

W CROSS R D

United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 847
Pelham, New Hampshire 03076
603 635-7025
office@pelhamucc.org

So What's it Going To Be ~ Or What Was It?

I sit here writing a just 12 short hours before the big Valentine's Day nor'easter is scheduled to begin. We've all been here before. Sometimes the heavy snow predictions come true, but then, yet again, sometimes they don't. Snow turns into rain, and slush turns into mush.

As a youngster I can remember praying for just enough snow to cancel school (anywhere from 3-5 inches) but not enough to make snow removal difficult. As the snow accumulation would begin, dollar signs would flash before our eyes as we young people hoped that we would amass small fortunes by shoveling walks and driveways. I can remember my mother making us stay in for the hot breakfast she would make us. How we would gobble it down so we could get to our first driveway!

All too often, however, predictions of heavy snow would fizzle as we would once find ourselves standing in line for the school bus as the drizzle and rain (which could have been snow we thought) would bead up on our winter coats. "What a jip" would be the phrase of the day. What was worse was when an adjacent town cancelled school while ours didn't.

As I was reminiscing about past snows, I can also remember the many times when a near blizzard would come from a prediction of "just a few flurries". In fact it got to the point where I would hear my mother say, "predictions of heavy snow don't bother me—it's the flurries that will get you every time!" I cannot count the times when she was right.

Either way, no one can actually predict what is going to happen. There are usually several surprises. By the

The First Congregational Church

March 2007

FIRST FOLKS contd.

time you read this, the Valentine's Day nor'easter will long be over. At best, there will be those who will try to surmise how this storm could be compared with others ~ if at all. As news stories come and go, this storm/ or lack thereof may long be forgotten. Who knows? It is still twelve hours before it is supposed to happen. But for now, many folk are running to stores making ready for the coming storm. Milk, bread, peanut butter, soup and other staples are bought in large quantities. The local super market is jammed. Some make sure bathtubs are filled with water. It is time to check the battery supply. How long a time can we be snowed in? This and other acts of nature are really beyond our control. Personally what I like about big snowstorms is that every once and awhile it is good for us to realize that we are not in control. Maybe it is a good opportunity to focus on loving the ones we're with..... how about it, Valentines?

David

FIRST FOLKS

We send prayers and get well wishes to: **Ed Yourtee**, who underwent thyroid surgery on February 9th; **Ron Schneider's mother**, who is recovering from heart surgery; **Joyce Mason** who is currently a patient at Greenbriar Health Care Center in Nashua; **Stacey Chadwick**, who underwent foot surgery on February 22nd at Children's Hospital in Boston; **Bob Sherman** who underwent surgery in mid-February.

Kim Boland is back home after undergoing knee surgery on January 30th. Reports are that Kim's recuperation is going very well. That's good news, Kim!

Henry Cutter died February 19th at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. Rev. Jarvis officiated at the funeral service on February 23rd at the Pelham Funeral Home. We send our condolences to his family.

We send our condolences to **Sue Howard** and her family on the death of her sister **Jean Brown**, of Gilbert, Louisiana. Jean died on February 22nd at the age of 91.

We also send our condolences to Phyllis Boutwell on the death of her brother Raymond Robinson.

Kenny Andrews was accepted to Daniel Webster College for the fall of 2007 where he will study Mechanical Engineering. He also received a very generous scholarship from the college.

Allison Blanchard was chosen to go to the state house with her teacher and parents to read to our senator as part of Read Across America. Congratulations, Allison!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The senior high youth group raised approximately \$250.00 as a result of the Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sale. Thank you to all who supported the effort. I have been in touch with the associate pastor in Keene and we are now coordinating our spring mission trip to that area. Look for more information in future Crosswords. We will be having a lock in and possibly a movie night in March -- something to look forward to.

Think spring!
Cheryl and Scott Andrews

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We had a great time on Pastor Sunday, February 18th! Each of the classes had a chance to speak with Rev. Jarvis for a few minutes, and then all enjoyed the festivities after church! Thanks so much again to all the volunteers who helped make this a special treat! Believe it or not, it's not too early to start thinking about the Horton Center Summer Camp! CE Board member Missy Mikutel is our Camp Coordinator this year and is in the process of gathering information for this coming summer. More details to come soon, but if you are interested, or have questions, please contact Missy, or any CE board member.

Don't forget to check out our CE Bulletin Board in

Page 2

Fellowship Hall for March: this month will be done by the 2/3 grade class.

We are looking for two new CE Board members. We'll be happy to speak with anyone interested in participating in the oversight of our Christian Education program! Please contact Nancy Webster or any CE

Board member.

Schedule for March

March 4th — **No Sunday School**

March 11th — Sunday School.

March 18th — Sunday School:

March 25th - Sunday School.

Sincerely, Karen Dorman for the CE Board

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

Yes, it's that time again! So many in our church have been touched by cancer. Just last summer our own Janice Chasse succumbed to it after a valiant effort for many years.

Order daffodils and support the American Cancer Society's fight for a cure. Together we can make a difference. We invite you to order daffodils for \$7.00 for a bunch of ten. Also available is a special 12" Limited Edition Boyd's Daffodil Bear with its own bunch of 10 fresh daffodils for \$25.00.

Please use the order form below and return it to the office **with your payment** (Checks should be made out to The First Congregational Church) as soon as possible. Orders are taken on a first come, first serve basis. If there are any extra bunches or bears, they will be available to purchase on the morning of March 25th, Daffodil Sunday.

I wish to order # _____ bunches of Daffodils @ \$7.00 per bunch.

I wish to order # _____ Boyd's Daffodil Bear & bunch of Daffodils @ \$25.00 per set.

