

** STRATCHAT **

Fall, 2014

STRATHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC



A word from our Pastor.....Rev. Diane Mix

“The body heals with play; the mind heals with laughter

and the spirit heals with joy.” A Traditional Proverb

Dear Friends,

I pray your summer was filled with sun and slow motion, games of play and effervescent laughter. And I pray that your spirit continues to sing with joy this summer's end. Because, yes, it's back to school time, back to scheduled days and evening meetings and so many responsibilities that can sap the strength from our renewed bodies, minds and souls.

A boy asked his mother, “Mom, how come you and your friends are always talking about how busy you are? Are you in a race with each other to be the busiest?” The boy has a point, of course. Sometimes it does seem at the clergy

meetings I attend, we (unconsciously, of course) try to one-up one another in how busy our ministry and home schedules are. Ever find yourself doing the same?? I sense this is competition at its very worst, as it is competition which destroys the sense of healing of body, mind and spirit which lazy summer days are supposed to have restored in us.

So, how are you going to fill-up your calendar this coming September? The way it's always been? Or will you find another way? A way to slow down, to say “no” to too many commitments? Will you make it a family priority to worship on Sunday morn-



ings, where all you have to do is sit and be thankful in God's presence? How will you feed your SOUL this school/church year?

(continued on next page)

Inside this issue:

Christian Education/Sunday School	3
Music News	4
Upcoming Events	5-6

Special points of interest:

- Adult Education Opportunity—page 2
- The Stratham Circle Learning Center
- The Clothes Attic
- How to Reach YOUR church staff

.....Pastor Diane (continued)

Introducing Soul Food

A bi-weekly adult education series led by me, Rev. Diane, Sunday mornings after church (11:30-1 pm) The topics will be varied and driven by your requests as well as some of the content from our confirmation classes. What do we believe, in the United Church of Christ? What does "Protestant" mean, and how are we alike/unlike the Roman Catholic Church? What is the Trinity/Pentecost/the early church/"the new Testament in my blood" I say every Communion Sunday/why do we say "debts" and other congregations "trespasses"/why inclusive language?/what is a true prophet, just because they say so?/why the expression, "he/she has the patience of Job?"/how to talk with my young children about death/disaster/suffering?/Issues of racism: What is institutional racism, how can I identify it and help end it?/living in an interfaith world/global village.....I predict lots of great conversations and learning among us all

First Soul Food:

Sunday, September 14 11:30am—1:00pm

What does "Protestant" mean? Similarities and Differences with Roman Catholic and other denominations.

Sunday October 12: The United Church of Christ/Congregational



"HOW TO BE A GARDENER

Lean toward sunshine *
dig down deep * make
peace with chaos *

grow amazing zucchinis
and too many tomatoes *

rain dance * rake leaves
and jump in *

hum along with bees *
ache, sweat and yearn *

wear crazy hats and baggy
pants * have wise hands *

cultivate patience *

moon glow * stay rooted *

blossom wildly *

have shady and
mysterious corners *

mend fences *

wonder * get earthy *
make magic *

share the harvest *

Be Thankful

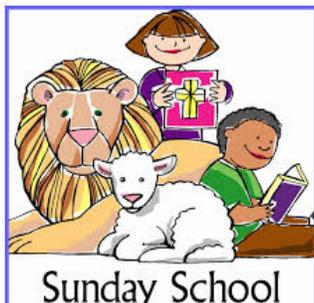
"Plant a Garden Wherever You Go....."

is an assertion I have taken to heart for many years. My condo deck is covered with voluptuous greenery and colorful flowers this time of year thanks to the myriad of big pots I've planted there. I'm a year – round gardener, too, as houseplants and bulbs fill my beloved home throughout the cold months. I even tried anemone and calla lily rhizomes this year, with lovely results!

