

# THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



[www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org](http://www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org)

May 2018

Issue 5



May 3rd  
May 10th  
May 12th  
May 16th  
May 18th  
May 20th

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast  
Pemi Chorale  
GYC Comedy Night  
Gilford Cruise Night  
Ladies' Night Out  
Outreach Expo

*See calendar on page 12 for additional events.*





I was looking through a book I hadn't read in years trying to find a quote I thought I remembered. I wanted to use it in a sermon. As I flipped through the pages, I came upon this picture:



On the back someone had written, "At *The Old Print Barn* – Mystery Ride, June 30, 2004." I'd forgotten that a group of ladies used to get together to do that. I don't know when it started or stopped.

I lost interest in finding the quote and spent quite a bit of time thinking about each of the ladies in the picture. See how many you can name. (The names are listed below). There are fourteen ladies, but only eight of them are still with us. I spent a lot of time reminiscing about those six – what special ladies, what a cast of characters they were. Each one of them, in different ways, enriched my life and the life of our church. Then I was filled with gratitude for those eight ladies who continue to enrich my life.

All of this made me think of this quote from Forrest Church, "Centuries from now, the last tracings of our being will yet express themselves in little works of love that follow bead by bead in a luminous catena extending from our dear ones out into their world and then on into the next, strung by our own loving hands."

Michael

Helen Bonin, Patsy Moore, Denise Sleeper, Alice Hill, Margaret Ball,  
Yvette Johnson, Muriel Middleton, Anne Depoian, Margret Eddy, Pat Pegg,  
Joan Stephenson, Barbara Hauck, Marion Gardner, Mary Flinn



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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The office is **CLOSED EVERY FRIDAY**



2	Tom Guerin
3	Alex Stewart, Harold Dexter,
4	Amy Tripp
4	Dana Brown
5	Sara Stewart
6	Debby Mercer
8	Joe Scattergood
10	John Babcock, Soren Babcock
11	Zach Youssef
14	Riley Marsh
17	Barbara Carey, Cynthia Tomlinson, Patrick Gandini
18	Robin Baron
22	Stacy (Briggs) Cusack, Jesse Ross,
23	Michael Marsh
23	May Stewart
24	Lani Voivod, Kathy Arenstam,
25	Alan Beard
25	Keira & Ella Squires, Britni Baron
27	Donna Snow
28	Dennis McAllister, Randy Pike
29	Dianne Anthony
31	Keith Gandini



2	Mary & Walter Flinn	1953
8	Wanda & Carl Carder	1976
13	Mary & Warren Hutchins	1978
14	Martha & John Sepe	1960
18	Rick & Molly Notkin	1986
19	Brenda & Rick Nelson	1984
20	Jack and Lisa Drouin	2000
23	Pat and Irene Santaniello	
24	Barry & Cheryl LaBranche- Arvidson	1991
29	Derek & Kris Blackwelder	2004

Did we miss your birthday? Omit your anniversary? Please let the church office know so we can happily add you to our list!



The **deadline** to submit for the June Newsletter is Wednesday, May 23rd.

**Friendly Kitchen** is **Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Our volunteer crew serves lunch at the Salvation Army in Laconia at noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 tuna, chicken or egg salad, pasta salad and brownies. (The crew provides bread to make sandwiches, green salad and ice cream.) Thank you!



### Gilford Got Lunch

We are in need of two more drivers for our Monday morning grocery deliveries this summer. Please contact Kathy Dahll 527-9110 if you are interested.



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

### Food Pantry requests for the month of May

Mayonnaise  
Toilet paper  
Re-useable shopping bags

For **New Beginnings**:  
(Please label these donations "New Beginnings" and leave in the church foyer):

Razors  
Shaving cream  
Reusable shopping bags  
Size 4 diapers  
Baby wipes  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Body wash  
Laundry detergent  
Alarm clocks



### Coffee Hour Hosts for May

5/6 - Church Members  
(Please bring a treat to share)  
5/13 - Mother's Day - GCC Guys  
5/20 - Outreach Expo  
5/27 - Care & Concern



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 Jessi Fleck for more information or to get yourself onto the coffee hour schedule.

728-5671 or [jfleckjr@metrocast.net](mailto:jfleckjr@metrocast.net)

Many thanks!!





