



# The Outreach

December 2010—Milford, NH



## Christmas Eve Services



### 5:00 Family Service

A simple, family oriented service featuring the MUMC praise band, and a message especially geared towards the child in all of us.

### 7:00 Traditional Candlelight Service

A traditional service featuring the chancel choir, a special Christmas message, and your favorite Christmas carols.

### 11:00 Communion Service

A quiet, contemplative service to usher in Christmas day

Also...

### Blue Christmas Service, 7:00 p.m., December 21.

For many people, the holidays are anything but "the most wonderful time of year." Whether because of grief, job loss, seasonal depression, or other circumstances, many find the Christmas season a difficult time to get through. Join us for a service that is specifically designed to help hurting people cope with the holidays. If you have friends that you think would find this service comforting, please make sure to invite them!

## Christmas Concert

By Sally Landis

Our concert this year, "Christmas 2010: Sentimental to Sacred" will be performed on Sunday evening, December 19, at 7 pm. It will be a new format this year with the first half of the concert being favorite secular Christmas songs performed by the Chancel Choir, various soloists, and the two bell choirs. The second part will be the beautiful sacred Christmas Cantata "A New Birth, a New Beginning" by John Purifoy. The cantata will showcase the Chancel Choir with vocal solos by Rick Bogle and Emily Getchell-Lacey and a dance performance by our Sacred Dancers, including a solo by Rebecca Hart. I encourage everyone to put this event on their calendar as a "must attend" occasion and invite relatives and friends to come with you. It is a wonderful way to share our church's musical talents with the community and perhaps touch someone in a very special way. Following the concert there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments. Please join us!

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## Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Like most churches, December is a rich and busy time for us here at MUMC. And this presents both a paradox and a challenge for our members and friends. While I hope you will take advantage of all that the church has to offer during this wonderful season, at the same time I don't want church events to be just one more thing that people feel the need to add to what is for many of us an overwhelming list of things to do during the Christmas season.

Here's the paradox—Christmas is, of course, a central part of the Jesus story. It is the celebration of the amazing fact that we call the Incarnation—that critical juncture in human history when God took on human flesh and personally invaded our world. And because Christmas is so central and so wondrous, and because the Christmas story still seems to have some sort of grasp, however tenuous, upon the imagination of an otherwise secular world, our members and staff do our best to give our members, our friends, and the surrounding community many opportunities to celebrate and experience the power of Christmas. But of course, while we are doing that, we join all sorts of other groups and organizations that have their own reasons, whether commercial, familial, or spiritual, for inviting us to attend, party, buy, cook, travel, and so forth. And in the process of responding to all those invitations, many people run themselves ragged, and in the effort to celebrate Christmas,

miss the power and spirit of it completely.

Here's the challenge. We need to be picky which invitations we accept. Some invitations are just more important and better than others, while other invitations are just plain beside the point. Which invitations will you accept? And which will you politely decline? I want to encourage you to resist the temptation to say yes to them all, *including* the invitations we offer you here at MUMC. I want to further encourage you to try to winnow down the activities and opportunities you are considering to the ones that seem to get closest to the heart of what Christmas is all about—worship, sharing, service. And then, pick a handful of those to say “yes” to.

As for me, a bottom line and obvious “yes” for me and my family is attending worship throughout Advent and Christmas. That helps us stay focused on what we are celebrating in the first place. I invite you to make that your first priority this season, and with that in mind, I'll see you in church!

Still discovering the joy,



Pastor Tom

**Homemade Christmas Tree  
Ornaments Wanted**  
By Vivian Balam

The Worship Committee is anticipating a blessed Advent Season. We would like to invite everyone to participate in keeping Christ in Christmas and help to keep the craziness out of this precious season. This year we would like to request "homemade" ornaments for our church tree. Whether you and your family "make" one, "donate one you have", or "loan one you have"... they will be a precious addition to our tree. Please drop off your contribution by December 12th. If you are loaning one, please put your name on the ornament. If you have any questions, please call Vivian Balam at 673-0105. Thank you.



**Salvation Army  
Bell Ringing**

We at MUMC put our efforts together during the holiday season to raise local funds for the Salvation Army by ringing bells at Shaws, Market Basket and Stop and Shop. Beginning Nov. 27 and 28 and every weekend up to and including Christmas Eve, we are looking for people to ring ... one hour at a time. This is one more way that we can spread the love of Jesus Christ with those in need. Sign up sheets are in the lobby.

