

The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
December 2011—Milford, NH



Advent Event

From Kara Ammon

We hope you can join us on Sunday, December 11th beginning at 5:00 p.m. for MUMC's Advent Event. It is a Family Potluck Dinner followed by Advent Prayer Stations and quiet activities.

Please come and be included as we celebrate the midpoint of the Advent season. We will take this special opportunity to eat together as a church family then center our hearts on God through prayerful meditation and quiet activity stations.

Prayer stations will be spread through the Sanctuary and classrooms. Participants will move from station to station. Parents are encouraged to guide their younger children through each activity. Middle school youth, high school youth, and adults will be their own guides.

Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck dinner.

Please let us know if you need child care for this event by calling: Kara Ammon 547-3208 or send an e-mail to:

galleyslave@comcast.net

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>PT's Message</i>	2
<i>Broken Bread Cafe</i>	5
<i>2012 Confirmation Class</i>	6
<i>Wanakee Concert Starring MUMC kids!</i>	8
<i>Christmas Fair</i>	8
<i>VBS Planning</i>	9
<i>December Calendar</i>	13



A Message from the Pastor...



Dear Friends,

During this Advent season MUMC is once again inviting our members and friends to be a part of something called the "Advent Conspiracy." The Advent Conspiracy is an international movement involving thousands of churches of just about every denomination that seeks to enable churches and individuals to recapture the deepest meaning of the Christmas season.

From the Advent Conspiracy web site, "The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas?"

I suspect that the answer for many of us is, "No." The Advent Conspiracy folks suggest four strategies for getting more of what many of us long for this Christmas season. They are:

Worship Fully: We tend to forget that Christmas is, first and foremost, a time of awe and wonder as we contemplate again the powerful

message of God's invasion of planet earth in the form of the Christ Child.

Spend Less: The average American family spends about \$800 a year on Christmas gifts. We're not talking about cutting out gift-giving altogether, but scaling back—maybe one less gift to each member of our immediate family.

Give More: As the Advent Conspiracy web site says, Christmas "should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible." The concept is to replace some of the material gifts to our family and friends with the gifts of our time—going sledding, making cookies, having a family Christmas carol sing perhaps even making gifts for one another like we used to do when we were kids.

Love All: Having scaled back, take some or all of the money we would have spent and give it to organizations that feed the hungry and encourage development. Once again, our church will be assisting you in that process through a special offering that will be taken on December 18, with the option for folks to direct their giving towards one or both of our special offering recipients; Living Water International, a Christian organization dedicated to building wells in villages in the developing world so that more people will have access to clean and safe

(Continued on page 4)

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral motifs, including large stylized flowers on the left and right sides, framing the central text.

It is with sadness that we announce that after more than 30 years of service to our church, Marian Kopp has decided to retire. Please continue to keep Marian in your prayers as she continues to face health challenges, and keep your ears and eyes open for news about an upcoming retirement celebration when we can give Marian a proper expression of grateful thanks for all her service to our church over the years.

1000ChristianClipart.com

Education Team News

From Shelly Frost

The Mission collections for Sunday School are going very well we are again helping SHARE. They are always in need of toiletries including toilet paper, shampoo, bar soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, razors and diapers. The children are doing an amazing job, and with the added incentive of the Donut Party for the winning grade, it is not only a great cause but great fun as well. Our collection for SHARE will end on Dec. 11 - and the Donut Party will be held on Dec. 18. Please watch for the weekly reminders and help us help SHARE. The monetary Sunday school offering will also go to SHARE.

Junior Church - In order to devote more time to other activities at the church, Deb Mentch will be stepping down as the Jr. Church Leader at the end of November. If there are any parents of Jr. Church attendees willing to continue

this program, please contact an Ed Team member. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board for interested parents to sign up for a turn to lead Jr. Church each week. There must be an adult signed up for each week, youth helpers are welcome as well, but IF THERE IS NO ADULT SIGNED UP, THERE WILL BE NO JR. CHURCH THAT WEEK.

To all Teachers - the winter curriculum is now available, if you have not yet received an e-mail with the attached schedule please contact Shannon Gutterson or any Ed Team member for more information.

There will be no Sunday school held on Sunday, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1st, please mark your calendars regarding these dates.

PT's message, continued

(Continued from page 2)

drinking water, and a yet-to-be-determined local or regional charity. You will be able to steer all or some of your gift to one or the other.