Easter was such a special Sunday this year– so much wonderful music! We welcomed Nathan Shower as guest trumpeter and you will be seeing him this summer. We hope you enjoyed the choirs’ anthems during the Lenten Season. We were happy to sing “Forsaken” at a Sunday service in addition to our normal anthem in case you missed the beautiful performance at the Maundy Thursday Service at the United Methodist Church. We are blessed to have so many talented singers!

AJ and Ginny Barunas will be singing with The Pemi Chorale Society program on Thursday, May 10th at 7:30pm in our sanctuary. Will Gunn will be conducting! This is always a fantastic evening of music. I hope you can join us!

Looking ahead, this is the perfect season to join the choir! Take us for a “test drive” in the final months of our season! Rehearsals are from 6-7pm every Thursday night, unless there is a snowstorm. The choir is truly a family and we would love to have you join us!

Musically Yours,

Carolyn & AJ



Join us on May 12th, for a night of laughs at the **1st Annual "GYC Comedy Night Fundraiser"**, presented by Cantin Chevrolet. The event will feature two amazing performers, Samuel Comroe and Michael Kent.

Purchase a single ticket, or reserve a table for you and your closest friends.

All proceeds from the event will help support the Gilford Youth Center

Please reserve your seats today!!

Time: 6:30-10pm

Cost: \$30/Ticket \$240/Table (8 seats)



**Church Attendance**  
**for April**

01st	349
08th	190
15th	cancelled due to storm
22nd	178
29th	182

**Ladies Night Out**

Date: Friday, May 11, 2018

Topic: The History of American Flags

Speaker: Walt Stockwell

Catered by: Eloise Post

Eloise is preparing and serving luau style appetizers and “Mai Tai Punch” to sip as you enjoy Hawaiian music, followed by Huli Huli Chicken, Jasmine Rice, tropical coleslaw and dessert!

Reservations and payment due by  
Sunday, May 6th.

Contact Carolyn Ames, 524-1952 or  
willows2@metrocast.net



Temple B'nai Israel presents:

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CONCERT FOR OUR VETERANS**

For the benefit of Camp Resilience

**Saturday, May 26** Tickets: \$27.50 per person  
Complimentary Refreshments

For more info and to purchase tickets visit **WWW.TBINH.ORG**

An evening of "Doo Wop" with two of New England's favorite groups

**The Bel Airs** and **Lee Lewis and the All Stars**

- Performing your favorite 50s and early 60s love songs and dance tunes.
- Music that memories were made from: Book of Love, Runaround Sue, Da Do Ron Ron, He's So fine, Rockin' Robin and SO MUCH MORE!

Open at 7:00 P.M.  
**Music at 7:45 P.M.**

A Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors:

MIRACLE FARMS SUPERMARKETS LTD.  
MEREDITH VILLAGE SAVINGS BANK

\$10 AT THE DOOR  
Students with I.D.  
& Children under 13 with adult

**Annual Spring Clean-Up**

Saturday, May 5, 2018

7am

It is that time of year when we meet and beautify our church grounds. Please join us bright and early! Feel free to bring your own rake and/or clippers.



**Mother's Day cards** from Church World Service will be sold during coffee hour. You can purchase a card for \$5.00 "in honor of" or "in memory of" a mother in your life. A dedication will be printed in the Sunday bulletin on Mother's Day. All proceeds will go towards purchasing blankets for those in need of warmth all over the world.



**Outreach Expo 2018 – Do Something!**

The Outreach Committee's annual **Outreach Expo is on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall following morning worship.** "Do Something" is our theme this year, based on a song by Christian rock musician, Matthew West. See link at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8).

*(Photo from song video.)*

You are invited to munch on tasty tidbits and explore non-profit organizations whose work our church supports through contributions of volunteers, items and/or funds. Representatives will be at tables to answer questions and share details about their mission, purpose and services provided. Hope to see you at this fun and informative event!





The Education Committee is currently planning for the upcoming summer, and would like your help. We are discussing the possibility of having some sort of structured youth program on Sundays during service (similar to Sunday School). However, we want to have an idea of how involved families plan to be this summer, and if having a structured program will bring more children to church during the summer months. There is no wrong answer....We have many families who don't attend in the summer, and we have many that do. Your honest feedback will help us decide if/what we want to provide for children in the summer.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the online survey at [www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org/survey](http://www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org/survey)

## FAMILY CAMPING NIGHT



We are having a family camping night on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at White Lake State Park.