Name: _____

Total _____

March 2007

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. If you would like to purchase an Easter plant to help decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office. Double stemmed Easter lilies are \$10.00, red tulips are \$6.00

(in a 6 inch pot). You may take your plant(s) home after the 10AM service. Orders will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Type of plant(s) you wish to order:

Easter Lily _____ Red tulips _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Given By: _____

of plants ordered: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

EASTER BREAKFAST

On Easter Sunday, April 9th, we will once again serve our "traditional Easter breakfast." Wally Cibulski and his "kitchen crew" will be preparing a delicious breakfast of bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes**, home fries, juices and coffee. We will start serving at 6:45 AM. **Pancakes will be freshly cooked (not in advance and kept warm...).

We are looking for donations of food items such as eggs, bacon, orange juice, potatoes, onions and milk (to help keep our cost down).

If you would like to help (either with a donation or working in the kitchen Easter morning), please speak to either Wally Cibulski (603 635-7607) or Peggy Murphy in the church office.

LOST!

The tan pottery plate to our Communion Set is presently missing. If you have seen it or know where it might be tucked away, please speak to one of the Deacons or Peggy in the church office.

Page 3

GREETERS/USHERS FOR MARCH

March 2007

TRUSTEES' CORNER

So much to do and so little time. Seems like that is a fact of life for everyone who I know. As a matter of fact,

March 4th Rhonda & Craig Loring

Hal Lynde & Charlene Takesian

March 11th Pelham Community Girl Scouts

March 18th Jeff & Tammy MacNeil

Scott & Lynne Mallard

March 25th Bill & Jean Manthorne

John & Bonnie Moore

If you cannot usher on your assigned week, please contact someone on the list above to switch Sundays or contact Jane Ambargis (881-9887 or jambargis@comcast.net) by the Wednesday of your assigned week.

On behalf of the Diaconate Committee, thank you for providing this important service for our church family!

STEEPLETOPIC

The children will be returning to school after February vacation on March 5th and getting back into their regular routines. They all enjoyed Valentine's Day and will be looking forward to seeing what tricks our green friend has in store for us around St. Patrick's Day! The Preschool classes have been working on team work and are learning how to keep their teeth healthy. The Kindergarteners have been studying Alaska, Hibernation and the Arctic. Some of us will be getting to visit with "Flat Stanley".

Some important dates to remember are, Pelham's Community Night on 3/8, Steepletop's Teacher Workshop day on 3/13, and a special guest, Diane Kordas will be entertaining us with her puppets on 3/28.

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have a child who will be aged 3-5 by September 30th and are interested in enrollment for the Fall, please call the school at (603)635-2100 and leave a message for the Registrar.

Submitted by,
Melanie Surprenant

I don't think I know anyone that gets up in the morning and has to think of something to do. For most of us, it is how do we put two days worth of stuff into a single day. It is little wonder when we ask for help around the Church, with committees and with odd jobs etc, we don't get much of a response. But I have to admit that the

response we do get is of super quality. So we run on quality not quantity and the jobs get done. Sure would like to get more quantity with quality. Some of the work accomplished lately has been a repainted and decorated copy center, the upstairs bathroom has been worked on and repaired, painted. The kitchen is in the process of being cleaned and painted. The front stairwell to the nursery has been painted. We have had a new door put on the parking lot entrance, one with a window so we can see people on the other side. We have had continuous problems with the heating system over the last few years, however having David Chadwick now doing the maintenance we are catching up and over the next year or so the Church heating system will be as good as it can be, be more efficient and for sure more reliable. Kevin Harrington installed the new door. One other major expense has been the repair of a toilet downstairs. Seems like those little rascals broke one right off the floor. Wally and Ben Forrestall have been doing much of the painting and remodeling. Dick Koch built some nice looking cabinets for the copy room next to the office. There are some major projects which need to be addressed sooner rather than later. They go something like this.

1. Purchase and install a septic pump transfer controller. \$1800
2. Clean out the catch basin in the parking lot. \$500
3. Electrical work and new lighting in the nursery \$1000
4. New lighting in the hallway in the Sunday School area. \$700
5. New light installed in all classrooms at a cost of \$700/room.
6. Repair and/or install new tile or replacement flooring in Sunday School.

Page 4

These are just a small collection of physical plant needs running around on the Trustees table and my head at this time. Most of the above are somewhat major and difficult for us weekend warriors to do, however we have a really great collection of weekend warrior projects, sooo if you do happen to wake up some morning with an empty plate or schedule, think about the Church and come on down.

Keep the Faith.

The Trustees,

Dan, Dick and Donn and then Ron and Tom

COMMUNITY NOTES...

As many of you know, Deb Dufault is coordinating **DANCE TO CURE MS** to raise money for the Accelerated Cure Project which is working to find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. "Dance to Cure MS" will be held on March 2nd, 2007 at The Chateau in Andover, MA. Deb and her crew have a great evening planned. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Deb at 603 434-9241 or at deb103@mac.com.

OFFICE NOTES...

I If you have something that you would like to have put in CROSSWORD, or if you know of someone who should be mentioned in our First Church People column, please get the information to Peggy Murphy in the church office (603 635-7025) by the 20th of the month. You can also E-mail information to us at office@pelhamucc.org.

I If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of someone special on any Sunday, you can sign up for a specific date on the 2006 sign up sheet in the rear hall. The cost is \$25, and Peggy will order them for you from either For Someone Special or Exquisite Flowers. If you have any special request as to the color or style of arrangement, or if you would prefer to order them yourself, please let Peggy know ahead of time. Your payment may be included with your weekly offering. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church. Be sure to mark it for "flowers." You may also mail it directly to the church office at PO Box 847, Pelham, NH 03076. A member of our Care Givers Group or Rev. Jarvis will try to deliver them to a "shut in" following Sunday's worship.