

SEPTEMBER 2015



Conway Village Congregational Church

The Good News

Pastor's Pondering

After a lovely stay, I drove my mother back this weekend so that she may resume her duties as a good and dutiful grandmother. With working offspring, she has found herself in the position of chauffeur for grandchildren under ten, walking dogs, and preparing healthy snacks and dinners. She has promised to return to New Hampshire for her own mental health and wellbeing.

I took the opportunity to attend another church that same weekend. The minister was a guest minister (as the pastor was taking a well deserved and needed vacation.) This guest minister preached on the same topic that I had preached the week before. He was concluding the *Bread of Life* discourse from the Gospel of John. With pleasure, I can share that his sermon was wonderful.

He took a totally different tact than I and focused on something that I had added as an aside. His laid back style belied his poignant message. He gently pulled on a well-formed conscience and coaxed out empathy. He brought me to a place that was uncomfortable yet comforting. He invited me to share in the human condition in a way that was not unfamiliar but not often experienced.

I share this with you so that you may also experience the pleasure of attending services when you travel. It seems that many of us do not think of attending services when we are on a business trip or vacation. Some of us get too caught up in church as part of a

standard routine that we do not contemplate its benefit when we are relaxing, although church, in part, is restorative in nature. Church has the potential to be a balm or a salve. It can also enlighten, invigorate and breathe new life into us. Is that not why we vacation?

Also, I wanted to share this with you as many of us become loyal to a pastor or to a church to the point where we see competition where competition is not to be found. God calls a pastor and minister to a specific place for a specific reason, but that does not mean that he or she is in competition with the other ministers or churches in the world. Each minister is called to use his or her gifts to bring their respective congregations into a healthier and holier relationship with God and with the church. With this healthier congregation, a pastor then encourages the members to go forth and do the mission of Christ. As a pastor, I can attest to other remarkable men and women who have also willingly answered God's call as pastors and who bless me with their wisdom and ministry. I have seen and heard the blessings of their love and labor and am proud to count them among my friends.

That being stated, please take the opportunity to hear the message that soothes and refreshes from wherever you may find it when you find yourself in parts elsewhere.

Blessings,
Martell

Conway Village Congregational Church **Mission Statement**

"We are a community of faith in Jesus Christ, open to all, and by following His teachings we willingly serve God, our neighbors and each other through worship, fellowship and ministry."

August 2015 Worship Service Attendance

Date	#	Weather	Special Day
August 2	63	Sunny, 72°	
August 9	57	Overcast, 68°	
August 16	52	Sunny, 69°	
August 23	61	Cloudy, 60°	Rev. Mary G. Edes guest preacher.
August 30	54	Partly Cloudy, 70°	

October 2015

Newsletter Deadline

Monday,
September 21st

Please email your
submissions and/or photos
to:

info@thebrownchurch.org

Women's Bible Study Group



The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study Group met after their study to create delightful crafts, which they will sell at our November Holiday Fair. This meeting marks the first of many crafting gatherings.



September Birthdays



9/2 Nancy Irving
9/6 Russell Hunter
9/9 Anna Hill
9/14 Margaret Marshall
9/15 Brian Wiggin
9/16 Ruth Proctor
9/16 Tony Andreano

9/18 Peter Klomp
9/19 Richard Bryant
9/19 Louise Saxby
9/21 John Edgerton
9/21 Sheila Pickard
9/28 Joan Sanphy



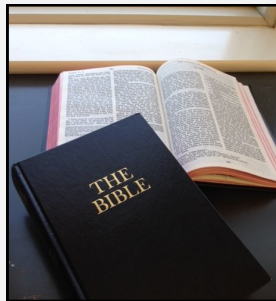
SEPTEMBER 2015

Date	Worship Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
9/6		Beth Campbell
9/13	Dan & Jennifer Lavigne	
9/20		Nancy G. & Joanne M.
9/27		Women's Bible Study

CVCC Bible Study Groups

All men and women are welcome to check out one of our weekly Bible Study Groups.