Thanks very much,  
Tami Davis-Betelak

**Beautify our sanctuary this Christmas with the purchase of a Poinsettia.**

**Please order by December 12th.** The cost is \$12.00 (only in RED); checks should be payable to MUMC, list "Poinsettia" on the memo.

To honor or remember a loved one, please complete the following:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Please pick up your plants after the Christmas Eve Services.



## Going Green Update on Electronic Newsletter Distribution

As you may remember, the Administrative Council approved a proposal to begin distributing the *Outreach* newsletter electronically. Our hope was to begin this process very soon after that. That has turned out to be more difficult than we had at first imagined, but we are determined to continue to move towards the goal.

If you are open to receiving your newsletter via email, **please let us know your preferred email address** if you have not already done so. You can do this by emailing the church office at [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org).

If you do not wish to receive your newsletter via email, we are happy to continue sending you your newsletter through the mail. **Please let us know that you want to continue to have your copy of the *Outreach* mailed to you.**

## SHARE Food Pantry By Carolyn Momonee

For the month of December MUMC is collecting:

Canned fruits  
Elbow macaroni  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Brown bags are always appreciated.



Along with the regular appointments, SHARE will be giving out Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets to enable people to enjoy wonderful holiday meals. During the month of October, there were 175 household appointments providing food to 543 individuals. There were also some emergency visits to the pantry. November has been busy too. As you can see, your donations are needed and appreciated!!

Thank you for all you do. May you and your families enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and a Merry Christmas.

## Buy MUMC Serves Wear for Christmas

A great Christmas gift idea and a way to support the Youth and the Adult Missions times is to purchase MUMC Serves Wear. The MUMC Serves Wear available for purchase includes t-shirts (short and long-sleeve), crew neck sweatshirts, pullover and zippered hoodies, as well as an apron. It is available in Adult and Youth sizes and various colors. Order forms are available on the information table.

If you have questions feel free to contact Rita Lines at [ritalines@hotmail.com](mailto:ritalines@hotmail.com)



## **Name Badges are ready!**

If you have signed up for a name badge, simply pick up your name badge from one of the 2 alphabetized bulletin boards in the foyer. They may be returned after the service by clipping them back onto the "clothesline" or by leaving them in the basket nearest your board. You may also wear it home to keep it with your church envelopes, if that is more convenient. If you prefer a "pin" style badge, simply make the switch using one on the empty pin style badges available in the basket; then leave your clip badge for future use.

If you have not yet signed up for a name badge and would like one, please write your name on the nametag sign-up sheet in the clipboard at the Information Booth. So far 130 people have requested them.

The 2 name badge bulletin boards are hidden away! For names ending in A-L, your board can be found by coming in through the right-hand set of double doors and by taking 2 immediate right-hand turns into the foyer. The board is on the small wall adjacent to the windows in the foyer. For names ending in M-Z, your board can be found by coming in through the left-hand set of double doors and by taking 2 immediate left-hand turns into the foyer. In addition, the top 2 rows and the bottom row of each board are random, non-alphabetized "free-for-all" locations to return (and pick-up) your name badges.

Informal volunteers are needed to return name badges to the bulletin boards! Please take it upon yourself to return names to the board if you see them in the basket. The name-tags and boards were produced by the Evangelism team, as a result of a request put in the Suggestion Box located at the Information Booth. Evangelism monitors the box, and then distributes the suggestions to the appropriate committee.



Pastor Tom and Stew Ross check out the new name badges located on 2 boards in the foyer.

# Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 4

9 am—2 pm

## Featuring:

**Tea Room, Café, and Entertainment,  
Crafts, Cookie Run, Baked Goods, Candy,  
Country Cupboard, and Silent Auction.**

All is coming along well for a fabulous Christmas Fair. Have you signed up to participate in some simple way? Fair success depends on the congregation as a whole. This year's proceeds will go towards paying our mission apportionments that we are far behind on. If you haven't seen it yet, there is a "Wishing Wreath" in the Narthex. Please find something you can do help out. The Fair committee has been holding crafting workshops throughout the year and our little elves have been busy and our craft inventory is building, which was severely depleted last year. As this news article releases our last workshop will be over, but you can still help! Please help by signing up to make something for the cookie run table, bake table, or candy table. We are also looking for items for our silent auction

table, and the country cupboard could use some more jams and jellies (peach jam, grape jelly, raspberry jam and apple butter). The committee is also seeking help with set up and take down and also for time during the day of the fair. A sign up sheet with dates and times is with the "wishing wreath", you may also contact Liane Wright at [tesaliane@yahoo.com](mailto:tesaliane@yahoo.com) or 672-6851. Please come and enjoy some time at the fair even if you are unable to make something or donate some time to help. We will have our tea room and cafe with wonderful treats and entertainment too!

