

## wierwille words

*“It’s the answer that led those who’ve been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about all we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.” — Barak Obama*

Our ancient faith heritage acknowledged political distinctions with Moses in exile fleeing Ptolemy powers backhome where there was a warrant labeling him a transient murderer. King David and Solomon brought a nation together as *People of God* in a cultural society defined by common beliefs, behavior and vision. The inter-testimental Maccabean rebels against the occupying Roman Empire set the stage of the *Christian era*. Ushered in by a Baptist who was imprisoned, tortured and beheaded, The Messiah was born in a manger where his mother and father had gone to be *counted and taxed by political decree*.

As a people we began and we continue to be in the push-and-pull of political definitions of the day. Jesus certainly lived (and died) in the midst of how to be about the work of offering justice and hope to all the people. February puts us in the midst of President’s Day holiday celebrations and we easily remember Geo. Washington of The Revolution to *form a more perfect Union* and Abe Lincoln who fought as well to preserve *one nation... of the people, for the people and by the people*.

So now in our day we find ourselves still struggling to place the power and use the power of determining who identifies our unique definition of personal freedom and opportunity. I believe that our faith continues to be a voice (inner personal as well as more publicly) in the conversation taking place about how we interact and treat each other within societal norms. I like what I hear from our new administration but realize that we cannot remain poised on the edge but must determine how best to offer our voices, talents, resources to the *bending of the arc of history ...toward the hope of a better day*. I look forward to hear from many who continue to try to be that positive moving force of good in our community and environs and how best we might offer ourselves as *People of God/WLUCC 2009*.

Happy holidays and a blessed and joyful wintertime to you all as we journey on toward Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Shalom. DW

**February 2009**

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**Minister: Rev. Richard Wierwille**

**Worship Service: Sunday 10 AM**

**Church School: 10:00-11:15**

**Email: [wlcc@valley.net](mailto:wlcc@valley.net)**

**Web Site: [www.westlebcc.org](http://www.westlebcc.org)**

**Phone: 603-298-8096**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-3:30**

**Wednesday 9:00-12:00**

**Pastor's Office: Tues, Wed, Thurs a.m. or by appt.**

## **FEBRUARY 2009 ANNIVERSARIES**



- 4 Jean and George Gove
- 14 Madelyn and Jim Johnson
- 29 Nan and Ray Reed

## **BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Brittany Rathburn
- 6 Georgia Michalovic
- 7 Tiffany Munn
- 11 Dick Abbott
- 25 Jackson Edmunds

## **STEWARDSHIP INFO**

The stewardship committee is still in the process of contacting those who have not yet pledged. If you are among those who have not yet submitted your pledge to the collector, please do so as soon as possible. There are pledge cards and envelopes in which to place them in the stewardship mail slot in the church office.

### **From UCC Web Site:**

"This is not a time for religious communities to be selfish and self-centered; this is the time to reach out and address the hurting and needy in your community."

### **Liz sez,**

Valentines Day always springs forth  
LOVE. Everyone loves to be loved  
and everyone loves to give love.  
What is LOVE?

### **THE TREASURED GIFT**

It has no ears but it still hears.  
It has no eyes to cry.  
With no legs to hop, no wings to flop,  
it still can fly sky high.

With no mouth to speak, nor mind to seek  
for a solitary place to dwell,  
it opens our hearts and then departs  
in a grand, expanding swell.

It's tough and bold. Both young and old  
may receive its peace unending.

It tugs heart strings and often clings  
until broken links are mending.  
It targets all with its silent call.

It is sent from Heaven above.

It makes the world turn and helps us learn.

Thank God for this gift of LOVE.

This would be a dark, cold place without  
love. May love entwine you and yours  
always.

Sez Liz

## **CHURCH SUPPER**

**Beef Pot Roast and Homemade Pies!**

**Saturday, February 28, 2009.**

**5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**

**\$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 Children 6-12**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

The New Year looks to be one of the most challenging years we have faced. We have a shortfall in the budget of about \$30,000. We plan to meet with all the committees to put our heads together to come up with ideas to bring in new revenue as well as new members. We would also like to pass along a huge thank you to Madelyn Johnson and Richard Gage for serving on the trustees. They will be truly missed. We will welcome new members in February and hope to make 2009 a successful year.

Respectfully yours  
Trustees

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2008 at 7:30pm**

Ecumenical service to be hosted by Lebanon United Methodist Church, 18 School Street, Lebanon NH.

Join with area congregations to begin our Lenten journey with the Ash Wednesday service. The service links the traditional imposition of ashes with scripture and a variety of pastors' reflections on the scriptures of the day. We will also have the opportunity to reflect on our spiritual needs and refocus our spiritual disciplines to walk ever more closely with God. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact (603) 448-5478.

## **GRATEFUL THANKS**

Thanks WLCC and Dick for bringing the gorgeous red poinsettia to us. It certainly brightens our living room. Very nice.

Dick and Betty Abbott

## **GROWTH COMMITTEE NEWS**

On the 4th of January the Growth Committee hosted an Epiphany Party at the church. We ate pot luck soup and watched the new version of the Nativity Story. It was attended by about 20 people.

Mark your calendars for the next Family Movie Night. It will be held on February 13th at the church from 5:30 to end. This night will have a Valentine's Day theme . . . LOVE, and feature a viewer's choice for the movie. We will have three to choose from. We should mention that there will be food involved. This could be a great opportunity for parents to drop off their kids and go on a romantic dinner together.

