 Gail Engle
- 03 Shaun Edson, David Tarbox,
Tom Winkelmann
- 05 Nicholas Murphy, Louise Osburn,
Hannah Stowe
- 06 Jan Briggs
- 07 Matthew Zakorchemny
- 08 Tom Lopardo
- 09 Natalie Wermers, Dorothy O'Leary,
Nancy Peterson
- 10 Logan (Baxter) Woods
- 12 Katie Bryant, Kyle Middleton,
Genevieve Youssef
- 13 Cayden Glenn Wixson
- 16 Cole Winkelmann
- 17 Olivia Edson
- 18 Russ Lauffer

- 19 Susan Brown
- 20 Logan Warrender
- 21 Donald Curtis
- 22 Kathy McNamara
- 23 Skye Devarney
- 25 Kelli Vieten
- 26 Brenda Nelson, Kris Blackwelder
- 27 Esther DeBettencourt,
Shelly Middleton



February Anniversaries

- 07 Rich & Nancy Milligan 1970
- 24 Peter & Monica Sawyer 1996

Did we miss your birthday? Omit your anniversary? Please let the church office know.





What a joyous Advent Season it was at Gilford Community Church. The Advent Anthems from the choir were all accompanied by an instrumentalist: Ginny Barunas on flute, Will Gunn on clarinet, Katie Gingrich and Nathan Shower on trumpet. It was so wonderful to have these instrumentalists join the choir, each one adding their own unique fingerprint on the anthem. We also had a slew of wonderful solos and duets from Christmas tunes old and new. And to wrap it all up, the choir took part of the annual Epiphany Service at the United Methodist Church, joining church choirs from around the region.

Now, enough reflection! Time to look forward! Don't you think it's time to fulfill your resolution of, "less stress". The perfect way, in our opinion, is to have a standing date with a warm community of people. How about every Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm in the Sanctuary, and become part of our choir! Singing is a known de-stressor, and you get to do it as part of our choir family! Talk to Carolyn or AJ after service, if you are interested, or pop by on a Thursday night!

Musically Yours,

Carolyn & AJ



On December 9th we were pleased to welcome new members Phyllis Mecheski, Leslie Berghahn, Diane Lyons, Jim Greenwell and missing from the photo, Yan Li Carter and Jerry Sawyer. Loren Ferruccio also joined on December 23rd

The **deadline** to submit for the March Newsletter is February 13th.

Friendly Kitchen is Friday, February 22nd.

Our volunteer crew serves lunch at the Salvation Army in Laconia at noon on the 4th Friday of each month. To help serve or contribute food to the meal, please sign up downstairs on the bulletin board. For this month's menu they need donations of American Chop Suey and brownies. (The crew provides green beans.) Thank you!



The first Sunday of every month is **FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** and all are invited to bring donations to church with them.

Food Pantry Bottle juice, cookies and canned pasta (e.g. Beef-A-Roni, Spaghetti-os).

Please make sure items have not expired.

For **New Beginnings:**
Due to the generosity of the community with donations, New Beginnings will not be needing anything for this month. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts



We would love to have members of our church community commit to volunteering **once a year** to help host coffee hour during the scheduled "Members of the Church" days. You can host it with your family, a friend, or join forces with another family! Please contact Eloise Post for more information or to get yourself onto the coffee hour schedule.

986-6723 or eloise@metrocast.net



Church Attendance for January

6	185
13	177
20	0 Closed/Storm
27	213



SWEETHEART SUPPER

SATURDAY.FEBRUARY 9th.
6pm Fellowship Hall

Come as a couple or by yourself.
This supper is for everyone!

We will start the evening with delicious appetizers, a gourmet entrée, special dessert and a champagne toast.

Gluten free, vegetarian and vegan available upon request.

There will be music and dancing,
FUN and a photo booth!

There will be a special table for wedding album
or photographs.

Please bring yours to share!

\$18.00 per person

For reservations please text, email or call

Eloise Post 603 986-6723
eloise@metrocast.net





KNIT, PRAY, CROCHET
LRGH “Yarn & Needles” Ministry
All Faiths are Welcome!

The hospital Spiritual Care Department has a new group called **Knit, Crochet, Pray**. Started in January, they will be meeting the first Friday each month, from 6:00-7:30PM in the LRGH Senior Services Dayroom to make prayer shawls and blankets.

