



The Outreach

January 2009—Milford, NH

The Ice Storm Cometh!

The church lost power overnight, Thursday, December 11th, and stayed out until Saturday afternoon, the 13th. As soon as the power and water was back the church began hosting "powerless" guests. We had some families who came during the day to keep warm and get a bite to eat, and some families who stayed overnight. At the time the newsletter was put together we were still in the middle of hosting. We hope that all who are reading this have power and are warm and safe. But if you know of anyone who may still be without power, we'll keep people at church for as long as necessary.

Storm Stories

Pastor Tom mentioned in worship on Sunday, December 14th, that his family had not lost power during the storm. One of our young members said, "Then you won't have any stories!". Here are some of the stories we collected in our congregation.



Moxie and Dan Roby, Mont Vernon. Moxie and Dan were our first guests. They lost power at their home on Thursday around midnight. They stayed there through Friday night, but by Saturday they had had enough. They moved into the church shortly after we got our power back on. Moxie and Dan are anxiously awaiting PSNH!



Gloria Holland, 6, Frankestown. There was still no power at Gloria's house on Sunday when she came for the early service. When asked how they were staying warm and eating, Gloria had this to say: "We are staying warm by turning on the fire. My dad is breaking ice with a hammer in a bowl and then he puts it on the stove — that's how you make water!"

More Storm Stories on page 7

Good to Great Update

By Chris Willard

Now that the busy Christmas season has begun to wind down, its time to shift our Good to Great program into high gear! On Monday, January 26th at 7pm, the Good to Great team will be hosting a forum to discuss some of the findings from our October Home Meetings. This will be a time for you to review our collected data, respond to the recommendations of the Good to Great team, and offer your own feedback and suggestions. There will be a light meal served, so feel free to come straight from work, or bring the entire family (childcare will be provided)! Above all, please make this evening a priority because we need your input to help all of us become the best disciples of Jesus we can be!

In the meantime, our cell group leader training continues. We have a group of very dedicated men and women who have been meeting weekly for hands-on, comprehensive, "beyond-the-church-walls" ministry training. Cell ministry is like planting a tree – it starts out as a tiny seed that must be planted in the ground before it can begin to grow roots, leaves, and limbs. Even though the seed may at first be invisible to the naked eye, it is growing stronger each day as it feeds off the nutrients in the soil. Similarly, MUMC's cell ministry is now being lovingly watered and fertilized as we wait for the first sprouts to peak up from the ground. It won't be long until those sprouts grow into a tall tree! Keep praying for our church and our ministry in the community!



This month, we are proudly introducing a new way for members and friends of the Milford United Methodist Church to discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ – MUMC Serves! This new program makes 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 who 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!

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. For January, Admin Council will meet on the 21st, 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,

In my younger days, I was not taken with the notion of resolutions. But as I have gotten older, I have come to appreciate the opportunity to make an honest effort at self-improvement. Perhaps I have realized the toll that some of my long-term shortcomings is taking on myself and those around me. Perhaps I realize that time is growing shorter for me to change some of seemingly intractable habits that have bedeviled me for all too long. But for whatever the reason, I have come to see the New Year as a good time to gather renewed strength and commitment to making certain changes in my life. My new appreciation for New Year's resolutions has been enhanced by the fact that, with God's help, I have actually met with some success in breaking old habits and starting new ones.

God's desire is for us to move to constantly deeper levels of health, wholeness, and, to use a good Wesleyan word, holiness. God's heart breaks as he watches us plowing the same territory year after year, making the same mistakes, continually hurting ourselves and those around us, and he longs to come alongside us to help us live a new life in Christ, and to give us the power we lack within ourselves to make real change. His expectation and dream for us is that we would take our lives seriously enough to desire to change, to not simply accept that "this is just the way I am," but to imagine, instead, that God is able to change our hearts and habits and continually move us towards transformation.

