

# The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church  
January 2013—Milford, NH



## Afternoon Off Program

Meeting to assess reinstating  
Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

Many of you are aware that the Afternoon Off Program which has provided respite for families of those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia here at MUMC abruptly came to an end in November. This program has helped many families throughout the greater Milford area since it began in 2006 under the direction and leadership of Pat and Bob Levesque. I had the privilege of coordinating the program for about a year. I am calling this meeting for both former and potential future volunteers. I can do the recruiting of Alzheimer families and training of volunteers. I am looking for those of you who are willing to operate the programs on Friday's. The commitment involves one or two Friday's a month. Set up at 11:00 a.m. or so, prior to the start of the program at noon, through the clean-up after the program ends at 3 p.m.

If you have been a volunteer for this program in the past, you know firsthand how valuable it is to our guests and their families. If you have ever considered volunteering with this program, please consider this your invitation to join in on the fun and rewards that we gain when serving these guests and their families.

Please join us on **Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.** We will meet in the first classroom beyond the choir room. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Carol Brooks at 673-6927.

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*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."*

- 1 Matthew 2:12

## A Message from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I have for the past several New Years, I will be starting a new sermon series on January 13 called simply *The Stories of Jesus*. This series is a logical follow-up to the sermon series I offered this fall on *The Questions of Jesus*, given that asking questions and telling stories were the two primary teaching methods used by Jesus.

In the ancient traditions of the Rabbis, storytelling was one of the primary means of conveying truth and meaning in memorable and understandable ways. Jesus was certainly part of that tradition and his stories can be seen as additions to an already rich treasure trove of simple yet profound stories. But having said that, Jesus' stories transcend an already transcendent body of work. Simply put, Jesus was a master storyteller. His stories carry weight and have become part of the language of the Western world. But even more importantly, from our perspective as Christians, they give us a window through which we can clearly begin to see the heart of God and the nature of the Kingdom of God that Jesus came to inaugurate.

So, I invite you to join me in exploring five of these powerful stories. The schedule for the series is as follows:

**January 13** The Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**January 20** The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7

**January 27** The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Matthew 18:23-30

**February 3** The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37

**February 10** The Parable of the Rich Fool, Luke 12:13-21

My hope and prayer is that you and I will learn and grow as we explore these powerful parables, and that these sermons will whet our appetite for exploring the rest of Jesus' many stories in all their power and depth.

See you in church!

Still discovering the joy,



P.S. My family and I want to thank you all for the many Christmas greetings, cards, and gifts. We hope you all had a blessed Christmas, and many wishes for a Happy New Year!





## Meet the Staff: Lauren Amber

*From Marilyn Edmondson*

**Name:** Lauren Amber

**Position:** Child care provider for Sunday Worship and occasionally other church events.

**Education and Vocation:** I graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor's in Communication Disorders. I know some sign language, but am not fluent. I have used baby sign with my children, and currently use it with (my baby) Grace. When I have the time, I would like to take an American Sign Language course.

**Family Facts:** I am from Hollis and now live in Merrimack. I am married to

Lee and we have two daughters. Cadence will be four in January, and Grace was born in April 2012.

**What did you do before becoming our child care provider, and are you currently employed outside the home?** Previously I ran a group home for four women with various needs. I now provide child care at a gym part time.

**When you have the time, what do you enjoy doing?** Most of the time, free time involves Mom/child stuff like trips to the playground and library. On my own, I enjoy photography and scrapbooking.

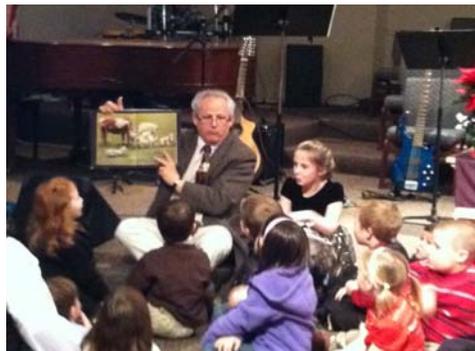
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## Scenes from Our Christmas Services...