Thanks for your support to help the mission visions of our wonderful church.

## Babysitting Night

**Who: Children - Infant – 11 years old**

**What: Games, Food, and Crafts**

**When: December 11**

**Time: 4 - 9 PM**

**Where: Milford United Methodist Church  
Donations Benefit the Youth Mission Trip!**



## Seasoned Generation Holds Christmas Party

By Roberta and Richard Randlett

Due to the illness of our hostess our annual masquerade party had to be canceled. Roberta was down with an awful sinus infection she'd wish on no one. But, she's back up and doing fine, thanks be to God, and now we are planning the annual Christmas dinner and Yankee swap party.

This will be held Sunday, December 12, at 4 p.m. at Dottie and Paul Dishong's home in Amherst. It is a pot luck dinner so give some thought to what you'd like to share with everyone. Each person also brings a gift for the Yankee swap. Many are very, very funny and there is always one coveted gift. Please spend no more than \$10.00 per gift! The Yankee swap is always good for a laugh. Please call Dottie Dishong at 673-5368 for directions and so she can have a count as to how many will be coming. Or you can call Roberta and Richard Randlett at 672-4997 for an RSVP.

We hope to see all of you and perhaps a few new people will join in the fun. We welcome all with open arms. Think about coming and joining us for a very festive time.

January will be our annual planning meeting, so watch the bulletin for date and details and bring your ideas for the coming year.

## *"After the Revival"* Gospel Concert Update

It was a rafter-raising experience for all those who attended the "After the Revival" gospel concert, (the group formerly known as "Rock My Soul Sextet") held on Nov 6 at our church. About 100 people came out to enjoy their inspiring music depicting black, Southern white, folk, blues gospel and Negro spirituals. After a standing ovation, the group concluded with a very spirited rendition of "This Little Light of Mine." If you would like to attend future events by this group, their performance schedule can be found on their web site at <http://www.dfgp.org/>. The group has also requested suggestions for a name change. If you have any ideas or wish to send comments about the concert, please contact Diane Jaquith at [djaquith2@gmail.com](mailto:djaquith2@gmail.com) and she will forward all suggestions to Dawn Boyer, the head of the gospel group.



Pictured are members of the group enjoying a meal and hospitality provided by the Evangelism team.

## The Stephen Ministry Logo

When one enters the lobby at MUMC, one of the first things that may catch your eye is the Stephen Ministry Banner hanging to the right of the doors to the Sanctuary. Perhaps you have wondered about the significance of the Stephen Ministry logo.



The name **Stephen** comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6). The logo that all Stephen Ministry congregations display consists of a cross and a circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is through the cross of Jesus that we are again made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.

## **The approaching holidays can be painful. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders:

For more information contact any of our Stephen Leaders or take a look at our new web page under Ministries on the church website [www.milfordumc.org](http://www.milfordumc.org)

Stephen Leaders  
Michele Bossie 672- 4556,  
Rita Lines - 673-0398,  
Ben Lambert – 672-1425  
Pastor Tom Getchell-Lacey - 673-2669

## **Afternoon Off** **By Carol Brooks**

On Friday afternoons a special program is offered here at MUMC for those caring for loved ones that have Alzheimer's or other related dementia's.

Community members caring for their affected loved ones are able to drop them off at noon and return at three o'clock to pick them up. This gives the caregiver a bit of free time to run errands, get a haircut or go to a doctor's appointment, or maybe just take a walk on their own. While our guests are here, they participate in games, listen to special music, enjoy a snack, make a craft and do some exercises.

Currently our program does have a guest slot available. Do you have a neighbor, coworker or friend who could benefit from some free time while their affected loved one is cared for by our trained volunteers? If so, please contact Carol Brooks at 673-2669.

In anticipation of some volunteers returning south for the cold months, we are also looking for volunteers who are available a couple of Friday afternoons a month. Most of our volunteers comment that they get as much satisfaction and reward from the program as our guests do.