As the folks at Advent Conspiracy remind us, Christmas can still change the world.

Grace and peace,



Seasoned Generation News

From Dick & Roberta Randlett

Sunday, Dec 11th, starting at 4 p.m., is our annual Pot Luck and Yankee Swap at Paul and Dottie Dishong's beautiful home. Bring a dish to share and each bring a gift of no more than \$10.00 or less for the Yankee Swap following dinner.

Please RSVP the Dishong's, 673-5368, so they can get a head-count for how many tables are needed for dinner and you can also get directions if you need any.

A correction to October's write-up. The apples for the delicious Apple Crisp that was served at the September Chicken dinner were from Liane Wright's apple trees. Thank you, Liane!!

We hope to see many of you at our always wonderful Christmas party.

Lamplighter's Women's Bible Study Group

From Carol Rowlette

*Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, O Lord, do not abandon those
who search for you.*

-Psalm 9 verse 10

The Lamplighter's group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 and all are welcome.

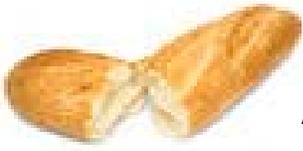
We enjoy coffee, tea and a snack from 1:00 to 1:30, at 1:30 we have a devotion and share our prayer concerns and joys then onto our study of Matthew.

We will be meeting on November 30 and December 7 for our regular Bible Study and on December 14 we will enjoy a group pot luck luncheon and a white elephant Yankee swap. This will conclude our study until January 4, 2012.

Elaine Driscoll will lead in January and Kathy Bradfield will lead in February.

Any questions may be directed to:

- Kathy Bradfield at 487-5574 or Kjbradfield@comcast.net
- Elaine Driscoll at 673-4270 or Geldris@comcast.net
- Carol Rowlette at 673-5403 or carolleero@aol.com



Broken Bread Café

*(Formerly referred to as the MUMC Café)
From Les Coates, Ministerial Director*

The Broken Bread Café (formerly MUMC Café) is a full meal communion service for those who value food as both an incarnate connection to God the creator of all things and value a shared meal of any kind as a meaningful connection between people of all walks of life.

This time of worship has been developed specifically considering the concerns of those aged 18-35 and also for those who are a part of the "local food movement." That being said, Broken Bread Café strives to be a community of love and grace open to all people whether they are church members, community members, or

visitors. We welcome all people and commit to be a community in which differences, whether in theology, ideology, political affiliation, academic interests, ministerial gifts, or spiritual callings, can form a community of Christian disciples through God's love.

The aesthetics of worship are inspired by the recent services lead by Ministry Director, Leslie Coates, during the past year at Christmas and Easter and the communion portion of the service will be

directed by Pastor Tom Getchell-Lacey. The methods to achieve this aesthetic will include, but not be limited to: music, poetry, personal narrative, shared story, prayer, and ritual. The right to explore a variety of worship styles and methods will be reserved to leadership judgment and inspired by the input of the newly forming congregation.

The dominant theme surrounding each

of these services is food. Food as it pertains to the ministry of Jesus, the sacrament of communion, and the connection it offers each of us to one another will inform every aspect of worship. It will offer inform the central

character of leadership inspired service. Every member of our church is a minister and has a right to follow the call of God in their own way, but the underlying and ever present connection food offers will always be a leading factor. As it is important to the leaders of this service, it is our intent to place value on the food itself. It is our belief if food is to connect us to God, each other, and our own selves, the quality of food is important. Our belief remains

(Continued on page 6)

Broken Bread Café
"A full meal communion service"
The second Saturday
of each month
Beginning
January 14, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Broken Bread, continued.

(Continued from page 5)

high quality food travels short distances, is free of chemicals, and is good for our body. In the same way Abel offered to God the best of his harvest, we believe we should offer our best to God and to one another. Of course, the logistics of cost will inform some of our decisions, but the spirit of local, healthy food will always be a priority. Food will be at the center of our communion table and worship and also at the center of our service as it concerns feeding the poor and eating with those on the margins of society. Gathering around a table of food has been a part of our tradition in celebration of God and his goodness since before the incarnation of Jesus, and it is our hope to continue in this tradition while pursuing a meaningful relevancy to our community today.