*Above and right, Pastor Tom enjoys reading a Christmas story with the children of our congregation, relatives and friends.*

*At right, candle light and "Silent Night" set the mood for us to go home and enjoy our peaceful Christmas celebrations.*



## Feel the Warmth

*From Callie McMahon*

Sometimes it takes more than a parka or a blanket to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend.

Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting?

Consider serving as a Stephen Minister? On January 5<sup>th</sup> between the first and second service and again after second service, Michele Bossie, Steve Kimner and Callie McMahon will be available in the narthex to speak with you about how you can become a Stephen Minister.

Do you regularly attend the 8:30 Spirit Celebration?



**Are you looking for a simple way to contribute to the fellowship of our church family?**

We are looking for someone to organize the coffee hour after the first service on Sunday. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call Wendy in the office at 673-2669.

## CAM News

*From Margie Frank*

*“Keep a praise hymn in your heart and on your lips.”*

To all faithful supporters of the Christian Aftercare Ministry: Thanks to all of you who co-labor with us in this ministry of Christian Aftercare to ex-offenders. The donations of clothing, winter coats, gloves, boots, sneakers household goods - and so much more - have been used to bless so many of our clients. When we give out your gifts, we remind them that ultimately they come from the Lord Jesus through His people. This puts a smile on their faces. The monetary gifts are used for rent, picture ID's, bus passes and other expenses. Thank you for your generosity in giving all year.  
*Paul Roussel, CAM director.*



## SHARE Collection

*From Karen Graveline and Kathy Beane*

**For the month of January MUMC is collecting:** juice, canned fruit and macaroni & cheese



# MUMC's Lenten Devotional

*From John Millhouse*

The Worship Committee is putting together a Devotional modeled after the Upper Room for Lent (February 13, 2013 to March 30, 2013). The meditations for each day will be written by people just like you, people who are listening to God and trying to live by what they hear. We want to encourage Christians in their personal life of prayer and discipleship. We seek to build on what unites us as believers and to link MUMC together in prayer.

Have God's care and presence become real for you in your interaction with others? Has the Bible given you guidance and helped you see God at work? Has the meaning of scripture become personal for you as you reflected on it? Then you have something to share in a meditation.



## ***Where do I begin?***

You begin in your own relationship with God. Christians believe God speaks to us and guides us as we study the Bible and pray. Good meditations are closely tied to scripture and show how it has shed light on a specific situation. Good meditations make the message of the Bible come alive.

Good devotional writing is first of all authentic. It connects real events of daily life with the ongoing activity of God. It comes across as the direct,

honest statement of personal faith in Christ and how that faith grows. It is one believer sharing with another an insight or struggle about what it means to live faithfully.

Second, good devotional writing uses sensory details -- what color it was, how high it bounced, what it smelled like. The more sensory details the writing includes, the better. Though the events of daily life may seem mundane, actually they provide the richest store of sensory details. And when we connect God's activity to common things, each encounter with them can serve as a reminder of God's work.

Finally, good devotional writing is exploratory. It searches and considers and asks questions. It examines the faith without knowing in advance what all the answers will be. It is open to God's continuing self-revelation through scripture, people, and events. Good writing chronicles growth and change, seeing God behind both.

## ***How do I get started writing a meditation?***

When you find yourself in the middle of some situation thinking, "Why -- that's how God is, too!" or, "That's like that story in the Bible . . ." that can become

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

a meditation. Excellent ideas come from reading and meditating on scripture, looking for connections between it and daily life. When you see such a helpful connection, here's a simple formula for getting it on paper:

- Retell the Bible teaching or summarize the passage briefly.
- Describe the situation that you link to the Bible passage, using a specific incident. Write down as many details of the real-life situation as you can. For example, if you write about an incident when people were talking, write down what each person said.
- Tell how you can apply this spiritual truth in days to come.

After a few days, look carefully at what you have written. Decide which details best convey your message, and delete the others. Ask yourself whether this insight will be helpful to believers in other situations.

