

THE OUTREACH

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 1

JANUARY
2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Sermon and Discussion Series starting January 6th

We live in a diverse and changing world. Around the globe and in our own neighborhoods, we live and work with people of other faiths. What do they believe? How, as Christians, should we respond to them? How can we learn about their faiths and share our own faith with respect, building bridges of mutual understanding?

Our church will focus for six weeks on the subject of "Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling With Questions People Ask," in the hope that we will come to a better understanding of our world, a greater appreciation of the differences among religious people, and a stronger grasp of our own faith. We will be focusing on these issues in two ways: first, starting on January 6, Pastor Tom will be offering a six-week sermon series in which he will look at some of the major religions of the world and how they compare to Christianity; second, we will be offering a six-week study group that will be held during the Sunday School hour. This study will also start on January 6th.

The study is based on a video series of the same name featuring the Reverend Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. During the original series, the Church of the Resurrection substantially increased the number of people attending worship.

Our hope is that many of our members and friends will use this opportunity to learn more about Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. "These religions will be explored with sensitivity and respect, always seeking to discern God's truth and grace for us," commented Pastor Tom.

Churches often speak harshly and judgmentally about other faiths or ignore them, pretending that they do not exist. Neither is ultimately helpful.

"Since the topic of religious diversity is of such great interest, we will be making an extra effort to invite the community to join us. Members of the congregation can invite their neighbors and friends," stated Pastor Tom.

For more information on this series and how you can participate, please contact Pastor Tom at 673-2669, MUMC2@aol.com.

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Anniversaries and Birthdays

If you would like your birthday or anniversary printed in *“The Outreach,”* contact the secretary in the church office — 673-2669.



Issac Powell	January 4
Don Gutterson	January 8
Harry Tong	January 10
Bridget Baker	January 13
Stephanie Kimner	January 13
Marian Kopp	January 18
Luke Betelak	January 26

THE OUTREACH Purpose

The purpose of our monthly newsletter is to inform the people it touches of the church news, to inspire the people to a new awareness, and to interpret why the church is in ministry. *“THE OUTREACH”* appreciates input from all organizations, boards, officers, and members and friends of the Milford United Methodist Church. The staff reserves the right to edit, cut, (or if necessary) leave out articles according to available space, timeliness and priority.

THE OUTREACH is the monthly newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church. Deadline for news items is the 15th of the month for the following month’s issue.

Financially Speaking . . .

November 30, 2007

Income toward budget accounts	\$20,080.58
Expense—budget accounts	16,802.73
Balance in General Fund	13,196.27
Nov. Building Fund Income	7,426.00

Office Hours:

9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday and Friday.
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday thru Thursday
 Telephone: 603-673-2669
 Email: MUMC2@aol.com
 Website: www.milfordumc.org
 Editor: Marian Kopp

A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS FAIR!

What a great way to begin the Christmas season by opening our church to the community for a place to shop, eat, meet and greet!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the fair a success. To all crafters, knitters, crocheters, woodworkers, painters, sewers, cooks, servers, bakers, candy makers, sales persons, greeters – it would not have been a success without you! Also, we cannot forget to thank all who helped set up and tear down - it was a tremendous amount of work. So whatever role you played in helping make the fair all come together, THANK YOU!

The proceeds from the fair total \$5022.15. Amazing! We are able to split the proceeds evenly and support the following: Anne Marie House, Nashua Soup Kitchen, SHARE, and MUMC Discretionary Fund which is administered by Pastor Tom and is used for persons/situations in need throughout the year.

ADVANCED PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR 2008:

In order to help our Christmas Fair continue to grow and be successful, we are looking to further organize our efforts. We need additional coordinators and help to pull this off in the future. Please come to a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm at the church. This will be an organizational and brainstorming session on how to make the process of “getting it all together” easier and more manageable. If you enjoy attending and working at the fair, we invite you to this meeting.



The Chancel Choir will begin a new season of music on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. If you would like to sing and have thought about joining the choir, this would be a good time to do so. We will be working on Sunday morning anthems and looking forward to our Lent and Easter services and concerts. If you are interested and would like more information, please speak with Sally Landis, any choir member, or just show up at rehearsal. We'd love to have you and know that you will be blessed as you participate in this music ministry.