The gardens in the front of our church are beckoning to me as well. A small group of garden enthusiasts and I have begun the process of creating beautiful spaces there. Thanks to several years of Easter bulbs decorating the altar, the springtime display outside the sanctuary has been lovely. And thanks to Veronica Gauvin, the large memorial planter is always lovingly filled. Flossie, Sandee and I have put in a few peonies, roses and perennials, as well as a few summer annuals to brighten the space.

A garden is always most beautiful, and meaningful, when it is filled with the offerings of many people. (as is the Church, of course!) As we wind-down the gardening season, do you have some "typical New England Garden" hardy, sun-loving perennials at home which need to be split and transplanted? Focusing first on the lawn level narrow border, perhaps you have a few transplants of **daisies, cone flowers, coral bells, black eyed susans or phlox** you'd like to share with the church garden. Please speak with Sandee or me if you do. We'll be scheduling a church garden work day in late September or early October if you'd like to join in as experienced OR wanting to learn gardeners. I don't know who wrote the following, though it speaks to me:

What's Happening in Christian Education?



Sunday School..... starts September 14th!! Information and sign up at Welcoming Sunday, September 7th after the 10:00am Service.

**Middle School Youth Group:
(6th—8th Grade)**

Let's meet the third Sunday of each month after Worship for some fun activities!! First meeting is September 21st!! We are going to the corn maze; ask Christine for more information.

Young Children's Service activities:

Calling all children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade - - - - let's meet on the first Friday of each month at 3:00pm to make cards, bake cupcakes, and other fun activities to help our community!!!!

WE THE YOUTH

(an ecumenical youth group with area churches)
Ages 6th grade through 12th grade invited

Fall Event:

Big Night of: Ending Hunger One Step at a Time!!!

October 18th 4:00pm—October 19th 2:00pm

Winter and Spring Events:

Urban Out Reach—February 6th—February 7th (high school only event)

Heifer Foundation Service—Spring 2015 date - TBA

"The greatest gift we can give our children is the gift of teachers, both at home and at school, who teach from a biblical worldview."

- Glenn Schultz

Volunteers Needed!!!



Share God's Word

We need the help of the **whole congregation** to provide these programs for our youth. If interested in helping, contact Christine VanDerslice, SCC's Christian Education Director, at ChrEd@strathamchurch.org or call the church office.

**Information meeting for parents/interested S.S. teachers:
September 14th 9:00am-9:30am OR 11:00am—11:30am.**



Music News

Lamentations 3:22-24 - *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

There are many beginnings: a new year, a new day, a new season, a new song. Each brings with it a fresh start, a new promise. God is always giving us new beginnings, fresh starts and the promise of renewal.

September 7 is our "Come back to your church community" Sunday, a new year, a new season, a new song....a fresh start, renewed hope and promise. See you soon.

Here are some great NEW musical opportunities...for YOU.

SEPT. 4 (THURSDAY) Choir kick-off. Potluck dinner followed by handing out of NEW MUSIC for the Fall semester. NEW CD'S as well.

SEPT. 13 SINGING AND VOCAL CLINIC featuring Amanda Munton. 9:00-1:00 at the Stratham Community Church

Proper Care and Feeding of Singers—How do you warm up, cool down; do certain foods or medicines effect your singing?; what are some current vocal myths/facts and what are some warning signs that you may have a vocal problem.

Vocal Anatomy—Abridged A quick rundown of the mouth and articulators and their importance in singing.

Breathing for Dummies- Simplifying the mystery

The DYNAMIC Choral Singer- covering techniques to help choral singers sing softly or loudly in a healthy and comfortable way.

This is a FREE clinic, although a free will donation to continue these sorts of programs will be taken.

Nov. 19 (Wed.) 7:00 Uganda Orphan's Choir at Stratham Community Church We will be sponsoring this traveling choir. To make this successful, we are in need of 4 host families and volunteers to help publicize and execute. This will be a church-wide event.

Please see Cheryl Stromski (Sherry) for more information. You can reach her at music@strathamchurch.org.