### ***Tips to keep in mind***

- Begin with studying and meditating on the Bible so its power supports your words.
- Connect scripture with your own life. Your experience is unique.
- Each day's meditation includes a title, suggested Bible reading, quoted scripture verse, personal witness or reflection on scripture, prayer, a "thought for the day" (a pithy, summarizing statement), and

a "prayer focus" (suggested subject for further prayer).

- Meditations should be about 250 words long.
- Avoid preaching ("you should ...," "you need to ...," "we must ...," etc.)
- Use language and examples that appeal to the five senses. Tell what you heard, saw, touched, smelled, tasted. When appropriate, use dialogue to tell your story.
- Make only one point. Think snapshot, not movie.
- Focus on how you can deepen the Christian commitment of readers and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Indicate the version of the Bible quoted in the text, and give references for any scripture passages mentioned.
- Seek always to encourage readers to deeper engagement with the Bible.
- Always give the original source of any materials you quote.

### ***When is the deadline?***

Start sending your meditations to the Church office today. We need 45 meditations. Lent is early this season so please try to get them in to the office by **January 15, 2013**.

## Online Contributions to MUMC

*From John Bradfield &  
Natalie Parker*

Offering envelopes for 2013 will be available in mid-December. If you do not currently use the offering envelopes and would like to, please notify Natalie Parker (654-9493) or the church office. Likewise if you want to discontinue receiving envelopes, please let Natalie know. Remember electronic giving through your bank is an option and incurs no additional cost to you or the church.

Another option: if you have online bill-pay with your bank, contributing to MUMC can be set-up automatically. Most of us are using online banking in some form or another and this is an opportunity to take one more item off of your list each week. It's fast and easy and doesn't cost you, or the church, anything. MUMC will have a steadier cash flow for use in the mission of the church. With the electronic bill-pay feature, the bank will mail a check each week or month to MUMC on your behalf. This lets the Financial Secretary get the funds deposited in a timely manner and allows the church to better fulfill its mission. In these tough economic times, steady cash flow for the church is critical to MUMC being able to continue to help the community.

So, sign up with your bank today. It's free, simple, and tremendously beneficial for both you and the church! All the details are provided in the box at right.

## How to Make Online Banking Contributions to MUMC

Specify to your bank:

- Weekly or monthly
- The day of the week or month
  - The "paid to" (MUMC)
  - The dollar amount
- The "memo" line (optional)  
For example: the envelope number or whether the contribution is for the general fund, building fund, etc.

- Where to send the check:  
MUMC—Financial Secretary  
P.O. Box 476  
Milford, NH 03055

The bank will then write a check for the specified amount and the day you have chosen. The check is mailed to MUMC, with no cost to you for the postage. The amount is automatically deducted from your checking account.

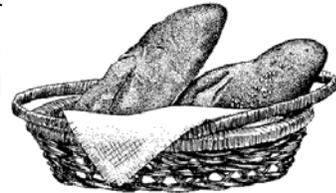
MUMC receives your check in the mail and confidentially records your contribution.

**It's EASY and FREE—  
Sign up at your bank  
TODAY!**

## Bits & Pieces...

### Donate Bread Loaves on Communion Sunday, January 6.

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



### Do You Have a Name Badge?

Name badges can be printed up anytime by either signing up on the clipboard at the information booth in the foyer, or by e-mailing Diane at [jaquith2@gmail.com](mailto:jaquith2@gmail.com) with your request. Please write out exactly how you would like your name printed and whether you prefer a pin rather than "clip on". When the badge is ready, it will be added to one of the "clotheslines" located by the windows in the foyer.

### Christian Aftercare Ministry

CAM is currently in need of men's T-shirts, jeans, boots, sneakers, cooking pots & pans, microwave ovens, coffee pots, towels, bed linens, and stainless steel knives, forks and spoons. Call Margie for information: 465-7752. We thank you for all the help you can give—may God bless you abundantly!