This will and desire to change and experience renewal in our lives needs, of course, to be balanced with the Good News that in Christ, we are forgiven for



our sins and mistakes and given the free gift of eternal life. We are given this gift not because we are so wonderful, but because we ask for it and accept it. As the scriptures assure us, "Christ died to save sinners," which, of course, includes us all. So, as we celebrate the start of a New Year, let us on the one hand celebrate the free gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and on the other hand, use this turning of the year as a motivation to see God's will done in our lives.

Happy New Year to all our members and friends!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

Twas Thanksgiving Morn

(short version)

Twas Thanksgiving morn, and all through the church,
Roasters were steaming, just ready to burst.
The tables were set, with colors of cheer,
In hopes that many guests would appear.

Then arose such a clatter, we jumped in surprise,
As horns started blaring
and firemen arrived!
A false alarm, they would
soon reveal,
And we all went back to
preparing the meal!

Set Tables! mash Potatoes!
cook Peas and the Corn!
Carve Turkeys! bake Stuffing
and Oh so much more!
Sweet Pumpkin, and Apple and Chocolate cream pies,
Come on in, come on in, come on in feast your eyes!

And right on-time, our guest did arrive,
Friends, strangers, and families, all side by side!
The smiles and fellowship gave proof of this way,
What a great way to spend our Thanksgiving Day!

So we all gathered together, in this joyous place,
To give thanks to God for his wonderful grace!
We bowed our heads, and whispered our prayers,
Thanks be to God, nothing else can compare!

By Lisa Payne



Thank you!

I'm writing to say thank you to all for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. It was Yummy! Danny and I enjoyed the dinner and also getting to visit with others. It felt good to have others wait on us. We have been married 31 years and this was the first time we had dinner elsewhere.

Thank you again, Happy Holidays and God Bless and Love,
Moxie and Danny Roby



Another Thank you!

The folks of Granite Square would like to thank all the nice people who cooked and served that wonderful Turkey dinner. It was so good and we appreciated it. Thanks. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

God Bless,
The Granite Square People





Children's Choir

Sally Landis will continue the children's choir on interim basis while we look for a new director. Rehearsals will be each Thursday night, 6:15 pm. Call Sally (465-7937) for more information.

The Pajama Project Update

When the newsletter went to press, Mrs. Ladeau, Hannah and Aaron Ladeau and Alexis Reed were counting, sorting and bagging the pajamas for delivery to the Pajama Project. Mrs. Ladeau reports that 101 pairs were brought in. We will bring you pictures next month of Pastor Tom and Chris in their jammies, and the Sunday school party from December 21. Thank you, kids, for your good work!

Join us for Sunday School

Beginning in January the younger kids will begin 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 will be 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 will resume in January. Please watch your bulletins for more details.



Priscilla Lambert, Lyndeboro. Priscilla lives with her sister, Vivian and her husband Stew Ross. They lost power on Thursday, stayed at home Friday, and then moved in with friends on Saturday. "I feel blessed that our friends took us in." "They can't do enough for us," adds Stew.

Joyce & Mike Bothwick, Goffstown. The Bothwicks were lucky and had their power restored on Saturday night. There were trees and wires across the road and had to de-tour a mile in order to get to church.

Stephanie Kimner, 11, Amherst. Stephanie reports that they had lots of people come to their house because their family had power. They even had some people stay the night. It's kind of like a party!



Nickie Crosbourne, Milford. "We need somewhere for dogs to go!" Nickie has two big dogs who are at home while she has been staying with us. She was able to purchase a kerosene heater and run it overnight at home for the dogs. "All the shelters are either full or closed for lack of power. They are in dire straights."



Aaron Ladeau, 13, Milford. Aaron says that his family stayed at home for two nights and at a friend's for one night. He said there were no showers, but he had one last night. Aaron also says that they can't eat anything that's good because they don't have a stove. "But we did have hot chocolate because we have a gas stove, and we played board games."

The Houston family, Lyndeboro. The Houston family was still without power and had to drive over wires to get to church. Natalie, 5-1/2, says "We are getting heat from the fridgerator (generator, says mom). It is cold in the house — frozen." "But we have Satellite TV!," says brother Andrew, 9.