You don't need to be a member of Conway Village Congregational Church to visit one of these studies. Just a desire to explore God's word with a fun and friendly group.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays beginning at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

Friday's 8:00-9:00 AM

~coffee is hot and goodies are served~

CVCC Prayer Requests

- Russ Sanford
- Liz Workman DeFeria
- Hayden Waldecker
- Bradford Hamilton
- Family of Anthony Russo
- Diane Roberts
- Arvid Gustavson
- Mike Colby
- Stephanie Thuatte
- Pauline Tarbox
- June O'Donal
- Mavis Peterson
- Hannah McVitty
- Family of Karl Svendsen
- Rick & Jan Sanborn
- John Polatta
- Melani Bryan
- Alice Clapp
- Debra Downer
- Danielle Shannon
- Deanna Alves
- Joseph Monahan
- Jennie Buckley
- Marcia Hill
- Peter Sell
- Denis Currier
- Jeffrey Currier
- Ray and Evelyn Behnke

Recycle and Donate Your Extra Bags



We are always in need of grocery bags to use in our food pantry. If you have extra bags to donate, please drop them off at the church while attending Sunday service or when the office is open—weekdays from 8am-2pm, closed Wednesday & Friday. Thank you for your help!

Turkey Dinner - Building Fundraiser



Moderator's Moment

Here we are halfway through August as I am writing this. Where has the summer gone? This must mean that it has reached the time where we start to bring the life back into the activities of the church.

This is the time that we need to start planning for the events of the Fall and Winter. We have a Sunday School starting back up, Fryeburg Fair, Holiday Fair and many other events that come along. There is a need for many people to be involved in these events. As the dates are released please mark your calendars so you can give of your time to help make these events successful. Not only do we need help with fundraising events etc., there is a need for people to consider serving on a board or committee. We have openings on the Diaconate and Christian Education at this time. Contact me if you have any interest in serving on a board or committee.

More information will be coming along soon. The more people that get involved will take the pressure off a few.



The organizing for the Fryeburg Fair started back in the Spring. Another step was taken today with the ordering of 80 bushels of apples and other supplies will be ordered in the next few days.

Even though it has been quiet for most these past couple of months, much has been going on. The remodeling of the ladies restroom is almost complete and the Food Pantry has things going on. The Church phone app is live now. A Turkey Dinner fundraiser was done with the proceeds going to the building fund.

So you can see that the Brown Church hasn't really taken the summer off. I would like to thank all who been working to keep the Church moving forward.

GOD BLESS TO ALL

PAUL

Choir

Our Choir returns the second Sunday in September.

Your help is needed!!

This September I will be starting my twelfth choir season at CVCC and my forty first season as a church organist.

When I began we had about 16 singers. Over the years, due to moves, people passing, and folks retiring we have maintained 12 singers.

Due to health issues and retirements we will be starting this season with 3 less people. One less bass, soprano and alto. Fortunately we gained one new singer this past season, so we are looking at 8 people this year. A solid group, but everyone can't be present every Sunday. Needless to say it begins to pose a challenge to select music that can be done well when a few people have to be away.

We also gained a new singer when we gained a new pastor. Martell has helped in the bass, tenor and even the alto sections when needed! Needless to say, this is not expected of new singers!

We have many people in the choir that serve in multiple capacities, from cooking our wonderful church dinners, remodeling our bathrooms, to cutting the lawn,

serving on boards, teaching Sunday School classes, preaching sermons? What? Yes. To hosting our church dinners and washing the dishes when the dinners are over. Not to mention the huge job of running and staffing our booth at the Fryeburg Fair!

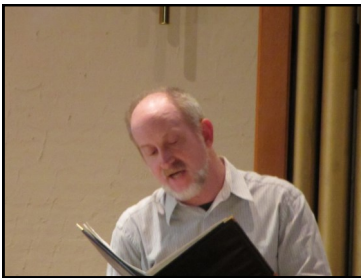
We meet for one hour at 7 pm on Thursday night at the church. Choir warm up is at 9:15 Sunday morning. You don't have to be present every week, however, it does require a commitment. And winter can be a challenge, so we have a phone chain to cancel choir if needed.

I ask you to please consider giving it try. You don't have to read music. About 50% of the choir does not read music. We learn by doing!

Our first rehearsal this year is the first Thursday after Labor Day. I hope to see some new faces and hear some new voices!

Yours in Christ,

Roger S. Miklos
Minister of Music





Conway Village Congregational Church Food Pantry

Open for Distribution by Appointment:

Tuesdays 9:00 -11:00 am & 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Serving Conway, Eaton, Albany and Chatham.