All ages (and parents) are invited to attend.

### Upcoming Youth Events...

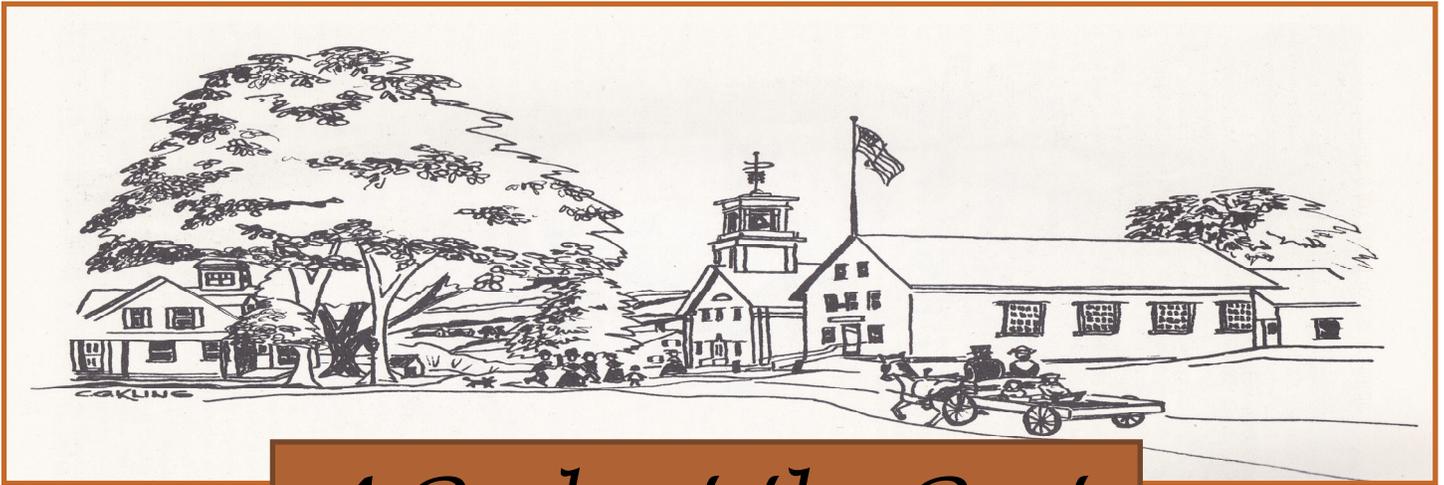
- May 6<sup>th</sup>- Bowl-A-Thon
- May 20<sup>th</sup>- Car Wash (during service)
- May 28<sup>th</sup>- Run to Remember 5K/1K (GYC)
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>- Children's Day/Graduation Sunday



We are excited to announce that we will be traveling to Tennessee for this year's mission trip.

This Sunday we will be starting our "Envelope Fundraiser". There will be 100 envelopes down in the Fellowship Hall, each labeled a dollar amount (\$1-\$100). If you would like to contribute to our trip, please take an envelope, fill it out, and return it to the church office.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!!!**



*A Peek at the Past*  
*Yesterdays at our Church*  
 By Judy Buswell

*Long Prayers and Fervent Exhortations*

Not much got by Alvah Hunter. Even as a young boy he was an astute observer and able to absorb an abundance of details about his surroundings, his home, his family, and the many people, young and old who lived in and around the Village. Some seven decades later these details were assembled as his memoirs, offering the reader a rich narrative of country village life in the 1850s. Titled “*A New Hampshire Boyhood*” this work was intended for his children and grandchildren and thus was never published. However, reference copies are available at the Gilford Library and the Thompson Ames Historical Society.

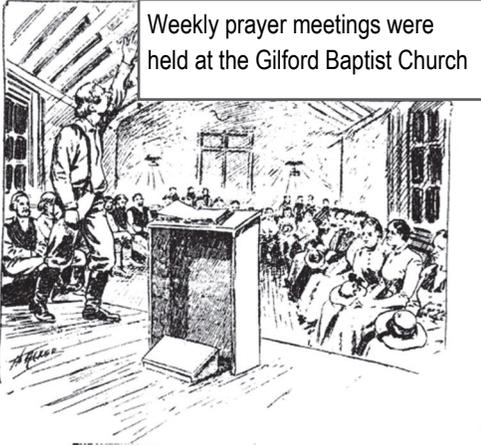
Alvah adored his father, Heman Hunter, who seemed to understand the huge adjustments required of his two young sons, four-year old Alvah and Charles, age six. First there was the sudden death of their mother, Hannah Folsom Hunter, of Typhoid Fever in June of 1851, leaving Heman to manage his large farm while caring for his two children. Six months later the bereaved family moved from Moultonboro to Gilford Village where many of his late wife’s family lived.