MUMC Goes Green!

There are recycling bins in the offices, and sound booth for paper. We can not take laminations, glossy, food on paper, yellow-pad paper, or bottles or drinks. We can take colored paper, and newspaper. Please see Trevor Frost for more information about our recycling program.

Phase II—Pot Luck Dinner

Are the backhoes headed for North River Road?

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 7th, 5:30 pm, for an evening of fun and fellowship. Mixed in with the fellowship will be the latest on Phase II of our building plans.

Every family should bring a main dish to serve 8 and a salad or desert.

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.

Annual Church Conference Rescheduled—Again

Watch your bulletins for news of the Annual Church Conference which had to be canceled due to no power in the building during the ice storm.. We have not been able to secure a new date with our District Superintendent.

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 begins Friday, January 16th, and will then meet the first and third Fridays. Contact Rita Lines (673-0398, ritelines@hotmail.com) or Carol Rowlette (673-5404) for information.

Driver Needed!

Drivers are needed to help out with our Driving Ministry. We have members who need to come to church and can no longer drive themselves, and members who need a ride to the doctor once in a while. If you can help with either of these needs, please call Susan in the office, 673-2669, susan@milfordumc.org. This is an easy, no committee, no meeting outreach opportunity!

Milford Area Seniors

Every Tuesday, 10 am—2 pm, the church is the place to be for fun if you are a senior citizen. We have a variety of different classes — computers, dancing, health related classes, craft classes — that take place week after week. Meals on Wheels delivers lunch. Some weeks we have musical entertainment, bingo, or games. We even have a massage therapist who comes once a month!

We can always use more volunteers. If you have a talent that you would like to share with the group, please call Susan (673-2669).

Seasoned Generation News

On Sunday, December 7th we had our Seasoned Generation Christmas pot luck dinner and Yankee swap. We met at Dottie and Paul Dishong's home, which was beautifully decorated. The night started with some delicious snacks and punch, and then dinner which was pot luck. All the dishes were absolutely delectable!! We followed this wonderful meal with a very active Yankee Swap. As always, a few of the gifts were in great demand and made it to several different people before finally staying put. We had a lot of laughter and fun with this swap and we hope all went home happy. The very cold winds and light snow did not deter any of us from enjoying a wonderful evening. Thank you again, Dottie and Paul, for another wonderful Christmas party in your home.

We will be having our Planning Meeting, Saturday, January 24th at the church at 7 p.m. It's an important meeting as we are attempting to plan another active and interesting year. Please come and bring a snack to share. Coffee and tea are provided. This year we will be taking the summer off, so meetings January through May, and September through December.

The one exception will be the annual picnic at the Dishong's in July. More on that later in the year. We had several people join us and would love to have more come. It's a great time and we try to plan fun things to do. So, January 24th come with ideas to share, a snack to share and help plan our year. Looking forward to seeing all of you plus some new faces.

A happy and blessed new year to all!!!
Roberta & Richard Randlett and Carolan & Dave Robinson, Co-Chair!!



MUMC Christmas Fair Update

The Christmas Fair Committee wishes to thank everyone who took part in this year's fair. From attending workshops throughout the year, working on crafts at home, making goodies for the fair, coming to set up, helping out on the floor on the day of the fair, cooking in the kitchen, serving scones, soup and chili, washing dishes, cleaning up afterwards, to coming to shop. Many hands makes light work! It was yet another very successful event. We had no idea what would happen this year given the economy, but all fairs in the community have reported a very good turn out. Perhaps people are looking for the more simple gifts and shopping locally. Whatever the reason, it is good. Looks like we have raised a little over \$5000. Not a record year, but very close.

As in years past we will be giving all proceeds to charity. We would like help from the congregation deciding on what charities to choose. We would like to give equally to 4 charities. We will have slips on the round table in the Narthex and a box where you can place them for your suggestions. The 4 most popular choices will be this year's recipients. Please have your suggestion in by 12/31. Here are some suggestions, but please feel free choose something different if that is were your heart leads you.

- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Share
- Anne Marie House
- Nashua Soup Kitchen
- Nashua Children's Home
- Katrina Missions
- ASP (Appalacian Service Project)
- Habitat for Humanity
- High Hopes
- Make a Wish Foundation

Please keep your eyes open for upcoming workshops. We would like to start them in January and have one a month to get a jump on next year. We have very little inventory left for next year. Many of the ladies in our Helping Hands have not been well this year. We are looking for knitters, crocheters, and sewers to add items to this table. So if you are good with the needles, hook or sewing machine please let us know! If you have a special talent and would like to lead a workshop please let us know.

Thanks again to everyone. We are so honored to serve as your Fair Committee Chairpersons.

Blessings,
Pat Rafter and Barb Reed

Hosting 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 the second service. Please sign up on the poster or see Elaine Driscoll or any member of the Worship Committee for further details. Your help is appreciated by all.

Quilting Ministry

The Quilting Ministry donated this beautiful quilt to the Community Home, Health and Hospice House in Merrimack in honor of Verna Fournier. In this picture are Carol (a friend of Verna's), Carolan Robinson, Pat Levesque and Lynn Chase from the Hospice House.

The quilting ministry is meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays at the home of Carolan. If you are interested in sewing or quilting they would love for you to join them. Call Carolan (672-8833) for information and directions.



Guess Who?

These two young ladies are not sisters, but are both members of our congregation. This picture was taken in Pepperell, MA, in 1942. The older girl, now lives in Milford, and enjoys reading, painting, and writing. The younger girl, now lives in Lyndeboro, and stays busy with writing, photography and gardening.

Answer on page 13.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Don Gutterson	Jan 8
Harry Tong	Jan 10
Bridget Baker	Jan 13
Stephanie Kimner	Jan 13
Marian Kopp	Jan 18
Luke Betelak	Jan 26

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

Discretionary Funds Needed

The funds in Pastor Tom's discretionary fund are running low. If you are able to make a donation, please see him. As you may know, these funds are used to help people in crisis — for food, fuel, etc.

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

October 2008

Income toward Budget accounts	\$16,486.75
Expense-budget accounts	\$24,309.70
Balance in General Fund	\$3,570.89
Sept Mortgage Fund Income (formerly Building Fund)	\$5,956.67

New Church Email addresses

The church is moving to a new email system. For the time being both our old emails and new ones will be working. In early 2009 we will go to the new addresses exclusively. We strongly encourage you to update your address books, and to start using the new addresses.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Service

There will be an interfaith service at our church on Sunday, January 18th, 4 pm in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. This service is organized by the Souhegan Valley Interfaith Council. More information will be upcoming in the January bulletins.

January 2009 Calendar

				1	2 12-3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team	3
4 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth group	5 7 Outreach 7 SPR	6 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	7 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls	8 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	9 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team	10
11 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school & Wanakee soup 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth group	12 7 Finance 7 Quilting Ministry 7 Education	13 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	14 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Evangelism 7 Stephen Supervision	15 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	16 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	17
18 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Pajama Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 4 Interfaith Council MLK Service	19 7 Phase II	20 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	21 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Admin Council	22 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	23 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team	24 7 Seasoned Generation
25 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Sunday school 10:45 Traditional Worship 5 Youth Group	26 7 Quilting Ministry	27 10-2 Milford Area Seniors Activity Center 10 Playgroup 7 Disciple	28 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Lamp-lighters Bibles Study at Driscolls 7 Stephen Supervision	29 10-1 Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Kids dance 5:15 Kids Bells 6 Adult Bells 6 Cell group 6:15 Kids choir 7:30 Choir	30 12- 3 After-noon Off 7 Praise Team 7 Women's Bible Study	31

Guess who: In the stroller: Cynthia Geiger.
Standing beside the stroller: Claire Place.



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

January 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.