- No knitting or crocheting experience necessary!
- All levels of needle-workers are encouraged to attend.
- Please bring your own yarn and knitting needles or crochet hooks.

(Some will be available.)

What is a prayer shawl or blanket? These shawls and blankets are made for the care and comfort of others. While working, the person making the piece has prayed for healing and peace of the recipient every time it is picked up.

All items provided by or donated to this group will be gifts for patients, especially in palliative care, to help provide comfort during their hospital stay and beyond.

For more information, contact Deb Hoffman, Spiritual Care Coordinator at 524-3211, ext. 3528.



FAMILY NIGHT OUT

Skate Night

Friday, Feb 1

Join us for our monthly Family Night Out at Merrill Fay Arena for "Skate Night"

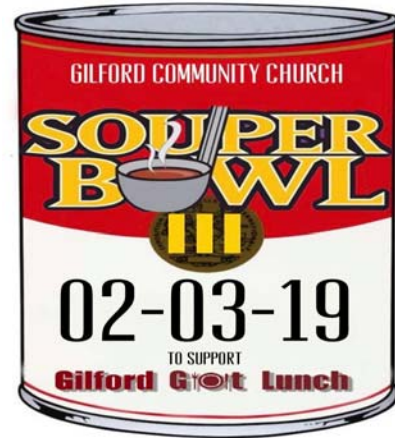
We will meet at 6pm at the church for dinner (potluck), then head to the skating rink for 7pm.



2019 Mission Trip Meeting Sunday, Feb 3rd Following Service

This meeting is for anyone (and parents) interested in attending this summer's mission trip. The meeting will go over dates, destination, costs and fundraising.

The mission trip is for anyone currently in or who will be entering high school next year.



Bring in your canned goods to help support Gilford Got Lunch. We will be collecting cans during service.

3rd Annual

Family Sweetheart Gala

February 16th

Come walk the red carpet, enjoy dinner, and dance the night away with your kids!

Learn more



Thanks to all who attended our annual trip to Disney on Ice!

A Note from the Finance Committee:

Anyone who is age 70 1/2 and older, and who has a Traditional IRA, Rollover IRA, Inherited IRA, inactive SEP or inactive SIMPLE plan*-you should be aware of a new strategy made available to you as of 2018 called a “**Qualified Charitable Distribution**”. This could be especially helpful if you take required minimum distributions (RMD’s) but do not necessarily want or need the proceeds. The QCD is a great way to distribute the RMD from your account and have the distribution not counted in your taxable income for the year.

Notes about the **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** strategy:

- The account owner must be 70 1/2 or older.
- The QCD must transfer directly from your IRA to the qualified charity. The charity must be a 501 (c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions (some exceptions apply, consult with your tax advisor with questions). You cannot take a distribution from the IRA and have the check payable to you and, in turn, write a check to the charity.
- Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year’s RMD.
- The maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is \$100,000. Any QCD in excess of the \$100,000 exclusion limit is included in income like any other distribution. (For those who file a joint tax return, your spouse can also have a QCD and exclude up to \$100,000.)
- If your IRA includes non-deductible contributions, the distribution is first considered to paid out of other-wise taxable income (please consult your tax advisor for Assistance).

In sum, this strategy is not about giving more money to charity to obtain a better tax deduction. It is a strategy that involves paying less income tax when giving the same amount to charity.

The Finance Committee encourages you to review your charitable contributions for this year (if you have yet to receive your RMD for 2018) as well as your projected charitable contributions for 2019 to determine if this QCD strategy could help to reduce your federal tax liability for the year.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Save the Date

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

In the fellowship hall





Come to the HATT SOUPATHON!

Hands Across The Table (HATT) – Feeding the Local Community

(Content below from Hands Across The Table - Laconia, NH FaceBook page.)

Hands Across the Table's 8th Annual **Soupathon** will be held **Friday, Feb. 22, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Gilford Avenue in Laconia.** Come enjoy (all you can eat) of 10+ different International soups, one made by a regular Guest Chef, our own Eloise Post! Cookies and beverages will be included, too.