Thank you and may you have a Bountiful and Glorious Fall,
Cheryl Stromski, Minister of Music SCC, UCC

"I play the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the music."
~ Johann Sebastian Bach



Upcoming Events:

Holly Fair-----It's hard to believe but the Holly Fair is only
3 months away.....December 6th



It takes enthusiastic people like yourself to make this annual fair a success! Please come and bring a friend to the first organizational meeting of the Holly Fair on Monday Sept. 8—7:00-8:00pm in the Conference Rom at church. We will brainstorm and listen to new ideas, then talk about the direction and ways to help. (For example: submitting publicity, creating kissing balls, swags and wreaths with fresh greens, making crafts, baking, helping serve at the café during Holly Fair, collecting from local businesses for donations or gift cards, contacting Santa to see if he can stop in, working at the Holly Fair at various tables or in the café, etc.)



"It is grace,
nothing but
grace, that we
are allowed to
live in
community with
Christian
brethren
(brothers and
sisters)."
~ Dietrich

Upcoming Church Suppers

September 20, 2014 4:30-6:30pm

Fall Buffet

(turkey, ham, mac & cheese, salad bar)

October 25, 2014 4:30-6:30pm

Turkey & fixings

January 24, 2015 4:30-6:30pm

Italian: featuring lasagna

February 28, 2015 4:30-6:30pm

Turkey & Biscuits with gravy

March 28, 2015 4:30-6:30pm

Pot Roast

April 25, 2015 4:30-6:30pm

Spring Buffet

* Beverage and dessert are included with dinner



Suggested donation: Adults \$8.00, Children \$5.00
(under 3 years of age are free)

Upcoming Events (con't):

**ALL RESIDENTS OF STRATHAM ARE INVITED.....
WE WANT YOU IN THE PHOTO!!**

**September 19th—4:00pm—On top of the Stratham Hill
Park hill by the tower**

**Town-Wide Group Photo for the front cover of the
upcoming book: History of Stratham**

Sponsored by the Town of Stratham 300th Committee

(Rain Date—September 26th—4:00pm)



"God made you to be the answer to someone else's prayers. Keep your eyes open."

The Sign Out Front....Did you notice???



Did you notice that the top of the church's front sign is missing???. Two church volunteers are graciously repairing the top of our sign and will be re-installing it soon.



Once the sign is repaired, it will look very similar to top of this sign.....

This sign is located just outside the church office front door.



Did YOU notice?!?!??

News Around the Church

The Stratham Circle Learning Center



The Stratham Circle Learning Center, located in our church building, still has a few openings in their After School program. If you or a friend is interested, please contact the school Director, Mona Stephenson, at 775-0311.

The Clothes Attic Consignment Shop

The Clothes Attic is a clothing and home goods consignment shop located in the lower level of the church. Many a bargain can be found between their four walls!!! Come in for a fresh look at some gently used items!

Wednesdays—9:00am—3:00pm & 7:00-9:00pm

Saturdays—10:00am—Noon

The shop will be open starting September 3rd for Fall & Winter items.

The Clothes Attic is run completely by volunteers will all proceeds benefiting the church (after consignors portion of 60% of the sales price).

The Clothes Attic volunteers were recently thanked for their many hours of hard work with a luncheon in the Henry Rust Room.

"You can not do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



STRATHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC

6 Emery Lane
P.O. Box 143
Stratham, NH 03885

Phone: 603-772-3389
Fax: 866-292-6377

HOW TO REACH YOUR CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor—Rev. Diane Mix—pastor@strathamchurch.org
For emergencies—Cell phone: (781)883-2159

Christian Education/Sunday School—
Christine VanDerslice—ChrEd@strathamchurch.org

Music—Cheryl Stromski—music@strathamchurch.org

Church Office—Jolynn Wilson—
findfaith@strathamchurch.org



Visit us!!

www.strathamchurch.org



Check out the latest fellowship opportunity...
the FisherCats Game—Saturday, August 16, 2014

