



The Outreach

February 2009—Milford, NH

Annual Church Conference — Finally!

On our third attempt, we finally had our Annual Church Conference. Whew! What a winter this is turning out to be! More than 30 people made it, before another snow storm, on January 10th. The meeting opened with a time of worship lead by Rev. Davis. Then on to business; approval of nominations, setting pastoral compensation package, and reports by various committees. The meeting ended with a presentation by Christie Besada, a member of the Tri-State District Ministry Team about ways that we can rethink church. Minutes of the meeting should be ready soon for all who are interested.



District Superintendent, Rev. Jan Davis; Pastor Tom, and SPR Chairman Scott Heinlein before the Annual Meeting

Phase II—Pot Luck Dinner and Bingo

The Phase II Committee has been studying the input from the congregation about what we'd like to see next at our new property, how we are currently using the building, and what we will need for the future. They would like to share their findings with us. Come on Saturday, February 7th, 5:30 pm, for an evening of fun, fellowship, Bingo and information.

Each family should bring a main dish to serve 8, and a salad or a desert to share.

Valentine Dinner

Please join us on February 14th at the MUMC Italian Café for a wonderful celebration of St. Valentines Day. Something for everyone! Enjoy a delicious home prepared 4 course meal, complete with soup, salad, bread, choice of two entrees (Chicken Broccoli Alfredo or Lasagna), and dessert. Child menu includes a real favorite for our young valentines, Mac and Cheese! *(further details on page 9).*

Good to Great Update

By Chris Willard

Many thanks to so many of you who continue to provide valuable input to the Good to Great process. Remember that you can always log onto our church website (www.milfordumc.org) to find more information about Good to Great!

I'd like to offer a gentle reminder regarding the purpose of the Good to Great program – at the end of the day, when all is said and done, Good to Great is a process that helps us refocus on our mission as a church.

Although the Good to Great team has outlined some rather specific proposals over the past few months, it is important for us to keep this 'big picture' in mind. Behind all the talk about worship service times, summer programming and cell group ministry is Jesus' persuasive call to discipleship. As the Church, we have been entrusted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order that we might "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28.19). Therefore, we have an obligation to organize our lives and our ministries so that they are as effective as they can be! Everything we do should be aimed at helping our church and our community become better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Of course there will be – and should be! – healthy debate surrounding our specific discipleship strategies. There is no such thing as one-size-fits all ministry – in other words, we must continually be open to finding creative ways to help our community discover the joy of knowing and serving Christ. But being a disciple is more than just joining a church, being baptized or learning how to lead a Bible study. Rather, discipleship is the life-long journey of following Jesus Christ, including continual growth in grace and spiritual maturity.

Every single one of us – regardless of how long we've been in church – is engaged in this journey of discipleship. The journey doesn't end when we join a committee or even when we enter full-time Christian ministry. Likewise, as a church, the journey doesn't end when we open a new facility or break an attendance barrier. Daily, Jesus calls us to walk with him, to become more like him, and to continue sharing the joy of knowing and serving him with anyone who will listen. But we don't embark on this journey alone; "Remember," Jesus promises, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28.20).

So, having been called and commissioned by Jesus, and having been comforted with the promise of his presence, let's continue our efforts to become the best disciples we can be!

Administrative Council changes dates

Administrative Council meetings will now be held on the third Wednesday of each month so that all committees may have a chance to meet beforehand. For February, Admin Council will meet on the 18th, 7 pm. Admin Council is open to anyone who would like to know more about the workings of the church, and/or is looking for a way to get involved. Please call Andy Baver, Chair (673-1405) if you have any questions.

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

By the end of February, we will have once again started our Lenten Journey. I recognize that for many of our members and friends, Lent is a time of intentional spiritual growth involving personal commitment, study, and sacrifice. For others, especially those of us who did not grow up in a home or church environment that fostered much in the way of Lenten observance, they have not yet discovered the power of being intentional about tending to their spiritual growth during this profound and rich season of the Christian year.