In November of 1852, Heman married Hannah’s younger sister, Mary Folsom



Over the years the Hunter Home has also been the residence for other GCC members: LOUISE ELSNER, ADAIR MULLIGAN, DR. KELLEY WHITE, and SYLVIE COUTURE.

which was soon followed by the frequent arrival of new siblings.



Alvah’s narrative includes lively comments about a number of members of the Gilford Village Free Will Baptist (FWB) Church, now known as the Gilford Community Church. Included are vivid descriptions of what he calls the “*very interesting*” Sunday prayer meetings, held either late afternoon or early evening, depending on the time of year.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century Gilford and in faithful FWB communities elsewhere weekly Prayer Meetings were a key part of church life. But the elders of the Free Will Baptist churches throughout the denomination wanted to ensure that prayers were done frequently and correctly. Members were urged to



1829.] THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE. 43

paper, printed in Limerick, Me.) as we believe it an important means of diffusing religious intelligence, and concentrating the views and feelings of the Freewill Baptists in the United States.

11. On motion of D. Marks,

Agreed, that in our opinion, kneeling is the proper and scriptural position for Christians in time of prayer, and that this should be practiced in all cases, when it is not absolutely inconvenient.

From the minutes of the FWB General Conference held in October of 1829. Church Leaders agreed that kneeling prayers are most appropriate..

pray often in personal prayers, family prayers, and church prayers. The correct “posture” or “position” for the most effective prayer was frequently discussed by these male leaders at regional configurations called the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings or General Conferences. After months of discussion, the gentlemen finally ruled that kneeling prayers were the most pleasing to the Lord. However, Alvah’s comments suggest that sitting in the church pews during their prayer meetings was also acceptable.

Alvah describes the behaviors of several church members at prayer meetings, several of whom he knew in settings other than the FWB Sanctuary. Comments on such Village residents who were also FWB church members are sprinkled throughout his memoirs and some are included here.

### THE REV EZEKIEL TRUE AND FAMILY

According to the 1860 Census, FWB records, and the *Gilford Village Walking Tour*, PASTOR EZEKIEL TRUE presided over the Gilford FWB Church from 1857 to 1862 and lived across the street from the FWB church in the Benjamin F Weeks house (*built circa 1840*) with his wife Sylvia, daughter Maria, and sister-in-law, Lucinda Hobbs. Today, this is the large home with an attached barn and wrap-around porch.

Alvah was smitten with True’s “*very attractive daughter Maria [and] I promptly fell head-over-heels! She was far and away more attractive than any of the Gilford girls—at least to my eyes, and I admired her tremendously; I was then eight or nine years old.*” Alvah’s crush on Maria surely meant he would be paying close attention to Pastor True and his entire family.

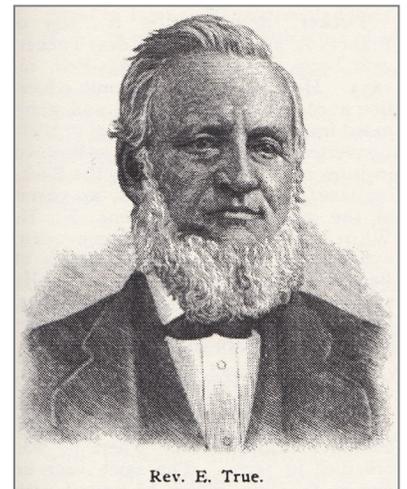
Alvah notes that True opened prayer meetings with prayer and an exhortation and then many other attendees took part. “*A member would lead in prayer, start a familiar hymn, or stand to relate personal experiences and exhort the brethren and sisters present, and not infrequently with much fervor.*”

Rev True’s wife, SYLVIA HOBBS TRUE was “*especially gifted in prayer,*” says Alvah. “*I always enjoyed listening to her fervent pleadings addressed to the Throne of Grace. [With her] strong, pleasant, mellow voice and her unusual intelligence, she was a general favorite. One sentence that always found a place in her public prayers was ‘Work as Thou canst, Thou wonder-working God!’*”

Alvah also shares personal details about Mrs. True’s maiden sister, LUCINDA HOBBS, who lived with the Trues. Lucinda had a noticeable spinal curvature and a long, braided rope of hair piled on her head. When released the enormous braid fell to the floor, extending out by at least a foot. “*It was the most wonderful head of hair I have ever seen.*” However, one could assume that Lucinda did not undo her braid in church!