Get your hidden talents honed up because on March 28th, I.C.A.T.S will be enjoyed by all. Get out of the shower with your singing, bring it to your church family. More information is to follow.

In the Month of April the Growth Committee is thinking of something new. We are seeking interest in an Adult Movie Night. On Friday, April 10th, Good Friday, we are hosting a showing of Mel Gibson's production, "The Passion of the Christ". This will be an evening for adults to get together, partake of a good meal, and watch a spiritually enriching movie.

If you have any questions about what is planned, or have some ideas that you would like us to run with, please contact a member of the Growth Committee

Growth Committee

## **FLOWER COMMITTEE**

Many thanks to all who donated poinsettias in memory of, or in honor of loved ones. The Sanctuary was beautiful and the Holiday Decorations and glorious colors contributed to a joyful celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On December 20th members of the Youth Group attended the Christmas Revels in Hanover. It was great fun with a French flair. We hope to make this an annual event.

In our January meeting we resolved to meet twice a month. The first meeting of a month is to plan an event and get caught up, and the second is to participate in an activity. We didn't have an activity for January because of the weather on our activity week. In our last meeting we resolved to start an A.R.K. Acts of Random Kindness. Members put their names in a "hat". When a name is drawn this person must perform an act of random kindness without looking for recognition or reward. They can't tell anyone until we meet again. This month's person is Kirsten Rediker. If any members of the church would like to be an adult participant, or even have their names put into the "hat" please contact Laurie or me.

In the month of February we will be having a "sleep-over" at the church. In celebration of the registration for Summer Camps, we will have a camp atmosphere. Camp songs, a "virtual" camp fire, and (of course) smores. We are seeking adult participation and chaperones for this event. We will be setting up tents (small tents) in the building, and perhaps have a movie of some sort. Yes it's true . . . Laurie and I will be seeking to take a group of our kids to Horton Center this summer. DOXA Forever!!!!

Lastly . . . **SUPER BOWL SUBS.** Perhaps you thought we forgot. We will be posting a sign up for this year. We will have Italian, Roast Beef, Turkey, and Veggie subs. In order to keep costs down we ask that those ordering subs, be willing to pick them up. We of course will make some deliveries. Contact Laurie or me if you have any questions.

John and Laurie Tostenson

## Christmas Bazaar 2008

The Bazaar committee met on Sunday, January 4, 2009, to review the bazaar. The committee is Amy Stebbins, Dana Michalovic, Grace Dickerson, and Nancy Simpson. All agreed to head up next year's bazaar. The bazaar was very successful in several ways. There were well over 100 people who made things or worked the day of the bazaar. The fellowship that was experienced that day was fantastic. We will be looking forward to involving even more people next year. We also felt that the bazaar was a financial success. Even in a down economy the income generated allowed the Women's Fellowship to give several thousands of dollars to the church's general fund and to the children of Janelle Miller.

We will be making some minor adjustments to the bazaar for next year. We appreciate any input you may have to improving the bazaar. We are looking forward to another rewarding day of fellowship and fun at next year's bazaar, December 5, 2009!

### Women's Fellowship Treasurer's Report

The Women's Fellowship started 2008 with \$5956.31 in our checking account and \$1638.30 in our CD. We spent \$689.92 on propane for the church and the parsonage. We spent \$ 660.50 on the bazaar which included the wreaths, greens for large wreaths, ribbon for the wreaths and the ads in the paper for the bazaar. We spent \$80 on fleece for blankets for the homeless vets. We gave an \$100 donation to Kurn Hatten Homes, David's House, Good Neighbor Clinic, Red Logan Dental Clinic, Dollars for Scholars, Hannah House, Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, 10 Bricks. The money that we received from our 2008 Bazaar, \$4213.38, was split between the church's general fund for 2009 and Janelle Miller's children. Our ending balance on our checking account for 2008 was \$4913.31 and our CD balance is \$1687.87. In the checking account we are holding \$3000 for the exhaust fan project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy J. Simpson

## February 09 Worship

**Sunday, Feb 1 10:00 A.M. Worship/Holy Communion/Diaconate Envelopes**

UCC Women's Week Common Lot

Service to be led by Women of our Church

Communion available by Intinction or request to Rev. W

**Sunday, Feb 8 10:00 A.M. Worship/NHCUCC Prepared To Serve Sat. 2/14**

**Scripture** Psalm 147; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

**Message** *Jesus – Mysterious, Miraculous: what makes christianity compelling?*

**Hymns** NCH 560, NCH 472, NCH 179

**Saturday, Feb 14 9-3 New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ**

*Annual Prepared To Serve Workshops at Pembroke Academy*

All Welcome – Workshops for all Church Ministries – Food Fellowship

**Sunday, Feb 15 10:00 A.M. Worship/Presidents' Day Winter School Break**

**Scripture** Psalm 30; 2 Kings 5:1-14; I Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

**Message** *Compassion At The Heart: a healing, restoring presence*

**Hymns** PH 358 (vss. 1-3), NCH 166 (vss. 1-2), PH 169

**Sunday, Feb 22 10:00 A.M. Worship/Last Sunday of Epiphany/Food Bin**

**Scripture** Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**Message** *Sacred Encounters: catching a glimpse of God's presence*

**Hymns** NCH 11, NCH 551, NCH 42

**Wednesday, Feb 25 7:30 P.M. Ecumenical Community Ash Wed Prayer Service**

**Gathering at Lebanon U. Methodist Church Worship, Music, Ashes**