Whichever description fits you best, I want to invite you to make Lent 2009 a time of spiritual discipline leading to real spiritual growth. I encourage you to begin planning now to participate in activities that will enable you to make a deep and meaningful Lenten season for you and your family. Among some of the resources that we will be providing for our members and friends, I want to highlight two that will either take place or begin during the last days of the month of February.

First, we will once again offer an **Ash Wednesday Service** on February 25th at 7:00, in the sanctuary. Come begin the Lenten journey by attending this contemplative service, during which you will be invited to let go of those mistakes and events of the past, whether recent or ancient, that are holding you back.

Secondly, starting on Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 a.m. and continuing each Saturday through April 4th, I will be leading a Lenten Study of the book *Three Simple Rules for Christian Living* by Reuben Job. We will meet each Saturday for about an hour to share, pray, and



grow as we ponder John Wesley's three simple rules: Do no harm, Do good, and Stay in Love with God. To register for the study, please call the church office at 673-2669, send an email to office@milfordumc.org, or sign up on the sign-up sheet on one of the bulletin boards in the church. A suggested donation of \$10 will help to cover the cost of materials.

Keep your eyes open for other Lenten opportunities for spiritual growth, and, of course, make sure you are here each Sunday for worship.

Let's make this Lenten journey together!

Still discovering the joy,

Pastor Tom

P.S. Wendy and I wish to thank our church family for the generous Christmas gift as well as the many gifts, cards, and well-wishes we received during this recent Christmas Season!

The Pajama Project

As you can see by these pictures, the kids won their bet with Pastor Tom and Chris. They brought in 105 pairs of pajamas at last count. Here are some scenes from worship on December 21st when the kids had their party.





Youth Group News

By Steve Kimner, Youth Group Leader

Happy New Year! Things have been going well for the start of a new year. We have just completed a weekend retreat with the senior high group where we worked on developing a good working knowledge of how we can work responsibly with money, keeping God in mind at all times. We have a full schedule of things to do in February and we hope you can come and join the fun! Go to www.milfordumc.org and put your cursor on the Ministries link and then scroll down to Youth Ministries to see the calendar. We hope to see you soon! Enjoy the season!!

February Activities:

- 1st—Sledding, 1 pm
- 8th—regular youth group 5-6:30 pm
- 15th—Bowling—5-7:00 pm
- 22nd—no youth group due to school vacation

Children's Choir Director Position Available

MUMC is looking for some help with one of its Music Ministries. A description of this job is available in the church office. Please contact any member of Staff Parish Relations if you are interested.

Join us for Sunday School

In January the younger kids began a rotation entitled *How the Bible Came to Be*. The children will learn how the Bible was passed down, written and translated. They will learn the importance of knowing God's laws and trying to show God's love to others through our actions.

The kids' mission project is collecting used and new books for the Ledge Street School in Nashua. The students at this school are impoverished and cannot afford books. They will greatly appreciate the gift of books to read for enjoyment.

The High School class will be using the study — *Confronting the Controversies*, by Adam Hamilton. Parents are encouraged to talk to Steve Kimner if they have any questions about this study.

Adults Sunday school began again January. See Keith Ladeau for details.

Wanakee Boosters Concert Series

The Wanakee Boosters raise money to help send children to summer camp at Wanakee United Methodist Center along the shore of Lake Pemigewasset, in Meredith, New Hampshire. The concert series is free, but donations are gladly accepted and go towards our scholarship fund.

January 25th, 2 pm—Two Jims & Friends, a mainstream jazz quartet

February 22, 2 pm—PB & Jammin' Jazz Ensemble, jazz, pop and specially arranged big band charts

March 29th—to be determined

April 26th, 2 pm—MUMC Sacred Dancers

Bring the whole family, and a few friends!

News from the Worship Committee

By Elaine Driscoll

Donations of Altar Flowers — To honor or remember a special person in your life, or a special occasion, please consider signing up to purchase altar flowers. The flower chart is posted on the wall across from the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify the altar and sanctuary for Sunday worship. Our cost for an altar arrangement from Woodman's Florist is \$25. The cost would vary if you have special type or size of arrangement. Please contact Roberta Langis, Flower Coordinator, regarding special requests at bertlangis@aol.com or 673-4560.