### GEORGE W MUNSEY

Alvah was also fascinated by GEORGE W. MUNSEY JR, the owner/storekeeper at what is now the Village Store. Munsey “*was one who took a prominent part in the prayer meetings, both in prayer and exhortation, and could be depended on to start one or two hymns at every meeting. I can well remember him, leaning back in the pew with his head lifted and his eyes closed, singing and keeping time to the music with his right hand, as though he greatly enjoyed it, as no doubt he did!*”



Rev. E. True.



The Village Store when owned by Mr. C. E. Merrill who bought it from George W. Munsey, circa late 19th century.

George W Munsey Jr, had purchased the Village Store from Bill Weeks shortly after the Hunter family arrived in Gilford Village. Alvah thought Munsey's store was *"decidedly the better of the two stores in the Village [as it] had all of the better class of trade."* No doubt Alvah remembered Mr. Munsey because he apparently liked children and treated them kindly.

One day when Alvah was exploring a rather large pool in Gunstock Brook near the Hunter Mill, he spied a big trout swimming in the water. Instead of using his fishing rod, he plunged his hands into the pool and grabbed the fish. He then ran with the fish about "dozen or fifteen rods" up to Mr. Munsey's store and asked him to weigh it. Alvah placed his trout on the scales and Mr. Munsey gazed at him *"with manifest pleasure. I think that's the biggest brook trout I've ever seen, Alvey"*. Just then the trout flopped, almost throwing himself *"out of the scoop"*. *"Why!"* exclaimed Munsey, *"he ain't dead!"* The fish weighed in at one pound and 3½ ounces. Alvah proudly told Mr. Munsey how he had caught it and then took the fish home to his family.

Money, already scarce in the Hunter household after their move to Gilford, was made even scarcer with the Panic of 1857. This was the first financial crisis with impact across the globe that historians say was generated by an overextension of the American domestic economy along with a decline in the international economy. This crisis didn't ease until the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861.



Thus every Hunter penny was precious and certainly Alvah's father did not have any spare money for Alvah to buy a bag of the first peanuts ever sold at Munsey's store. However, Alvah sufficiently convinced his father and after much coaxing, Heman gave him a five-cent piece. So Alvah took the coin and flew down the street to buy the coveted peanuts. He hurried back home and spread the peanuts across the table *"and we all feasted... needless to state they were all eaten before we went to bed!"*

#### JOSEPH "DEACON" SWAIN

Another quite different man, **Joseph "Deacon" Swain**, who was a farmer caught Alvah's attention. He writes that Deacon Swain *"occasionally arose and exhorted the congregation after the minister closed his sermon. He was an earnest exhorter even if not a very fluent speaker, and he always closed his exhortation with: 'If we continner [sic] faithful unto death we'll receive the crown of life!'"*

It appears the Swain farm was a little distance away from the Village. Deacon Swain was probably an earnest soul who lived close to the plow and his animals while still a regular attendee at the Gilford Free Will Baptist Church where he assumed leadership roles including the Church's Sabbath School Society.

#### LEVI B. THOMPSON

In the late 1850s, another store opened across from the Munsey store. The owners, Levi B Thompson and his son John *"were good churchmen....the father was a fervent prayer-leader in the meetings. He was a large man, with a powerful voice, and his stout body would sway from side to side as he warmed in fervor, and the sentences would roll out sonorously."* However, the Thompson's store



**THE THOMPSON STORE** before it became the Grange building.



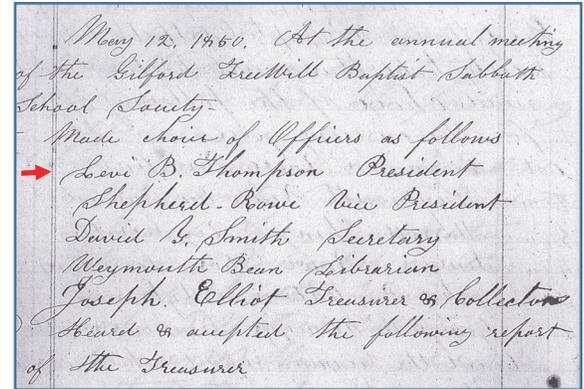
“never became very popular and was discontinued after the close of the Civil War”. The former Thompson store building was later the Grange Hall and today is one of the three museums owned by the Gilford Historical Society.