## **Bread Loaves** on Communion Sunday, December 5.

Please remember to bring a loaf of bread (plain or wheat, no specialty breads) to be placed in the basket at the altar on Communion Sunday. The bread loaves are delivered to SHARE, the local food pantry, on Monday morning.



**A Noise Offering** will follow each service on the second Sunday of each month. This offering of spare coins will benefit the Wanakee Scholarship Fund that helps youth to participate in our United Methodist summer camp located in Meredith, NH. If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to Milford United Methodist Church with the memo "Wanakee Scholarships."



## Education Team News By Shelly Frost

We are beginning a wonderful time of year, Advent. As the Children start the lesson called "Gift of Jesus" it is a perfect way to learn about the birth of our Savior. Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th. Then on December 5th we will have our usual opening for children of all ages. Come join us in the Sanctuary.

The worship team will help to bring back the simple days of making your own ornament. We will build together a construction paper chain to decorate the Sanctuary - all ages are welcome to take part in this fun and exciting activity. If you have not received your copy of "Gather round

the Christmas Tree", family devotions for Advent, please see an Education team member for your copy and please use this opportunity to read the daily scripture with your children and make the time to do the activities. Feel free to bring a homemade ornament to add to our tree.

The mission project for the next 3 months Dec.- Feb. we will focus on helping the Peace greeters to support their efforts to help our service men and women with some simple supplies to show our support in all they do for us. A list of items will be available at the opening, please see Ed Team for your list.



## Yes Please:

**Magazines**, newspapers, catalogs, office paper, home paper, envelopes, paperback books, old school work, workbooks, brochures, receipts, etc...

## No Thanks:

Cardboard, phonebooks, cereal boxes, plastic, aluminum, trash

Thank you for recycling with PaperRetriever and supporting this Non-Profit organization with your paper donation. Spread the Word!



To Our Church Family,

"We want to thank you all for the outpouring of support that you have shown to Beth and us as we recently learned of her cancer diagnosis. We have felt your love and prayers as we sat through her long surgery and faced the beginning of her treatment. The cards, gifts, visits, meals, and prayers mean more than words can convey. They have helped carry us through this most difficult time and our faith has been strengthened. God Bless you all. "

Love,  
Carol and Don Brooks

## Lamplighter's Women's Bible Study

The Lamplighter's Women's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Presently, we alternate between the Old and New Testament in study. For a half-an-hour we enjoy a dessert with coffee and tea plus friendly conversation. When we are finished we turn our attention to prayer and study. No preparation is necessary, but chapters are known ahead of time for those who like to review before coming to study. Any questions phone Kathy at 487-5574 or email: [kjbradfield@comcast.net](mailto:kjbradfield@comcast.net).

## Computer Lab

The computer room here at MUMC is open to the public by appointment. Contact Les Coates for an appointment at [Leslie@milfordumc.org](mailto:Leslie@milfordumc.org). or 659-3118. Sherri Sinclair will assist with resume writing, internet job searches, etc.

## Winter Storm Policy

The winter storm policy is that we do everything humanly possible to have Sunday worship every Sunday. Rarely, though, it might be better to cancel services. In the event of bad weather, Pastor Tom will make the decision by 7:00 am at the latest if we need to cancel so that we can alert WMUR to be included in their list of cancellations. You can watch the list of closing at the bottom of the screen on WMUR (channel 8 for most area residents) or go to [WMUR.com](http://WMUR.com).

On Sundays when there is snow on the ground and worship is on, please use your discretion as to whether you should be out and about.



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Happy Birthday to:

Irma Robinson	December 8
Richard Randlett	December 8
Steve Rafter	December 24
Carol Rowlette	December 25
Kathy Bradfield	December 28
Elaine Driscoll	December 30

### Anniversaries this month:

Ron and Irma Robinson	December 2
Mike and Debbie Logue	December 28
Paul and Deanna Berkebile	December 30

If you would like to be included in the birthdays and anniversary list, please contact the church office.