Communion Sunday is February 1st. Remember to bring a loaf of bread to be placed in the basket at the altar. Bread loaves are delivered to SHARE, the local food pantry, on Monday morning. This is one small way we can help others in need.

Hostessing Coffee Hour — Fellowship following our church services is a time to

visit with friends, and more importantly to welcome new people. The various committees that currently host the coffee hour are looking for help! We need people who like to bake cookies or squares, or be willing to purchase other snacks for after first service or following second service. You may commit to one or two weeks, a month, or just be "on call" as needed. The sign up sheet will be on the information table, or see Elaine Driscoll for further details. Your help is appreciated by all.

Crochet, anyone? We are looking for people who love to crochet and have the pattern for making angel tree decorations. It's never too early to plan for the Christmas season of 2009! Please contact Elaine Driscoll at 673-4270 or e-mail Geldris@aol.com.

Music Notes

By Sally Landis

For those who may be wondering about the cancelled Christmas Concert, we have rescheduled it for next Christmas. Although it was distressing for all who worked so hard on their presentations not to get the chance to perform, we felt that it would be difficult to find a time that would work for the church calendar and for the many people involved in the music. We hope that December '09 will be kinder to us all than December '08 was.

The Chancel Choir is going to perform an Easter Cantata, "Lest We Forget" on April 5th, Palm Sunday at 7 pm. Hopefully the weather will be cooperative by then and you will invite friends and family to share this very moving piece with us as we begin Holy Week. If you are a singer and would like to join us for this event, rehearsals will be in February and March on Thursdays evenings at 7:30 pm.

The children's choir is going to continue in the new year with a new name, MUMC Choristers, and will be under the direction of interim director, Sally Landis. We meet at 6:15 pm in the music room and rehearse until 7 pm. In addition to singing at Sunday services, we will be starting a little later in the season to work on a musical entitled, "Why?" More information about that will be coming out in later newsletters, but we hope that any youth, elementary through high school that like to perform will join us for this event.

All of the musical groups in the church welcome new members at any time. Please let either the office or the director of the group or groups you would like to try know of your interest. It is a wonderful way to share your musical talent, meet new people, and engage in a very important part of our church ministry.

Update on SHARE

By Alexis Eaton

SHARE opened at its new location on Wednesday, January 14th, 2009. While the food pantry and offices moved to the new building at 1 Columbus Avenue in Milford, (the former Knights of Columbus building), the Clothing Barn will NOT be moving.

If you have items for the Clothing Barn, they may be dropped off at the barn at St. Patrick's Church in Milford, the same location as before. The hours for drop off are Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00, Thursday from 10:00 to noon, and Saturday from 10:00 to noon. Please do not leave clothing items here at MUMC.

The Clothing Barn volunteers have been overwhelmed with the amount of donations received, which is a good thing, but the extra sorting is quite time consuming and they do end up throwing out many items that are too worn or soiled to be used. Please donate only those items that are clean and very gently used.

Thank you for your generous support of SHARE through your volunteer work and donations. We couldn't fulfill our mission without you.

Bell Ringing Update From the Outreach Committee

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who gave up your time during this past holiday season to ring bells for the Salvation Army. What is typically a hectic time of year anyhow, became even more stressful with the ice storm and the aftermath. People still found time to get out and ring and the end results were quite surprising. Even with the struggling economy, we were able to raise over \$7,000. About 75% of these funds remain in our local community and will be used to help people in need. Also, thanks to all who made donations as you passed the kettles. MUMC truly does reach out beyond the congregation in Christian love and service.

Quilting Ministry

The Quilters want to wish a big thank you to Ed Nolan. He made a very generous gift of materials and notions. We will be sure to put them to good use!

The quilting ministry is moving to Pat Levesque's beginning, January 26th. If you are interested in quilting or sewing please give Pat a call (673-8868). No experience is necessary.



