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* STRATCHAT *

Fall, 2015

A word from our Pastor....Rev. Jack Lynes

“Maturing in Christ”

*“This is the Christ we proclaim. We nurture and teach everyone the full scope of this knowledge, in order to set everyone before God mature in Christ. I labor for that end, striving for it with the divine energy which is a power within me.”
Colossians 1:28-29 (James Moffatt translation)*



Maturing in Christ! What an inspiring, but challenging, way to describe the goal of our lives of discipleship. Seeking to help others to mature in Christ! What an exciting, but challenging, way to describe one of the purposes of the Christian Church. Complementing the work of Christ! What an incredibly rich, but challenging, way to describe the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ. A covenanted partnership in ministry! What a meaningful, but challenging, way to describe the nature of this ministry.

Our partnership in ministry here at Stratham Community Church, United Church of Christ, comprises all of these elements, doesn't it? With humble but open hearts, we do take seriously the call from God through Christ to be a covenanted partnership based on the promises we make to God and one another to be faithful disciples.

Over the years, I have been fond of describing the Church of Jesus Christ as a prayer-based, worship-centered, Spirit-guided, learning-inspired, faith-forming, love-flowing, grace-incarnating, peace-promoting, and justice-seeking multi-cultural, multi-racial communion of disciples of Christ, open to all. Grounded in faith, covenanted in love, sustained by grace, and nurtured by hope, we seek to servants of God's mission in the world. Isn't this also what we seek to be?

As we look forward to our 300th anniversary in April and to the coming of a new settled Pastor and Teacher for our partnership, may we strive with all the energy and enthusiasm that God nourishes in us to be joy-full and faithful servants.

Agape,
Rev. Jack Lynes
Interim Pastor and Teacher



Trustees Looking Forward to 300th Celebration

The Trustees welcome everyone to the upcoming Homecoming Sunday. We have been working to prepare the building and grounds for the 300th anniversary celebration in 2016.

NEW FRONT DOORS

We hope you notice the new front doors on the church. A NH craftsman constructed them from scratch. They are a perfect match in dimension and style from the original doors. We did remove the small windows at the top of the doors for energy efficiency. The framing around the doors was also replaced.

FRONT WALKWAY

The flowers and grass seed planted to replace the large scrubs in front of the railing are coming in nicely. We hope to replace the railing in early 2016 with a new iron railing fabricated by our own Tom Coleman. Tom is a life-long blacksmith. We are excited about this important project to improve the functionality and beauty of our church entrance.

You will notice additional items being painted and replaced over the next few months. If you have any suggestions, please discuss them with any of the Trustees.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Homecoming Sunday!

Board of Trustees



Don't
Compartmentalize
your Life:

Seek to live out your
faith in every part of
your life—not just in
church.

Aim to live consistently
as a Christian at all
times and in all
situations.

PASTORAL SEARCH

On Sunday, August 30, 2015, a special church meeting was called to approve the Pastoral Search Committee members. The group, which was unanimously approved, is:

Bob Butcher	Tricia Coleman
Jim Coryea	Susie Curtis
Judy George	Joan Gough
Joan Holmes	Sue Hunter
Pam Kulesza	Ann Nassoura
Chris Wheeler	

The Committee's work is underway and we wish them good luck as they begin the process of finding SCC's next pastor!! Many thanks to each member for volunteering for this important church role.



What's Happening in Christian Education?



Sunday School starts September 20th!! Information and sign up at Welcoming Sunday, September 13th after the 10:00am Service.

We are excited for our church season to begin!

The Sunday school children will be learning and living their faith with the Shine curriculum. We have chosen this curriculum because it is rich in the stories of faith! The first few months the children will be focusing on the Old Testament stories. The theme is "Hearing God's Call" The kids will be introduced and depending on their age they will dive into the lives of Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, Saul, David, Ruth and Naomi, and some important moments in the life of the people Israel.

Please consider sharing your own faith story with the children of the congregation! We have lots of opportunities to help in Sunday school.

WE THE YOUTH

an ecumenical youth group that provides Experiential, Social-Justice Events for area Exeter teens. All youth ages 6th - 12th grade are invited and encouraged to attend.

The first event is October 24th-25th

A Global Gateway creates an existence in which nothing – shelter, food, water or cooking fuel – can be taken for granted! Participants prepare a meal with limited resources.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher trainings will be offered the last Sunday of each month before service. The first training is September 27th at 8:30am. Rev. Jack will teach us about the up coming months bible lessons. At the first training, Rev. Jack will also give a biblical time line to prepare us to share the early biblical stories with our youth. Come and learn!!!

*Lord, please
surround my kids
with friends and
adults who point
them toward you.
~ Romans 15:1-7*



CONFIRMATION

We are pleased to partner with the Newmarket Community Church for our confirmation program this year.

Classes will begin in October with a kick off meal on September 27, prepared by our Deacons. We are very excited to meet with the young adults of the church and share our faith stories together! For information about the program contact Christine.