This is an important fundraiser for HATT and we hope you will consider joining us. Cost for Adults is \$12, children 3 to 12, \$3, children under 3 free, and families of four or more \$30.

Founded in June 2011 by community volunteers, **Hands Across The Table** offers a free sit-down dinner each WEDNESDAY from 4:30PM to 6:00PM at St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall on Gilford Avenue in Laconia (behind Sacred Heart Church). Doors open at 4:00PM. Guests include those in financial need, in poor health, or in need of fellowship and support, as well as the homeless and the elderly. An average of 100-140 guests attend each supper. Primarily from Laconia, others come from 15 surrounding towns. *They are happy to report over 5,400 meals were served in 2018.*

HATT is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, dependent upon grants, fundraisers, and donations of food and money. They appreciate the support of our community in furthering its mission: *To feed all who are hungry in body and spirit. We do so willingly and with compassion and understanding.* Rotating volunteer groups prepare food, serve, and clean up.

Over the years, folks from GCC have volunteered as Guest Chef, on the HATT Board and/or on the church's HATT Volunteer Team. (Several have participated with other community volunteer teams as well.) Currently GCC assists with these free Wednesday meals four times a year.

GCC Team schedule for 2019 is [January 30th - done], MAY 29^h, July 31st and OCTOBER 30th. If you would like to participate in some way, please contact our Team Leader, Eloise Post. She may be reached by email at eloise@metrocast.net, phone at 986-6723. It's a fun time for a good cause!



Introducing CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates of NH

Starting in December 2018, Outreach has added **Court Appointed Special Advocates of NH (CASA)** to GCC Youth benevolence recipients, as suggested by Rick Edson, a CASA volunteer. We are excited to support this agency, which provides services vital to the welfare of our state's most vulnerable children. (Information below excerpted from "How We Help" on website.*)

"Imagine you're a child who has been removed from your home because your parents aren't doing their job. You've been taken from the only people you've known for the first few years of your life and sent to live with strangers who you are told will care for you. You are facing a series of complex, confusing court proceedings where your future is decided by a judge based on information gathered by social workers and lawyers. But who is looking out for you? That's where CASA comes in.

A CASA volunteer is appointed to advocate for an abused or neglected child's best interests. The advocate become "eyes and ears" of the court, making independent, objective recommendations to the judge, based on the information they have gathered through meeting with the child and his or her parents, foster parents, social workers, school teachers, therapists and more.

CASA volunteer advocates are trained to help the child navigate this process efficiently so he or she may find stability in a safe, permanent, loving home as quickly as possible while enduring the least amount of trauma and upheaval.

Since 1989, CASA has recruited and trained volunteers to provide a comprehensive, unbiased picture of the child's life, to help the judge to make an informed decision. CASA volunteer advocates carry only one or two cases at a time, which gives them the opportunity to really get to know the children they are working with and provide them the focused attention they need and deserve. This dedicated, focused attention helps keep the child's case on track in an overburdened child welfare system, so that a permanent resolution may be achieved swiftly.

A CASA advocate is not a lawyer or a social worker. Rather he is a caring adult who becomes a consistent figure in the child's life. The child can depend on to make sure their needs are not only being met, but are the top priority."

*For more details about CASA, how to become a volunteer or donate, check out their website at <https://casanh.org/>. Or contact the local office at One Mill Plaza, Laconia NH 03246,



We are in the process of updating our church directory. Please let us know if there are any changes or if you would like to be added.



February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Morning Meditation 9:30am
3 Worship 10:00am Communion Food Collection Diaconate Mtg. 11:15am	4	5	6	7 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm	8	9 Morning Meditation 9:30am Sweetheart Dinner 6:00pm
10 Hymn Sing 9:45am 10:00 Worship Outreach Mtg. 11:20am Reiki Circle 11:30am	11 Senior Momentum 11:30am Game Day & Appetizers Church Council 6:15pm	12	13	14 Happy  Valentine's Day! Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm	15	16 Morning Meditation 9:30am
17 Worship 10:00am Outreach Mtg. 11:15am	18 Senior Momentum 9:00am Breakfast & Movie	19	20	21 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6pm	22 Friendly Kitchen 9:30am	23 Morning Meditation 9:30am
24 Worship 10am	25	26	27	28 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm		