Reminder — Sunday Afternoon of Music Christmas Concert Now Scheduled for January 6th from 2-4 pm

The Concert and Christmas Pageant was postponed from December 16, 2007 due to the inclement weather. It will now be held on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Donations collected will benefit the Wanakee Scholarship Fund.

Church Family News. . .

Congratulations to . .

- . **Richard and Roberta Randlett on the birth of their 12th grandchild — Mackenzie Lynn Randlett — born December 6, 2007 to Jennifer and Scott Randlett in Virginia.**
- . **Also proud grandparents are Diane and Bill Jaquith who recently welcomed a grandson—Isaac— born to daughter Nancy Jaquith Kneiss in MA.**

OUR SYMPATHY to Rick Bogle and his family on the death of his father, John Bogle, on December 14, 2007. “Papa” John was a faithful member of the Chancel Choir contributing to every anthem with his deep bass voice. His memorial service was held at MUMC on December 21. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Companion Needed. Someone in the community is looking for a person to occasionally stay with their 81 year old Nana who lives with them. They are willing to pay and/or trade with someone in a similar situation. Contact Angela at 930-8042 or email at tru4myheart@aol.com.

Remember to keep praying for our Confirmands and their Mentors

Confirmands

Duke Ammon
 Tevin Aubry
 Leslie Drew
 Lindsay Gutterson
 Bossie
 Aaron Ladeau
 Cameron Randlett
 Patience Roby

Mentors

Keith Ladeau
 Tom Knapp
 Lisa Svenson
 Michele

 Stew Ross
 Bob Levesque
 Kerri-Lynn
 Kimner

**LAMPLIGHTERS
 WEDNESDAY LADIES BIBLE
 STUDY**

January 9 we begin a new study: "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Even scripture's good girls had their flaws. We'll take a look at Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel and Dinah. Their stories will inspire us. Liz Curtis Higgs is a well-known Christian speaker and writer, admired for her honest testiimonies and natural humor. Starting January 9 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. Coffee and social time, followed by prayer and bible study. We are looking for new friends to join us! For more information call Elaine Driscoll at 673-4270.



The Lamplighters are a group of women who meet once a week for Bible study, sharing and friendship. As Lamplighters we would like to share with you – once a month – a thought, a prayer, a pearl of wisdom or a chuckle, hoping this little spark will make your life a little brighter just as it did for us. Here is another Lamplighters’ spark and a comforting thought in these uncertain times :

A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams.

. . John Barrymore



From the Worship Committee:

Bread Loaves on Communion Sunday, January 6th: Remember to bring a loaf of bread 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. Many times their freezer is empty and they are very thankful for our bread delivery! This is one small way we can help others in need.

The New "Information Center"

The Information Center is conveniently located in the foyer of the church. It will be organized with information about MUMC and the ministries we offer. The center will be convenient for guests and members to pick up information on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. This will be the place you go to sign up, purchase tickets, and get information about upcoming events.

Donation of Altar Flowers

Our cost for an altar arrangement from Woodman's Florist is \$25. If you want to request a special type/size of arrangement, the cost would vary accordingly. Talk to Roberta Langis, the Flower Coordinator, regarding special requests at bertlangis@aol.com or 673-4560.

Thank you for helping to beautify our altar and sanctuary for Sunday worship.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

A note of sincere appreciation to Bob Carey for constructing and handcrafting our new "Information Center" located in the foyer. Bob took a drawing and went to town on constructing a very functional piece of furniture that our church will use for years to come. Thanks for all your hard work and sharing your gifts and talents, Bob.



Thank you, Greeters

I wanted to take this time to thank all of you who have answered my request to Greet on a given Sunday morning. I have always had very willing people and I want you all to know how appreciated you are. With the start of the new year I will be continuing to call for Greeters. I would also like to have some new people who think they may enjoy this brief commitment. It only takes about 15 min prior to church service to Greet our parishioners and guests as they enter the sanctuary. It's a warm welcome and thereby a very important part of our worship service. If any of you, whom I have not contacted, would like to Greet, please notify me by a phone call or email. I would be very happy to give you a Sunday to be Greeters and you will find how enjoyable it is to be a part of the service in this manner. Thanks so much all of you and God bless you. Roberta Randlett

Discover the Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus Christ

Additions to Church Directory

If you change your address, telephone number and/or name, please notify the church office so the membership and mailing lists can be accurately maintained.