Are you looking for a way to plug into one of our numerous ministries? Are you looking for additional volunteers for your ministry? Then check out MUMC Serves! MUMC Serves is a new way for members and friends of the Milford United Methodist Church to discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by making it easy to find concrete, practical ways to serve our community with the love of Christ. MUMC Serves provides a comprehensive, easy-to-use list of all the ministry opportunities in the church that you can browse online, or during worship.. Each listing provides the name of the ministry, a brief description of what you can do to help, and whom to contact for more information. So if you've been looking for meaningful ways to reach out to serve your community, MUMC Serves is for you! Log on to www.milfordumc.org/serve today!

Milford Area Seniors

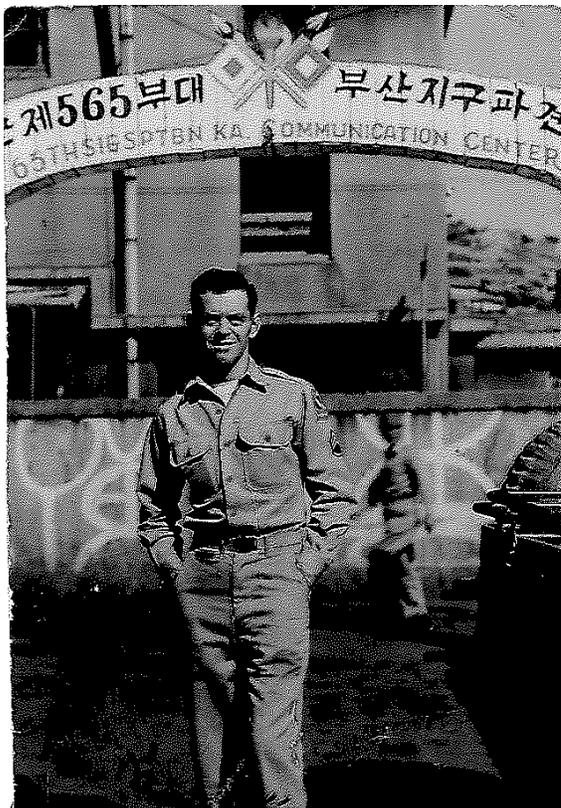
Seniors continue to meet at the church Tuesdays 10—2 for a time of fellowship and learning. Each week we have coffee and goodies, a different speaker, computer class, bingo, games, arts and crafts and/or music. Bring a brown bag for lunch. We hope to be able to have more offerings and we'd love volunteers. Call Susan in the office if you'd like information or to volunteer.

Women's Bible Study

The Friday night Bible Study will be studying the book of James using *James: Growing in Wisdom and Faith* by Elizabeth George. The book of James provides practical guidance on life issues that affect Christian women in their daily life. The study meets every first and third Friday. Contact Rita Lines (673-0398, ritalines@hotmail.com) or Carol Rowlette (673-5404) for information.

Ladies Craft Night

Cathy Brown will be teaching beading, Friday, February 27th, 7 pm. There will be a \$5 materials fee, and if you don't have a set of tools and want one, Cathy can pick up a set for you for \$10. Those of you that have your own tools, bring 'em! Bring a goodie to share and plan on a fun night with the girls. Please RSVP to Cathy (cbrown9198@yahoo.com, 673-3729) by Feb 15th so that she can have all the materials ready.



Just a Few of the Mission Fundraising Events

By Lisa Payne

Much money needs to be raised to send our youth and adults on this year's mission trips. How can you help? Plan to attend one or more of our monthly fundraising events! Of course donations are always appreciated as well.

January is MUMC Super Pizza Month! – Order a MUMC Super Pizza for your Super Bowl weekend. And if you don't watch football, don't let that stop you! Pizzas are on sale in the Narthex before and between services. Just locate one of the uniformed pizza vendors to place your order.