Call 603-447-3851 to make and appointment or
for more information.

CVCC Food Pantry Volunteers

The food pantry is in search of volunteers to help distribute food to our pantry clients. Volunteering in the food pantry is an excellent way to give back to our community. You will get to work with another volunteer and spend the time together bagging groceries and helping families in need. You are welcome to come over and observe the volunteers as they work morning or evening. Come any time on Tuesday mornings during the hours of 9:00-11:00 AM or in the evenings from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Call the office if you have any questions or would like to schedule a Tuesday to observe the pantry process. The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



Conway Village Congregational Church 2015 Food Pantry Statistics



Our food pantry serves Conway, Eaton, Chatham and Albany every Tuesday morning and evening by appointment. Call the office for more information or to make an appointment—447-3851.

Month	# Households	# People Served	# Meals Given	# 60 & Older	# Under 18
January	40	103	4326	17	32
February	40	94	3948	27	21
March (5 weeks)	46	105	4410	28	23
April	34	83	3486	24	15
May	30	69	2898	22	12
June (5 weeks)	38	88	3696	28	21
July	34	85	3570	31	21
August	38	90	3780	30	19
September (5 weeks)					
October					
November					
December (5 weeks)					
YTD Totals	300	717	30,114	207	164

Trustees Tidings

The trustees continue to meet twice a month. Most recently they discussed and voted on the oil contract for 2016. We will continue with White Mountain Oil. They have been very responsive to repair calls and work with us on a payment plan based on our cash flow.

As noted last month, Andy Chalmers came to the meeting to help us work on prioritizing much needed repairs to the church. Since then, a roofer looked at the roof and found issues with the original materials used and as a result, there is rot under the roof. Andy will be back at the September trustees meeting to discuss our options further.

We have begun working on the 2016 budget and Stewardship. To date for 2015, the church has not had to use funds from the endowments and will plan not to also in 2016.

The trustees are working on updating policies and procedures on building use and fundraising events. These have not been reviewed in a number of years.

A big thank you goes out to Carl, Megan and Jonna for their push to clean out the old Sunday school room to make it nicer for the groups who meet there.

Trustees:

Anne Getchell
John Edgerton

Nancy Irving

Duddie Andrews
Beth Campbell

Tom Workman

Wayne Fitch

Trustee of the Week September 2015

WEEK OF: TRUSTEE:

September 6	Beth Campbell
September 13	John Edgerton
September 20	Wayne Fitch
September 27	Anne Getchell

Conway Village Congregational Church

Financial Report

July, 2015

Income:	\$9,310.00
Expenses	\$15,241.00
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$5,931.00

Christian Education

The Sunday School program of the CVCC will kick off the 2015-2016 season on Rally Day, September 13th. We need your help to provide a quality Christian education for our students! Our Sunday School classes are held each week for about 45 minutes during the time of our regular church services.

Our lessons follow the church lectionary, so they "match" the weekly scripture and message of the worship service. The lessons are easy to follow, and the plans include ideas for the entire Sunday School time- including



scripture, lessons, and some activity and craft ideas. We have supplies that you would need for the lesson of the week, and your preparation time is minimal. Please consider sharing a valuable hour every four to six weeks with the children of the CVCC. We promise that you will gain much more than you give!!! Please see Dawn or Carl Vitters or Nancy Wiggan with any questions, for more information, or to "sign up".

YOU can make a difference in the lives and the spiritual growth of our children!

Diaconate

As you read this, the CVCC will be swinging back into the Fall mode, with Board and Committee meetings resuming, Sunday School and choir jumping back into gear, Autumn Vespers coming up, along with the Fryeburg Fair, and even the Holiday Fair in the not too distant future.....

As you come on back from your summer schedule, please consider sharing your gifts and talents with the CVCC- join the choir, be an usher or greeter on Sunday mornings, host coffee fellowship, teach Sunday School, put flowers in church on a Sunday morning, volunteer at the Dinner Bell, the Food pantry, or become a member of a church Board or Committee.

Please see the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall to "sign up" to usher, greet, host fellowship, or provide flowers. See any Deacon with questions about these functions.