No recent changes reported to the office.

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Thomas M. Getchell-Lacey

Ministers:

Every member of the congregation

Organist and Choir Director: Sally Landis

Choir Accompanist: Nancy Tong

Spirit Celebration Music Dir: Chris Willard

Handbell and Youth Choirs Director:

Mary Tyler-Wall

Youth Choir Accompanist:

Kaleen Fortunato

Director of Program Ministries:

Susan Drew

Church Secretary: Marian Kopp

Assistant Church Secretary: Carol Brooks

Custodian: Jim Fortunato

Nursery: Kristina McEntee

Toddler: Nicola Crosbourne

Need to Reach the Pastor?

Pastor Tom is available for counseling or any other needs you might have by appointment. Please feel free to call the church office at 673-2669 to reach him or leave a message with one of the office staff or answering machine. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please do not hesitate to call the parsonage at 673-7861.

DISCOVER THE JOY

Mission Statement:

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

Vision Statement:

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

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

Values Statement:

We commit ourselves to:

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

Dear Friends,

With the turning of the year, we here at MUMC will turn our attention to a topic that I believe is of great importance in the increasingly shrinking world in which we live, the issue of world religions, and our relationship as Christians to people of other faiths. We will be turning our attention to these matters in two ways; I will be offering a series of sermons called “Christianity and World Religions. Concurrent with that, we will be offering an adult class of the same name that will meet on Sunday mornings that will serve as an opportunity to dig a little deeper into the material I will be covering in my sermons. Both the class and the sermon series will begin on January 6.

While in the past, the vast majority of Americans fell into the category of “Protestant, Catholic, Jew” (to quote the title of a book from the 1960’s), the religious landscape of our communities has clearly changed considerably. Many of us rub shoulders with people of other faiths on a regular and intimate basis. Add to that the incredible access many Americans have to information from all over the world through the internet and other global means of communication, and the explosion of international travel for both business and pleasure, and our awareness of, curiosity about, and familiarity with other religious traditions has increased exponentially. Our more frequent and intimate contact with people of other faiths in our work place, in our communities, and for some of us, in our own families, has had at least two major consequences.

First, it has made the question of how Christians are to respond to people of other faiths a much more immediate and personal issue. What does it mean to treat these neighbors and friends with genuine Christian love? How do we respond to the very real differences in our respective faiths? Is it rude and/or offensive to share our faith with people of other religious backgrounds? Many of us are being called to answer these questions in the day-to-day of our lives.

Second, it means that Christianity no longer has the monopoly in the market place of spiritual life that it once had. As people (and especially unchurched folks who see themselves as spiritually open) become more familiar with other religious traditions, they are naturally more open to and curious

about the variety of religious practices of others. One consequence is that many spiritually hungry people will not limit their search for truth to the various forms of Christianity, but will naturally explore a wide variety of religious beliefs and practices. Another consequence is that they are suspicious of any religious tradition that makes any claims to superiority over other religions.

That is why we are offering this sermon series and concurrent adult study. As we explore the main beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, we will also compare those core beliefs to those of the Christian faith. This will be a great time for you to learn more about the faiths of your neighbors and co-workers. It would also be a great time to invite a family member or neighbor or co-worker who is searching spiritually and has questions about how Christianity compares to some of the major religious traditions of the world. See you in church!

Still discovering the joy,

Pastor Tom

Come Celebrate and Learn About our Katrina Mission Project — Potluck supper followed by Mission Trip program — 6:00 Sunday, January 19

This past October, a group of MUMC members and friends joined a number of others to travel to Slidell, Louisiana to be part of the ongoing rebuilding effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Our group was involved in rehabbing several houses in Slidell, a suburb of New Orleans. God was very much present in our travels and in our work, and the members of the mission team are anxious to share some of their experiences with you. This will also be a great time to get together with fellow MUMC members and friends for food and fellowship, and to hear about some of the ways MUMC is in ministry beyond our own community. Especially if you are thinking you might want to go on a short-term mission trip in the future, you won’t want to miss this gathering.