Levi Thompson was active in the Gilford FWB Church and also held leadership roles with the church’s Sabbath School Society.

**AIRING GRIEVANCES**

As traveling in the early 1800s was usually by foot or horseback, those living in clusters of farming neighborhoods such as Liberty Hill, Lily Pond, the Intervale, and Back-of-the-Mountain would meet together in either the neighborhood schoolhouse or a large enough farmhouse. The meetings were sometimes led by the minister of the Village Church or by a prominent man in the neighborhood community. In addition to worship and prayer, these outlying “church gatherings” were often used to resolve personal grievances among the members of the local community. Details of one neighborhood prayer meeting, held down in the “Back-of-the Mountain” area at Deacon Marston’s farmhouse, are included in Alvah’s memoirs.

Deacon Marston had a very attractive and high-spirited daughter named Jemima who had recently rebuffed the advances of an interested suitor. During this meeting, the devastated young man stood and told the Deacon that he had a grievance against someone and wished to discuss the matter. Deacon Marston responded,



**Excerpt from the Gilford FWB Sabbath School Society log book showing LEVI THOMPSON as Society President in 1850.**

“Free your mind, brother, free your mind. Who is the person?”

It is your daughter, ‘Mima Marston, replied the chap.

Stand up, Jemima and let the brother tell us what the difficulty is, said Deacon Marston.

Jemima stood right up, so flustering the suitor that he blurted out, *Mima Martson, you must have me or I shall die!*

*Then you may die!* Jemima said and promptly sat down.”

Alvah tells us that the disappointed suitor did not die as he soon found a more willing young lady and they raised a big family in the same “back-of-the-mountain” area.

**Gilford families from outlying farm neighborhoods met together in farmhouses like this for regular worship, prayer meetings, and to settle squabbles.**

In most religious practices the format, content, and rhythms of “prayer”, both personal and in church, seem to adjust with the tenor of the times. As long as needs are met and lives are lived well, these inevitable changes can be freely accepted.

Information gathered from • “A New Hampshire Boyhood (Hunter); • GCC archives; • “The History of Gilford” (Rev J.P. Watson - 1976 reprint edition); • “First Baptist Cyclopaedia, 1889”; • “Minutes of General Conference of the Freewill Baptist Convention, Vol I “; • Gilford FWB Sabbath School Society Log Book (Thompson Ames Historical Society; • “Gunstock Parish - A History of Gilford, New Hampshire “(Adair Mulligan); • “Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn” (Thomas Hubka); • “Gilford Images” (D.L. Chitty and GB Ruggles); • Photo collection (Diana Hunt Duckoff); • US Census and other vital records; • Wikipedia and • via Google Images



# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Adult Book Study 10:30am *Chancel Choir 6-7pm Interfaith Prayer Breakfast 7:30am	4 Re-Ignite Retreat 6pm	5 Re-Ignite Retreat 8:30-4pm Spring Clean-up
6 10am Worship Communion Bowl-a-thon Diaconate & Outreach Committee Mtg	7 Chordsmen 7:15pm	8	9	10 Adult Book Study 10:30am Pemi Chorale Society 7pm	11 Ladies Night Out 6pm	12 Comedy Night 6:30pm
13 10am Worship Hymn Sing Mother's Day	14 Senior Momentum 11:30am Church Council 6pm Chordsmen 7:15pm	15	16 Cruise Night 5pm	17 Adult Book Study 10:30am *Chancel Choir 6-7pm	18	19
20 10am Worship Car Wash Outreach Expo	21 Chordsmen 7:15pm	22	23	24 Adult Book Study 10:30am *Chancel Choir 6-7pm	25 Friendly Kitchen	26
27 10am Worship	28 Memorial Day  "Run to Remember" Race	29	30	31		