

## **wierwille words**

*Where do you find beauty? ...beauty, and faith itself, is like grass that grows in the concrete and tiny buds that can be found on the tree of life, most often among the most vulnerable and human of God's loved people. -- D.M.McMahon*

The merry, merry month of May, with gentle warming breezes and more abundant sunshine, lifts our spirits and our hearts. You can almost feel it deep down in your bones ...and it feels s-o-o good! Thank you Lord for the wonder of springtime and the color of bursting blossoms and the season of growth!

So where is it that each of us can find that astonishing sense of renewal and lift our spirits? Quite a few folks these days maintain their spirituality is possible out at the lake or on the golf course or somewhere quiet and relaxing and I must say that any time away often does lift one's spirits. But despite the many ways our contemporary lifestyles have found to get-away-from-it-all, we are all seemingly more squeezed and timeless and breathless these days. I have to admit to an old Protestant ethic of works-righteousness but with a twist from my own parent's generation – *spirituality is not simply in our mind or heart but in what we do with what we really believe in our heart*. Faith blossoms best in our everyday living among all of God's creatures and creation ...and worship nourishes our faith too!

Our confirmands are learning that growing in faith is a lot like learning to play a musical instrument – practice prepares us for the sonata, mountaintop, lake, golf course or garden. Wherever we come awake, aware, alive and in touch with our true selves and with others, that is the area in which we are spiritual. We've asked our confirmands to spend some quiet moments of reflection, journal, draw, do music or write poetry in order to stimulate their spirituality and to create a personal *credo* of their beliefs. Faith, like playing music, is not always easy, it requires intentional time and energy to live one's faith story! You may want to consider how you could share your faith stories to enrich their blossoming faith formation journey

You may want to consider joining with me in sharing a quiet, spiritual-honoring-time Tuesday evenings at 5:15. We'll still-our-spirits for some minutes, share a brief spirit-lifting poem story, return to a quiet-spirit reflection period, and share communion as we leave to live our faith in renewed spirit. May your spirit flourish!

**May 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.**

**MAY 2009**

**Grafton Orange Association Annual  
Spring Meeting – Bath, New Hampshire  
Sunday, April 26, 2009**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**3 Ruth Guernsey  
7 Averill Tinker  
13 Hayes Edmunds  
17 Natalie Morgan  
20 Nicole Ford**

**TRUSTEES INFORMATION**

The Trustees met on April 16<sup>th</sup> We discussed looking into a fix for the rotting basement windows at the parsonage and placing a light in the narthex stairway to provide better light to the stairs. Scott Allan and Kenny Alger replaced the bulkhead at the church which was destroyed by falling ice. We're also doing a cost analysis to see if there was any money saved by moving to the Kilton room during the winter months. Garbage removal was also discussed to see if we could save some money by taking the trash to the dump ourselves. The church budget is an ongoing discussion, we are in dire straits of not having enough money to keep the church running, fundraising will help but won't fix the problem. Our pledging dollars are down substantially from last year.

Respectfully Submitted  
Trustees

**FUND RAISING IDEAS STILL  
NEEDED!**

**PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH  
THE TRUSTEES ABOUT WAYS WE MIGHT  
RAISE FUNDS TO BALANCE OUR BUDGET !**

Attending the Association meeting were Judy Macnab, Dick Wierwille and myself.

At the beginning each church was encouraged to speak about their participation with the wider church. This gave both Judy and me occasion to reflect on how our church responds to the greater church. Activities are, members on Association committees and Conference committees, sponsoring Association Meetings at our church. Also happens when we receive the four special offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Christmas \_\_, and Strengthen the Church. We participate with the Heifer Project, Caring Covers, The Suitcase Project, the Bell Choir playing at other churches, and the new one of the H2O Project.

What else did I learn?

In the works are plans for a Regional New England Youth Event for the summer of 2010.

The Conference is sending out via e-mail a weekly e-news letter.

Our church was thanked for the hospitality of hosting the Spring Training this past March.

75 people attended and were fed well.

Reports were given from both the New Hampshire and the Vermont Conferences. We belong to a unique Association as it is the only one in the country with members in two different states.

Shayna Appel, who was the assistant minister at the Christ of Christ at Dartmouth is now at the UCC in Townsend, MA as their settled minister.

The meeting ended with a worship service for the recognition of a licensed minister, Thomas Peters of the Bath Congregational Church. Following a nice reception we all trundled along back to West Lebanon.

The next Association Meeting will be at the end of October.

Grace Dickerson  
Delegate

## Liz Sez,

As we face another planting season  
and plant, picnic, travel, enjoy each  
other in family units hope and pray  
that someday the entire world will  
build such a loving union.

### OPENING HEARTS

If I open my heart to others,  
my lonesome selfishness smothers.  
I 'm reminded that I'm one  
of God's daughters and sons  
for we are all sisters and brothers.

If I open the heart of a child  
I invite his wee mind to go wild.  
As he explores unknown treasures,  
it rewards him with pleasures  
and adventuresome wonders compiled.

If I open the heart of a teen  
to search places he's never seen,  
I ignite his ambitions  
to seed mental conditions  
and wonderful harvests to glean.

If I open young parent's hearts  
as a vessel from which love departs,  
they will nourish and teach  
their offspring to reach  
for opportunity's knock when it starts.

If I open hearts of retirees  
I direct them to possibilities  
that elderly can share  
with others everywhere  
rejuvenating their senior abilities.