On Sunday December 23rd we welcomed the following new members to our MUMC family. If you have not yet met them, please introduce yourself the next time you see them.

8:30 Service

Carol & Steve Gray, of 19 Iris Rd., Milford. Carol and Steve are joining by renewal of vows, and are being sponsored by Don and Shannon Gutterson.

Edie Hilyard, of 53 Buttonwood Dr., Hollis, by transfer from The Church of the Good Shepherd (UMC), Vienna, Va. Her sponsor is Barb Reed.

Bruce & Doris Houston, of 760 Center Rd., Lyndeborough; Bruce is joining by transfer from the United Church of Lyndeborough and Doris is joining by renewal of vows. Serving as their sponsors are Stew and Vivian Ross.

Lonni Stapanon, of 1 Rousseau Heights, Greenville, is joining by renewal of vows. Her sponsor is Jane Baldwin-Reed.

10:45 Service

Steve and Mary McDonough, of 9 Brown Ave, Wilton. Steve and Mary join us by renewal of vows. They are being sponsored by Steve and Kerri-Lynn Kimner.

Mary Munroe, of 155 Old Wilton Rd., New Ipswich, comes to us by transfer from the Main St. United Methodist Church in Nashua.

Lisa Payne, of 94 Westchester Ave., Milford, joins today by profession of faith. Her sponsor is Diane Jaquith.

Special Church Conference to Be Held on January 30

All members of the church are encouraged to attend a special church conference on Wednesday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the coming year. This is normally done at the annual church conference, but for a variety of reasons was not done at our October church conference this past fall. (Date of Church Conference pending approval of D.S.)



Life Skills Coaches

Every month I go to a meeting of the Greater Milford Outreach. This is a group of social service providers from this area who meet to network, hear what each group is doing and what their needs are. Many times we hear that there is a need for adults to have basic skills classes -- banking, parenting, money management, healthy food purchasing and preparation, etc. The Milford Welfare department has organized classes at the library for people but they are not well attended, not because the need is not there, but because people in need of these services can't make the times due to their work schedules and childcare needs. I think this would be a great service for members of our church to get involved with. If you are interested in helping to research or design such a program, or act as a mentor to a family in need, please give me a call -- Susan Drew (672-4877).

Outreach/Missions Activities

Outreach/Missions – committee members: Bob Bowman, Bob Carey, Tami Davis-Betelak, Alexis Eaton, Bob Levesque, Bob Morgan, Pat Rafter, Theresa Sekanina, Marcy Stanton. **Chairperson:** Wendy Getchell-Lacey

Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

GNIHN -through the Greater Nashua Inter-faith Hospitality Network, we at MUMC continue to support families in transition at the Anne Marie House in Hudson.. Thank you to all volunteers who faithfully serve Jesus Christ by being in service to the homeless families in our community.

SHARE – For the month of January we are collecting the following items for the SHARE food pantry: flour, white and brown sugar, cake and brownie and muffin mix, pancake mix, syrup, canned icing, salt and pepper, and large brown bags

The Outreach committee buys provisions each month to supplement these donations and occasionally makes a financial donation to help SHARE with its financial commitments.



Church Family News . . .

Once again, I wish to say thank you for the cards and calls with words of encouragement; and the thoughts and prayers offered during this second surgery. All is going well and I hope to be back worshipping with you very soon.

With love,

Natalie Parker

Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Once again, our annual Thanksgiving dinner proved to be successful. Not only did we, as a church community, join forces in contributing all of the foods, but we also came together as a church family demonstrating the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Approximately 80 people, including several home deliveries, were graciously served a delicious meal with all of the trimmings.

Many thanks to the tireless efforts of Callie McMahon and Lonnie Stapanon for coordinating this project, shopping and then cooking all of Thanksgiving Day! They made it possible for the 45 other volunteers to easily recognize and complete their tasks.

A community effort of this nature definitely reflects positively on MUMC. But, more importantly, it is also evident of the true Spirit of Christ amongst us.