February is Valentines Dinner – February 14th, a day to show the special person or family in your life how much you care. Join us for one of two dinner servings. Two seatings are available: 5pm for families, and 7pm for couples. Reservations are required. Tickets will be available before, between and after services or call 603-672-4644 to make a reservation. Prices: Adult (13+): \$15, Jun-ior (9-12): \$10, Child (8 and under): \$3.

March is Game Night! – Join us for a great meal of Corn beef and Cabbage to be followed by a fun filled evening of board and electronic games. Bring the entire family!

Guess Who?

This picture was taken in Korea in 1948. The young soldier returned to Korea for the war in 1950-53. We are glad to say he made it home safely and is a part of our congregation today. He is retired from the Nashua Transit where he worked for 21 years with the disabled. Who is this handsome young man? Answer on page 11.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Suzanne Randlett	Feb 6
Krystal Schmidt	Feb 7
George Driscoll	Feb 8
Steve Kimner	Feb 9
Zachary Landis	Feb 11
Angelia Goff	Feb 12
Wendy Getchell-Lacey	Feb 14
Roberta Randlett	Feb 16
Sean Murphy	Feb 17
Julie Landis	Feb 21
Eric Trabucco	Feb 22
Cameron Randlett	Feb 22
Billy Balzano	Feb 24
Nathan Kimner	Feb 27
Deanna Berkebile	Feb 29

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

Winter Storm Policy

Winter is back! The winter storm policy at MUMC is that we will 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 a.m. 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 closings at the bottom of the screen on WMUR (channel 8 for most area residents) or go to WMUR.com.

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

Financially Speaking

December 2008

Income toward Budge accounts	\$9,093.27
Expense-budget accounts	\$27,287.23
Balance in General Fund	\$26,997.76
Sept Mortgage Fund Income (formerly Building Fund)	\$7,300.00

The Finance Committee celebrates our church's on-going generosity towards mission.

	December	Year to Date
Mission Shares (NE Conference)	\$4,818.51	\$28,911.00
Youth Mission	0	11,623.28
Katrina Mission	0	9,347.00
Discretionary	240.00	6,422.48
Mission/Outreach	647.85	6,093.08
Total	\$5,706.36	\$62,396.84

New Church Email addresses

The church has moved to a new email system. We hope you are now using the emails listed below:

Pastor Tom: pastor@milfordumc.org
 Chris Willard: cwillard@milfordumc.org
 Marian Kopp, Carol Brooks and the Church office: office@milfordumc.org
 Susan Drew: susan@milfordumc.org

February 2009 Calendar

1 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 1 Youth group sledding 2-4 Pizza Pickup	2 7 Outreach 7 SPR	3 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple 7 Trustees	4 9:30 White Tops 12:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls	5 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Jr dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	6 12-3 Afternoon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	7 9 Youth Mission 5:30 Phase II Post Luck & Bingo
8 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 9:30 Ed Team Wanakee Soup 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth group	9 7 Finance	10 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple 7 Worship	11 9:30 White Tops 12:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Evangelism 7 Stephen Supervision	12 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Jr dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	13 12- 3 Afternoon Off 6 Worship Design 7 Praise Team	14 5 & 7 pm seatings— Valentine's Dinner
15 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth group	16	17 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	18 9:30 White Tops 12:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Admin Council	19 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Jr dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	20 12- 3 Afternoon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	21
22 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school & Wanakee Soup 10:45 Traditional Worship 2 Wanakee Concert	23 7 Phase II	24 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	25 9:30 White Tops 12:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 6:30 Steven Supervision 7 Ash Wednesday Service	26 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	27 12- 3 Afternoon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Beading	28 9—Lenten Study
March 1 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth Group	2 7 Outreach 7 PSR 7 Youth Mission Leaders Mtg	3 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple 7 Trustees	4 9:30 White Tops 12:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls	5 10-1 Helping Hands 4 Kids dance 5 Adult dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	6 12- 3 Afternoon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	7 9—Lenten Study

Guess who: Paul Aubin



Milford United Methodist Church
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office@milfordumc.org
www.milfordumc.org

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

February 2009

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.