Music News

Here at Stratham Community Church, UCC, we desire our Sunday morning service music to be an expression of our worship, not a performance. We welcome and enjoy talented guest musicians but we strongly encourage our congregation to participate as much and as often as possible. Our goal is to share our sincere commitment to our Christian faith through vocal and instrumental song, and to inspire our congregation and community in their spiritual journey. We respect that everyone's path is as unique as their taste in music and consequently, you will hear a large variety of song through which we strive to uplift and encourage all present.

Our Minister of Music, Cheryl Stromski has extensive education and performance experience in piano, keyboards, organ, choral music and vocal pedagogy. Feel free to contact her at music@strathamchurch.org with your questions or comments.

- * Adult Choir (>16 years old) Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm
- * Junior Choir rehearses during Sunday School and on special occasions
- * We currently have three bell choirs: youth, beginners and advanced. We also encourage soloists and small groups. Thursdays 6:00-7:00pm
- * Cheryl (Sherry) works with all vocal and instrumental soloists individually.

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

**"Where words
fail, music
speaks."
~ Hans
Christian
Anderson**

CHORAL KICK-OFF WORKSHOP with guest artist Amanda Munton

When: Saturday, September 19

Time: 9am-1:00pm

Where: Stratham Community Church

6 Emery Lane

Cost: Donations accepted

To register: music@strathamchurch.org



This four hour workshop will deepen your understanding of your unique instrument and how to get the best results within a choral setting. Topics covered include:

breathing, intonation and listening, registration, vocal health, stamina and more!

Attendees will have the opportunity to apply this practical instruction to a choral piece. Amanda Munton, in conjunction with Cheryl Stromski, Barb Flocco, Bev Mattson and Sue Noseworthy will collaborate to provide a workshop that is sure to educate and inspire you for your upcoming choral season! (www.amandamunton.com)



Upcoming Events:

Holly Fair-----December 5th, 9am to 1pm



This annual event is a labor of love from the Women's Guild as well as the entire congregation! You won't want to miss the lovely greens, tasty treats, interesting white elephants, and fun silent auction!

If you have any questions or want to help, please call or text: Joan Gough 686-6116 or email: jlgt teach@gmail.com



*"God determines
your greatness by
ho many people
you serve, not
how many
people serve
you."
~ Rick Warren*



Upcoming Church Suppers

- October 3, 2015 4:30-6:30pm
Fall Buffet
(turkey, ham, mac & cheese, salad bar)
- October 31, 2015 4:30-6:30pm
Turkey & fixings
- January 30, 2015 4:30-6:30pm
Italian: featuring lasagna
- February 27, 2016 4:30-6:30pm
Turkey & Biscuits with gravy
- March 2016 (TBD) 4:30-6:30pm
Pot Roast
- April 30, 2016 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):

EXETER AREA INTERFAITH CROP WALK

October 18, 2015—Registration begins at 12:30pm

Walk begins & ends at Swasey Park, Exeter



There will be a 2 mile walk and a 3 mile walk; beginning at Swasey Park and ending there with a celebration. There will be music, speakers, free pizza & ice cream. Come join us. Please sponsor walkers with a donation to STOP World Wide and Local Hunger! The Crop Walk is one of our CHURCH MISSIONS, so please help us to be successful.

Great prizes will be awarded to the top 5 fundraisers!!

Visit www.crophungerwalk.org or see Sue Lyndes for more information or to register your team.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
~ Gandhi

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE Host Weeks

Did you know that approximately every 8 weeks our church hosts families temporarily experiencing homelessness? These families sleep and eat here in our church with the support of many volunteers led by Tom and Tricia Coleman and Marny Keith.

Our next SFP Host Weeks will be Sunday, November 1st through Sunday, November 15th (2 weeks long this time.). To find out more about this worthwhile mission or to see how you can help, please contact Marny Keith at marnyguatemala@gmail.com.

Did you also know that SFP’s offices are tenants right here in our church building?? For more information on Seacoast Family Promise, please visit their website: www.sfnh.org.



News Around the Church

The Stratham Circle Learning Center



The Stratham Circle Learning Center, the preschool/after-school program located in our church building, is off to a great start this new school year with good enrollment as well as consistent, long-term teachers!!

BIG NEWS: SCLC had a surprise inspection from the State of NH Licensing Board and passed this visit with NO violations or recommendations needed! **CONGRATULATIONS!! Well Done!**

If you or a friend is interested, please contact the school Director, Mona Stephenson, at 775-0311.



“Great opportunities to help others seldom come but small ones surround us everyday.”
~ Sally Koch

The Clothes Attic Consignment Shop

The Clothes Attic, a clothing and home goods consignment shop located in the lower level of the church, has just begun its Fall/Winter selling Season.

LOTS of new Halloween costumes are available!

OPEN:

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

Saturdays—10:00am—Noon

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



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

**STRATHAM
COMMUNITY
CHURCH, UCC**

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Visit us!!
www.strathamchurch.org

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