If this sounds exciting and you feel called to insure the success of this ministry, please contact Ministry Director, Leslie Coates and find out what you can do to help. We need prayer, time, energy, and money.

2012 Confirmation Class

From Kara Ammon

We would like to introduce the 2012 Confirmation Class and their mentors. Please keep them in your prayers and offer your them your support as they continue to grow in Christian faith and fellowship.

- **Dylan Mailloux**, mentor Bruce Houston
- **Kyle Leach**, mentor Andy Baver
- **Aaron Leach**, mentor Arthur Harkness
- **Felicia Moaratty**, mentor Becky Ladeau
- **Wyatt Moaratty**, mentor Steve Kimner
- **Danny Getchell-Lacey**, mentor Tom Knapp
- **Nick Gutterson**, mentor Wally Ammon
- **Brandon Palmisano**, mentor Jason St. Jean
- **Andrew Houston**, mentor Steve Rafter
- **KJ Ammon**, mentor Shannon Gutterson
- **Shannon Drew**, mentor Shannon Mason

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year... But Not for Everyone

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m.



If you (or someone you know) is having a hard time this holiday season because of something like the loss of a loved one, unemployment, sickness or depression this service is designed especially for you. Feel free to invite a friend.

Sponsored by the MUMC Stephen Ministry

Mission Project-- The Dominican Republic

From Sally Landis

Julie Baker (Sally's daughter), has been involved with a mission in The Dominican Republic for several years. The Chancel Choir became involved last year by collecting art and craft supplies for the children of the mission at Sun Camp. This year, Julie is involved with starting a women's cooperative based out of Sun Camp that seeks to provide jobs and an income for the local women so that they can send their children to school. Education in the DR is not free and the only way to a better life for the children is through education.

Julie will be offering beautifully decorated boxwood trees for sale during advent. The price of \$20.00 will go completely towards the mission project as Julie is donating her time and materials.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, see Julie's description on the bulletin board in the choir room or talk to Sally at church. There will be a sample tree and ordering information in the narthex. Thank you!

News from SHARE

*From Carolyn Momenee
and Kathi Beane*

**For the month of
December MUMC is
collecting: Toilet
paper, paper towels
and facial tissues.**



We have gone back to the regular requests. We will be doing baskets for Christmas too but we are more in need of the items for the regular Pantry shopping visits. The Pantry continues to be busy so all of your donations are important and appreciated!!

We put together over 326 food baskets for November. We will be putting baskets together again on December 15th and 16th. If you are interested in helping in any way, please call SHARE at 673-9898.

May you enjoy a wonderful Christmas Season. Blessings to you all!

Milford United Methodist Church Home Groups...

They're for everyone!!

Our Home Groups are a wonderful way to get to know people in our church, share our faith and build connections. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Monday's at 7 p.m.—Bill & Vivian Balam's home, call 673-0150

Tuesday's at 7 p.m.—Brad & Barb Reed's home, call 673-6950

Thursday's at 7 p.m.—Steve & Pat Rafter's home, call 673-4516

Friday's at 6 p.m.—Callie McMahon's home, call 673-5239

Annual Christmas Fair

From Liane Wright and Pat Rafter

Craft Workshops have been happening throughout the year to plan for our Annual Christmas Fair. Saturday, December 3rd is fair day, along with many other sales throughout the towns of Milford and Wilton. We plan to be on the bus route again this year.

Start your day off with something from our café and then head out shopping throughout the town and come back for lunch. Bring your friends!

We have a good start on our stock for the sale, but could always use more homemade crafts. If you like doing crafts but have not been able to make the workshops, let us know we might be able to give you some ideas of what we need.

Knitted or crocheted items are always a

hit! There is also a need for canned jams, jellies, relishes, and salsa. Baked goods, candies, fudge and cookies are needed to fill up our candy table, bake table and cookie run table. We could also use snack mixes, candied popcorn and the like to fill our tins.

Keep your eyes peeled for our donations wreath in November. Take a leaf or two home and help with some donations of food or crafts. There will also be a sign up list for days and the areas we will be needing helpers.

Also check out the list of upcoming workshops. Crafters of all levels are welcome! We need someone to coordinate the bake table, interested volunteers please speak with Liane Wright.

Wanakee Concert Series - Starring YOU!

Calling all kids - we would like to open one Wanakee Concert to performances from those who enjoy camp the most - the youth of MUMC!