COUNTDOWN TO THE
New Year

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



What you do:

1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV.)
 - Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV.)
 - Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV.)
 - Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV.)
 - Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:4, NRSV.)
6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.

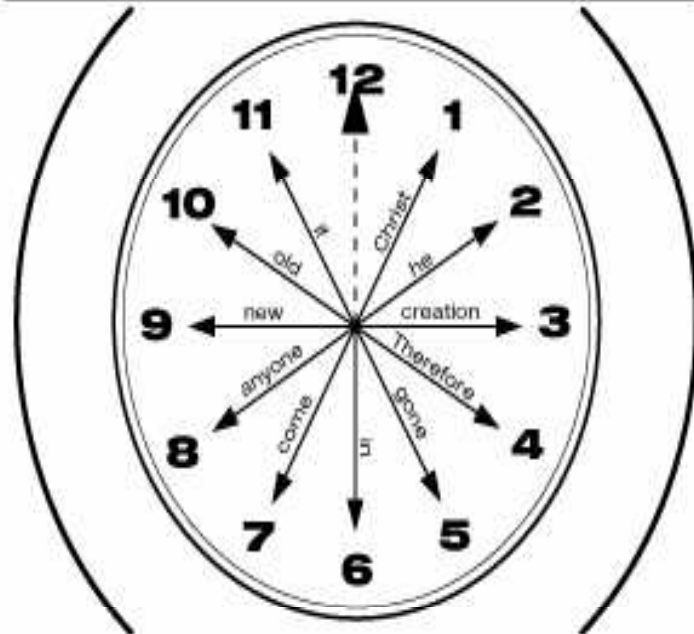


Just for **KIDS**

IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



" _____ , is _____ , is a _____
 _____ ; the _____ has _____ , the _____ has _____ !"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

January 2008

THE OUTREACH

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 New Year's Day—Church Office Closed	2 No White Tops 7-9 Nominations No Church Council	3 10am-1pm Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Youth Dance No Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	4 12-3 Afternoon Off 7-8 Praise Band	5
6 Epiphany 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 SunSchool 10:45 Worship 2 Concert&Pagnt 6:15 Confirmtion	7 4 SonBeams 4:30 Trinity Dov 7 Outreach 7 Ed Team 7 Staff-Parish	8 7 Stephen Train 7 Worship 7 Bible Study at Lawler's 7:30 Trustees	9 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Womens Bible Study 7 Stephen Supervision 7 Christmas Fair Planning Meeting	10 10am-1pm Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Youth Dance 5:15 YouthBells 6 Bell Choir 7:30 ChanChoir	11 12-3 Afternoon Off 7-8 Praise Band	12 8 am-4 pm Healthy Congregation Workshop
13 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 SunSchool 10:45 Worship	14 4 SonBeams 4:30 Trinity Dov 7 Quilting Min at Robinson's	15 7 Stephen Train 7 Bible Study at Lawler's	16 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Womens Bible Study	17 10am-1pm Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Youth Dance 5:15 YouthBells 6 Bell Choir 7:30 ChanChoir	18 12-3 Afternoon Off 7-8:30 Women's Bible Study at Levesque home 7-8 Praise Band	19 (Snow Date for Healthy Congregation) 5-9 Potluck Supper & Katrina Presentation
20 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 SunSchool 10:45 Worship	21 4 SonBeams 4:30 Trinity Dov 7 Finance Committee	22 7 Stephen Train 7 Bible Study at Lawler's	23 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Womens Bible Study 7 Stephen Supervision	24 10am-1pm Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Youth Dance 5:15 YouthBells 6 Bell Choir 7:30 ChanChoir	25 12-3 Afternoon Off 7-8 Praise Band	26 8-9:30 Seasoned Generation Planning Mtg.
27 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 SunSchool 10:45 Worship	28 4 SonBeams 4:30 Trinity Dov	29 7 Stephen Train 7 Bible Study at Lawler's	30 9:30 White Tops 12-2:30 Womens Bible Study 7 Church Council Special Conference	31 10am-1pm Helping Hands at Granite Square 4 Youth Dance 5:15 YouthBells 6 Bell Choir 7:30 ChanChoir		

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