## Financially Speaking

As of September 30, 2010

Income for Budget accounts	\$17,958.28
Expense-budget accounts	\$16,841.27
Balance in General Fund	\$7,639.40
Mortgage Fund Income	\$9,140.50

Non Budgeted Giving	
Outreach and Mission giving	\$1,183.00
Discretionary Fund	\$1,050.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$1,000.00
Outreach Giving Total	\$3,233.00

\* Current report not available

## Church Office Hours

Monday's 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday's and Wednesday's 10:30 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Thursday's from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Most days there is someone in the office before and/or after these hours, but it would be best to call ahead at 673-2669 to check if you need to get into the building.

**\*Please note that there are no office staff hours on Friday's.**

## Church Email addresses

Pastor Tom	<a href="mailto:pastor@milfordumc.org">pastor@milfordumc.org</a>	
Marian Kopp, Office Support:	<a href="mailto:office@milfordumc.org">office@milfordumc.org</a>	please submit bulletin info
Carol Brooks, Office Manager:	<a href="mailto:carol@milfordumc.org">carol@milfordumc.org</a>	please submit newsletter info
Leslie Coates, Ministry Director:	<a href="mailto:leslie@milfordumc.org">leslie@milfordumc.org</a>	

## December 2010 Calendar

			1 9:30 White Tops  Noon bulletin deadline  7:00 Worship Committee	2 4 Sacred Dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 Home Group @ Rafters 7 Disciples Bible Study 7:00 Chancel Choir	3  Noon-3 pm Afternoon Off  6 pm Home Group @ McMahons  7:30 pm Praise Band	4   MUMC Christmas Fair
5  8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Worship 4:30 Jr. High 7:30 Sr. High	6  7 Evangelism 7 Outreach  7 pm Home Group @ Balams	7  6:30 SM Training at BCC  7 pm Trustees	8 9:30 White Tops  Noon bulletin deadline 11:00 Lamplighters Bible Study  7 SM Supervision	8 4 Sacred Dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 Home Group @ Rafters 7 Disciples Bible Study 7:00 Chancel Choir	10  Noon-3 pm Afternoon Off  6 pm Home Group @ McMahons  7:30 pm Praise Band	11   4-9 Babysitting Night
12  8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Worship 4:00 Seasoned Generation Party 4:30 Jr. High 7:30 Sr. High	13  7 pm Home Group @ Balams	14  6:30 SM Training at BCC  7 pm SPR	15 <b>Newsletter deadline!</b>  9:30 White Tops  Noon bulletin deadline  7 Church Council	16 4 Sacred Dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6:00 Adult Handbell Choir  7:00 Home Group @ Rafters 7 Disciples Bible Study 7:30 Chancel Choir	17  Noon-3 pm Afternoon Off  6 pm Home Group @ McMahons  7:30 pm Praise Band	18   10 Christmas Concert rehearsal
19  8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Worship  7:00 Christmas Concert	20  7 pm Finance  7 pm Home Group @ Balams	21  6:30 SM Training at BCC  7 Blue Christmas Service	22 9:30 White Tops  Noon bulletin deadline  7 SM Supervision	23  7:00 Home Group @ Rafters 7 Disciples Bible Study 7:30 Chancel Choir	24 <b>No</b> Afternoon Off  5 Family Christmas Eve Service 7 Christmas Eve Service 11 Christmas Eve Service with communion	25   <b>Christmas Day</b> Office closed
26  8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Worship 4:30 Jr. High 7:30 Sr. High	27  7 pm Home Group @ Balams	28  6:30 SM Training at BCC	29 9:30 White Tops  Noon bulletin deadline	30  7:00 Home Group @ Rafters 7 Disciples Bible Study 7:00 Chancel Choir	31 <b>No</b> Afternoon Off	



Milford United Methodist Church  
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www.milfordumc.org

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Milford, NH 03055  
Permit No. 17

## December 2010

### Worship times

8:30 Contemporary Worship

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Traditional Worship

Free childcare

Change Service Requested

# Milford United Methodist Church

## *Discover the Joy!*

***Our Mission:*** The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

***Our Vision:*** We will help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by:

- Providing joyful and meaningful worship experiences.
- Establishing and encouraging small groups for study, support, prayer, fellowship and service.
- Empowering people to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for ministry.
- Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

***Our Values:*** We commit ourselves to:

- Know scripture and live it.
- Act with integrity.
- Be faithful to Jesus Christ, our families, and our church family.
- Strive for excellence in all we do for the Lord.
- Celebrate the ministry of all Christians, lay and ordained.
- Treat all people with respect and sensitivity.
- Encourage people to grow in Christ.
- Care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all people.