### Join us for the next Broken Bread Café!

*Saturday,  
January 15  
At 5 p.m.*

### Help Our Youth Mission Team

Clean out those old CDs, DVDs, video games - including Wii, Nintendo, Xbox, etc and help the Youth Mission Trip! This does not include VCR tapes. And you need to have the original box that your old CD, DVD, or game came in. Then bring it on in to the church and put it in the bin under the coat rack. Liane Wright will take care of the rest. Those old dust collectors can bring a lot of money for our Youth Mission Trip. Thanks!

## 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.

### Have you visited a Home Group?

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. @ The Mentch home, call 672-1204

Tuesday's at 7 p.m. @ The Reed's home, call 673-6950

Thursday's at 7 p.m. @ The Rafter's home, call 673-4516

Friday's at 6 p.m. @ The McMahon home, call 673-5239

### 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, please make it payable to MUMC with the note "Wanakee Scholarships" in the memo space.



### Winter Info

Winter will be arriving soon, and with it snow and ice. We do everything possible to have worship every Sunday, but rarely we might be forced to cancel services. In that event, Pastor Tom will make the decision by 7 a.m. and you can check the list of closings on WMUR TV or find it on WMUR.com. Please use your discretion as well when deciding if the roads are safe in your area, and whether or not to drive in.



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Birthdays:

Joey Metcalf	Jan. 6
Don Gutterson	Jan. 8
Harry Tong	Jan. 10
Bridget Baker	Jan. 13
Stephanie Kimner	Jan. 13
Anita Merrill	Jan. 14
Marian Kopp	Jan. 18
Gerrie Hopkins	Jan. 21
Luke Betelak	Jan. 26

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary list, please contact the church office at 673-2669 or leave a note for Wendy on her desk on Sunday.



## 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:

Bell Choirs: Mary Tyler-Wall

Chancel Choir: Sally Landis

Church Council: Callie McMahon

Home Groups: Pastor Tom

Lamplighters: Elaine Driscoll and  
Carol Rowlette

Men's Breakfast: Jon Bossie

Outreach: Pat Rafter

Praise Band: Michele Bossie

Sacred Dance: Rebecca Hart

Seasoned Generation: OPEN

Staff Parish Relations: Lisa Payne

Stephen Ministry: Callie McMahon

Sunday School: Shannon Gutterson

Trustees: Jim Frost

White Tops: Everett Gale

Worship: John Millhouse

Youth Group: Tom Knapp, Kathy Moaratty

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

## Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
10 a.m.—2 p.m.

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

## Church E-mail Addresses:

Pastor Tom Getchell-Lacey: [pastor@milfordumc.org](mailto:pastor@milfordumc.org)  
Wendy Ayotte, Office Manager: [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org)



# January 2013

**Sunday Services:**  
 8:30-Spirit Celebration  
 9:30-Sunday School  
 10:45-Traditional Worship

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 7—Worship Committee	3 8—White Tops 1—Lamplighters 6—Adult Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	4 7:30—Praise Band	5
6 <i>Epiphany</i> 5:30-6—Youth Group	7 7—Outreach Committee	8	9 7— Stephen Ministry supervision	10 8—White Tops 1—Lamplighters 6—Adult Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	11 6:15—Worship Design 7:30—Praise Band	12 1—Afternoon Off meeting 5—Broken Bread Cafe
13 5:30-6—Youth Group	14 7—Trustee's Committee	15	16 7— Administrative Council meeting	17 8—White Tops 1—Lamplighters 6—Adult Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	18 7:30—Praise Band	19 1—Newcomer's Gathering
20 5:30-6—Youth Group	21 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 7—Finance Committee	22	23 7—Stephen Ministry supervision	24 8—White Tops 1—Lamplighters 6—Adult Bell Choir 7:30—Chancel Choir	25 7:30—Praise Band	26
27 5:30-6—Youth Group	28	29	30	31		



Milford United Methodist Church  
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www.milfordumc.org

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

**January, 2013**

**Sunday 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.