Our Semiannual Vesper service and pot luck meal with be graciously hosted by the Andrews again this year at their gorgeous Frog Rock place. The date is Sunday, September 20th, at 5 PM. Please bring a dish to share, along with your appetite for a stellar pot luck event! Our traditional Vespers service will follow the meal. Please watch for the flyer, which will include directions to the Andrews.

Please take the time during your busy autumn season to read your Bible, and consider our Bible Study

groups to enrich your knowledge and participate in lively conversations and learning!

Finally, consider *your* Autumn Blessings..... with the words of Deborah Ann:

Autumn brings to the soul relief, as hot summer days slip to an end.

God sent the season for weary hearts to repair, restore and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees that shed their colored leaves,

God sent the **season** for failing hearts to adhere, to embrace and cleave.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb, and dips much earlier into the night.

God sent the season for sleepy hearts to rise and shine, and live in His light.



Your Diaconate,

Mitzi Fitch
Dan Lavigne
Sheila Pickard
Suzanne Rancourt

Jill Reynolds
Louise Saxby
Dawn Vitters
Nancy Wiggin

Deacon for the month of September 2015 is Nancy Wiggin.



*Save the Date
November 19-21, 2015
CVCC
Holiday Fair
Workshop Dates
All workshops will be at
Nancy Wiggin's House
at 6:30 pm
October 19
November 9
November 16*

SUNDAY SERVICE

Ushers Needed

Ushering is a wonderful way to meet people and serve the church.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday or contact the Deacon of the Month for more information.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <u>Office Closed</u>	3 <u>Office Closed</u> 2:00pm Bone Builders	4 <u>Office Closed</u> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	5
6 10:00am Sunday Service	7 <u>Office Closed</u> 4:00pm Outreach 6:30pm Diaconate LABOR DAY NO DINNER BELL	8 2:00pm Bone Builders 6:00pm Jazzercise	9 <u>Office Closed</u>	10 2:00pm Bone Builders 7:00 Choir Practice Resumes	11 <u>Office Closed</u> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	12
13 10:00am Sunday Service Rally Sunday! Choir Resumes	14 5:00-6:00pm Dinner Bell	15 2:00 Bone Builders 5:00pm Trustees 6:00pm Jazzercise 7:00pm Cabinet	16 <u>Office Closed</u>	17 9:30am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Bone Builders 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 <u>Office Closed</u> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	19
20 10:00am Sunday Service 5:00pm Pot Luck Dinner & Vespers Service at Frog Rock	21 5:00-6:00pm Dinner Bell	22 2:00 Bone Builders 6:00pm Jazzercise	23 <u>Office Closed</u>	24 9:30am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Bone Builders 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 <u>Office Closed</u> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	26
27 10:00am Sunday Service	28 5:00-6:00pm Dinner Bell	29 2:00pm Bone Builders 6:00pm Jazzercise	30 <u>Office Closed</u>			



**Visit our Apple Crisp Booth at the Fryeburg Fair
Sunday, October 4th through Sunday, October 11th**





**Conway Village
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

PO Box 333, 132 Main Street, Conway, NH 03818

Phone: 603-447-3851 **Fax:** 603-447-3852

Email: info@thebrownchurch.org

Website: www.thebrownchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. M.G. Martell Spagnolo

Minister of Music: Roger S. Miklos

Secretary: Jonna Yager

**Conway Village
Congregational
Church**

Office Hours:

8:00am—2:00pm

Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday

**CLOSED
LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 7th**

**CLOSED
WEDNESDAY &
FRIDAY**

Conway Village Congregational On-Going Church Activities

Day/Date	Time	Event
• Sunday	• 10:00am	• Worship Service
• Monday	• 5:00-6:00pm • 5:00-7:00pm • 6:30pm	• Dinner Bell • Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation • Diaconate Meeting-1st Monday of the month
• Tuesday	• 9:00-11:00am • 2:00-3:00pm • 5:00pm • 5:30-7:30pm • 6:00pm • 7:00pm	• Food Pantry Open • Bone Builders • Trustees Meeting—3rd Tuesday of the month • Food Pantry Open • Jazzercise • Cabinet Meeting—3rd Tuesday of the month
• Thursday	• 9:30-11:30am • 2:00-3:00pm • 7:00pm	• Women's Bible Study Group • Bone Builders • Choir Practice (Resumes September 10th)
• Friday	• 8:00-9:00am	• Men's Bible Study & Breakfast