



# STRATCHAT

Stratham Community Church, UCC

SUMMER, 2014

From our Pastor, Rev. Diane Mix

*“Peace starts with a smile.”*

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Dear Friends,

The summer months are upon us, filled with family gatherings, travel and fun, fun, fun! If you are unable to join us in Sunday worship (starting at 9 am July 6th - September 7<sup>th</sup>) Join your church family in this “God Sighting” game. Because of course, God never takes a vacation from us, and God is always working in ways large and small around us.

**We just need to PAY ATTENTION and NAME them: “GOD SIGHTING!”**

How to: As you play other car games calling out “fire engine!” or “Nebraska license plate!” Instead, call out “God Sighting!” when you see GOD working around you. *(adaptable to all ages)*

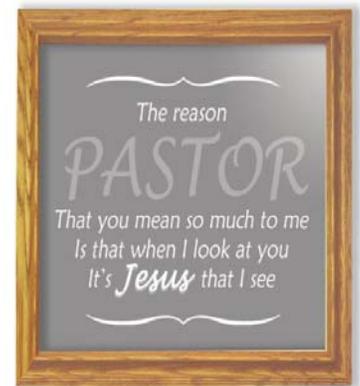
For example:

- A neighbor helping an elderly neighbor. **God Sighting!** Why? The Bible teaches us to help one another.)
- A gorgeous sunset or sunrise. **God Sighting!** Why? Only God can create such a beautiful gift at the beginning and ending of every new day.
- A bird flitting from branch to branch. **God Sighting!** Why? Because Jesus teaches us – do not worry. Even the lilies of the field and the birds of the air are watched over by God. (you know who you are....who gave me this one!)
- A child dancing in the wind. **God Sighting!** Why? The Holy Spirit blows where it will and we just need to dance with the Spirit where it blows!

**See how many God Sightings you and your family can discover this summer. Just keep your eyes....your ears.... and your AWE awake!**

Be awake! Be safe! Be quiet...and know God all around you this summer!

~ Rev. Diane



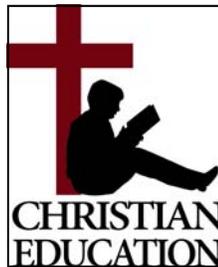
**Children ages 3-10 Join Us for Vacation Bible School in Greenland—August 11-15**

Join Christine and other church children for the annual Vacation Bible Camp at Greenland Community Congregational Church will be held on Monday through Friday, August 11–15, 2014, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Parish House, 44 Post Road, Greenland NH.

The cost is \$25 per child. If more than one child from the same family attends, the family rates are \$40 for two children, \$60 for three children, and \$35 for four children. The cost includes a daily snack. Scholarships are available.

Anyone interested in joining us, and learning while having fun, should contact Joanne Spradlin at [yutgroup@aol.com](mailto:yutgroup@aol.com) or the church office at 603-436-8336 or [GreenlandUCC@myfairpoint.net](mailto:GreenlandUCC@myfairpoint.net).

# THANK YOU FOR BRINGING YOUR CHILDREN TO CHURCH!!!!



## Joyful Offering Update



The Joyful Offerings this year have been given to Rediat and Eden. These are two very brave, courageous and selfless youth from Ethiopia.

Rediat and Eden traveled to America because they were found to be a "match" for their adopted brother, a 13-year old boy that now lives here in Stratham.

Behlyu Berry was in need of a bone marrow transplant. He was diagnosed this past April with Aplastic Anemia. His parents immediately

turned to his siblings back in Ethiopia.

Rediat (16) has given Behlyu his bone marrow. Behlyu is in the hospital recovering from this long, complicated and painful procedure.

Rediat and Eden will travel back to Ethiopia at the end of May. We hope these funds bring many blessings to these children and their family.

**Starting June 29th, Sunday**  
**Worship begins at 9:00am until September 7th—**  
**Welcoming Sunday.**

## Spring Challenge Update

THANK YOU!

The Spring Challenge finished on June 1. The final results are still being tallied, but the total so far is \$25,166. Our goal was \$20,000 and we have comfortably exceeded it.

Your continued support of Stratham Community Church and all of our programs is greatly appreciated. Thank you again.



## LOBSTER ROLL DINNER

Saturday, June 21st—3:00-6:00pm

All proceeds donated to the Joy Family Fund, in memory of Judy Bourassa Joy, an endowment fund of the Livestrong Foundation

\$12.00 dinner

(Hot Dog dinner also available for \$5.00)

Come support a great cause!

*Brought to us by Confirmand, Johannes Stromski, and his mentor, Liz Chisholm.*

## Property Update

Our Sexton for the last 12 years, Steve Bissonnette, has recently elected to find other employment opportunities and, therefore, is no longer with SCC. We have thanked Steve personally and we wish to acknowledge to all of our members, his time and effort he has given to our church. We really appreciate all that he did for us and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Property Committee

has come up with an interim strategy to help keep our facilities clean. Barbara Brown, our leader in the Clothes Attic, has agreed to help us out and become a part-time employee for a period of time, doing many of the cleaning chores. She has agreed to do this until we are able to hire the right person(s) to fill the cleaning and maintenance roles we need to have filled. Needless to say, we appreciate all of what Barbara has done for our

church in her role as the Clothes Attic Chief and she also has the experience necessary to address our cleaning chores. Thank you very much, Barbara, for stepping up in this time of need.

Should anyone know of a potential candidate for a part-time Sexton position encompassing both internal cleaning but also light maintenance and perhaps outside lawn work as well, please contact Mike Carty @ 491-7841.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CropWalk—**

**October 19,**

**2014—Christ**

**Church, Exeter.**

**Raising money**

**to raise hunger**

**awareness.**

## What's Happening at the Clothes Attic?

Did you know that the church houses a clothing consignment shop in its lower level? This store is open on Wednesdays 9am-3pm, 7-9pm and Saturdays 10am—noon. It is open to the public and is a hub of activity!!

The racks are full of children and infant clothes! There is always a great selection of women's clothing and a small assortment of men's and household items.

Please come down and find a few bargains! Or you can get rid of your gently used items and either donate or consign them! Consignors receive 60% of the selling price, the church receives 40%.

~ THANK YOU ~

- to everyone who gives their donated items
- Sue Hunter and Connie Abell who volunteer their

time to calculate the consignor's fees twice a month

- Barbara Brown, who volunteers countless hours keeping the Clothes Attic running!



**STRATHAM  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH, UCC**

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Check out our website!!  
[www.strathamchurch.org](http://www.strathamchurch.org)

“ Christians  
are only  
visiting this  
planet;  
Live that  
way!!”



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

## WELCOME SUNDAY Sunday, September 7, 2014

10:00am Worship resumes  
BBQ lunch following  
Sunday School registration

Hey!  
**WELCOME**  
We're *very*  
**GLAD**  
you're here!

### Congratulations to our Confirmands



We confirmed and welcomed 11 new members into our church on June 8th, Confirmation Sunday:

Chris Carty, Delaney Cloyd, Kelsey Cordy, Tatum Cordy, Madelyn Dusseault, Emma Kim, Elizabeth Marsden, Dan Marshman, Johannes Stromski, Ethan Vander Woude, and James VanDerslice.

These youth and their mentors met with Rev. Diane and Christine VanDerslice during the past 9 months to explore their faith. These 11 chose to confirm their faith and become members of the Stratham Community Church, UCC.

**Welcome Confirmands!**

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