Maybe you learned a solo for a theater production...
Maybe you are a piano virtuoso, or even if you're not...
Maybe you have a dance piece you'd like to present...
Maybe you have poem you want to recite...

The sky is the limit!

This is your concert, so talk it up on Facebook and let's see what evolves.

I know we have A LOT of young talent in our church.
Message me Mary Tyler-Wall or email marytw2009@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School 2012

From Mary Tyler-Wall

Summer is at least 6 months away, but it is time to start making plans for MUMC's Vacation Bible School. This ministry is a large outreach to local area children. For one week each summer we transform the church into a place where children can learn about Jesus and God's love for them through fun music, stories, crafts and games. Recently, the sanctuary has been a tropical island, a bayou, the deck of a ship and last year, a biblical marketplace. Typical VBS evenings will find 50 - 60 kids and 25 volunteers in attendance.



During July 2011 we visited Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus was a Kid. For four nights we dressed in Biblical costumes, joined the tribes of Israel and visited the Nazareth Marketplace. Crafters demonstrated their skills, Mary, Jesus' Mom told stories about Jesus' childhood adventures, we ate snacks made from foods typically found during Jesus life and of course we played games. We sang with the Praise Band and learned to love God and His Word. On the Fifth Night - the hottest day of the summer - we hosted a very well attended cookout and animal petting zoo.

Due to some upcoming events the Tyler-Wall Family has planned for 2012 I will not be able to take the lead and be the VBS Director this year. I am anxious to help and to share my experiences with anyone who wants to take on this leadership role. The responsibilities of the VBS Director include recruiting volunteers and participants, providing ongoing communication about the VBS program, and overseeing the day-to-day operations during the week of the VBS program. One of the best parts of being director is selecting the VBS

Program and picking the week you want to hold VBS. Here is one website to preview the 2012 VBS programs: <http://ministry-to-children.com/vacation-bible-school-themes/> If you are interested in directing or helping with VBS please contact the church office or me at marytw2009@gmail.com.

It is because of the commitment and leadership of volunteers that MUMC VBS is possible. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Bits & Pieces...

Christian Aftercare Ministry

Christian Aftercare Ministry to released prisoners has enjoyed your generous donations. The needs continue for towels and small appliances. Winter needs are now for: coats, sweaters, boots, shoes, and sneakers. Please place donations in the CAM box in the narthex behind the welcome table, or call Margie Frank @ 465-7752. Thank you for helping.



A Noise Offering

Following each service on the second Sunday of the month we will have a "Noise Offering." This donation of your spare change 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."

From the Finance Committee

The weekly offering envelopes for 2012 will be available beginning Dec. 11, 2011. If you are currently using the weekly envelopes and do not wish to continue in the new year (maybe because you will be contributing through online banking), please let Natalie Parker, Tel. 654-9493, or the office know your wishes by Dec. 3. Likewise, if you would like to begin using envelopes, please let Natalie know. We are grateful and thank you for your contributions to carry out the mission of the church, however you choose to present them.



Donate Bread Loaves

on Communion Sunday, December 4.

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.

Bits & Pieces...

Donation of Altar Flowers



Would you like to honor or remember a special person in your life or celebrate a special occasion? Please consider signing up to purchase altar flowers. The flower chart is posted on the wall across from the church office. Contact and payment instructions are on the flower chart. Standard arrangements are \$35. Thanks for helping to beautify the altar and sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Winter Storm Policy

Winter has arrived and so has the snow and ice. The winter storm policy is that we do everything humanly possible to have 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 a.m. at the latest. If we need to cancel, we alert WMUR to be included in their list of cancellations. You can watch the list of closings at the bottom of the screen on WMUR or go to 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.



*He who has
not Christmas
in his heart
will never find
it under a
tree.*

-Roy L. Smith

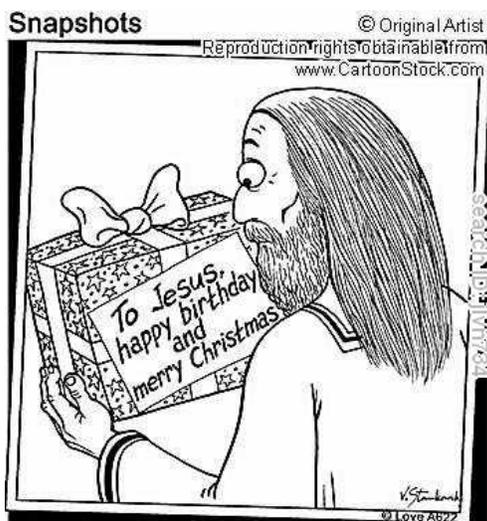
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays:

Magnolia Coates	Dec. 2
Irma Robinson	Dec. 8
Dick Randlett	Dec. 8
Wendy Ayotte	Dec. 11
Steve Rafter	Dec. 24
Carol Rowlette	Dec. 25
Kathy Bradfield	Dec. 28
Elaine Driscoll	Dec. 30

Anniversaries:

Ron & Irma Robinson	Dec. 2
Mike & Debbie Logue	Dec. 28
Paul & Deanna Berkebile	Dec. 30



Jesus gets gypped on presents again.

For Information about our Committees & Groups

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

Afternoon Off: Dee Locsin
 Bell Choirs: Mary Tyler Wall
 Chancel Choir: Sally Landis
 Church Council: Callie McMahon
 Home Groups: Les Coates
 Lamplighters: Kathy Bradfield or Elaine Driscoll
 Men's Breakfast: Jon Bossie
 Outreach: Wendy Getchell-Lacey
 Praise Band: Michele Bossie
 Sacred Dance: Rebecca Hart
 Seasoned Generation: Dick & Roberta Randlett
 Staff Parish Relations: Keith Ladeau
 Stephen Ministry: Callie McMahon
 Sunday School: Shannon Gutterson
 Trustees: Steve Rafter
 White Tops: Everett Gale
 Worship: Vivian Balam
 Youth Group: Becky Ladeau, Tom Knapp and Steve Kimner

Any questions? Please call our office during office hours, listed below.

December Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
 Tuesday: hours vary, please call ahead

At times, our hours may vary slightly. If you need to be sure someone is here, feel free to call ahead.

Church E-mail Addresses:

Pastor Tom	pastor@milfordumc.org
Leslie Coates, Ministry Director:	leslie@milfordumc.org
Wendy Ayotte, Office Manager:	office@milfordumc.org



December 2011

Sunday Worship Services:

8:30—Spirit Celebration

9:40—Sunday School

10:45—Traditional Worship

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<p>Don't forget to check out our Home Groups! Details, pg. 7</p>			1 5:15—Youth Bells 6—Adult Bells 7:30—Choir	2 7:30—Praise Band	3 9-2—Christmas Craft Fair
4 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 12—Concert Band 12:15—Sacred Dance 5—Youth Group	5 7—Outreach Committee	6 6:30—Quilting Ministry @ the Gale's 7—Trustee's Committee	7 9—White Tops 1-3—Lamplighters 7—Worship Committee	8 5:15—Youth Bells 6—Adult Bells 7:30—Choir	9 12-3—Aftern. Off 6:30-Youth Grp Lock-In 6:15—Worship Design 7:30—Praise Band	10 8—Men's Breakfast with Paul Tripp
11 12—Concert Band 12:15—Sacred Dance <i>NO Youth Group</i>	12	13 7—SPR Committee	14 9—White Tops 1-3—Lamplighters 7—Stephen Ministry	15 5:15—Youth Bells 6—Adult Bells 7:30—Choir	16 12-3—Afternoon Off 7:30—Praise Band	17
18 12—Concert Band 12:15—Sacred Dance 5—Youth Group 7—Christmas Concert	19 7—Finance Committee	20	21 9—White Tops 1-3—Lamplighters 7—Ad Council	22 5:15—Youth Bells 6—Adult Bells 7:30—Choir	23 7:30—Praise Band	24 5—Family Service 7—Traditional Service 11—Candlelight Service
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Service at 10:45 only	26	27	28 9—White Tops 1-3—Lamplighters 7—Stephen Ministry	29 5:15—Youth Bells 6—Adult Bells 7:30—Choir	30 7:30—Praise Band	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>



Milford United Methodist Church
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Milford, NH 03055
603/673-2669
office@milfordumc.org
www.milfordumc.org

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

December 2011

Worship times
8:30 Contemporary Worship
10:45 Traditional Worship
Free childcare

Change Service Requested

GIVE PRESENCE

Details inside...

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.