If I open the hearts of all ages  
and remove restrictive gauges  
their open hearts blend  
as they unite and extend,  
and advance to higher stages,

If hearts everywhere opened together  
releasing true love from its tether;  
if nobody found faults;  
think of the results.  
We would have peace on this earth forever.

## Liz Sez (continued)

Only when hearts open spilling love, not hate,  
search for things money cannot buy and  
thank God for what we have, not what we wish  
we had, will there be complete peace on earth

Sez Liz.

## MANY THANKS !

Our church is a welcoming building only because the  
congregation reaches out to all. This month alone, a  
tulip plant was delivered to Dick at Brookside  
Nursing Home by Norman Wolfe, and one to me at  
our home by Jean Brooks.

Rev. Wierwille served us communion at Brookside  
on Palm Sunday and many members have called,  
sent cards, emailed and visited us. How rich we are  
to belong to WLCC.

Thank you all.  
Dick and Betty Abbott.

The Food Bin Sundays are the last Sunday of every  
month. However, food may be brought to the church  
at any time during the month and it will be delivered  
to either the Haven or Listen.

A recent message from the Upper Valley Haven  
indicates that they currently need Soup, Jelly,  
Baked Beans, Fruit Juice and Diced or Stewed  
Tomatoes – in addition to all of the other standard  
Items.

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and many  
contributions.



## Confirmation News

The Confirmation Class studies have been moving right along. There are four in the class,

**Bethany Adam**  
**Georgia Michalovic**  
**Jacquelyn Pageau**  
**Kirsten Redicker**

Over the months they have been meeting to think and talk, as well as reflect about, Christianity. What does Christianity mean in our lives and about the United Church of Christ.

This has not been all talk. They were responsible for making, lighting and placing the luminaries up the church walks for the Christmas Eve services.

They made blankets for our West Lebanon Caring Covers project (blankets for the local homeless), in fact the name of the project came from them. The class is also helping with the H2O Project.

They have already begun taking an active role as a church member and have taken positions as youth representatives on the Music and the Christian Education committees. Confirmation Sunday, will be **June 7, 2009**. I hope you will be able to be in church to celebrate with them and welcome them as members in our church family.

*Richard Wierwille & Grace Dickerson*  
co-leaders

## Bel Canto Concert

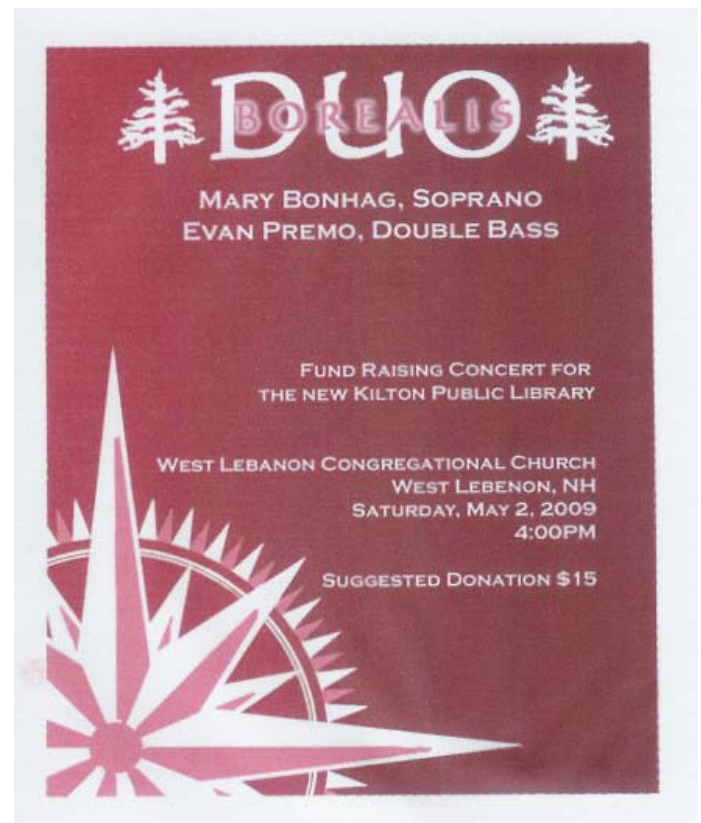
The Bel Canto Chamber Singers, including our very own Lin Wierwille, Peter Simpson, Averill Tinker, Sue Ann Evans, and Susan Montmagny will perform their spring concert on May 20 and 21, featuring the gorgeous *Requiem of Gabriel Fauré*, and Johannes Brahms's exciting *Gipsy Songs*. The concert will include solo and ensemble performances, as well as early American hymns and works by Billings, Mozart, and others. Hal Sheeler is Music Director, pianist Matthew Wiencke is the group's accompanist. Admission at the door: \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 12-18, free for children under 12.

Wednesday May 20, 7:30 p.m., West Lebanon Congregational Church.

Thursday May 21, 7:30 p.m., Lyme Congregational Church, On the Green, Lyme, NH.

Refreshments will follow. Please join us!

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Mary Bonhag & Evan Premo of Duo Borealis will be here for a Benefit Concert for the Kilton Public Library on May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 4:00 pm. Refreshments to follow in the Kilton Room. Suggested Donation is \$15.00 per person which goes to the Kilton Public Library.

## WOMEN'S BRUNCH



**Women and Girls, of all ages!**



**All are invited!**

**Please join us for a Pot Luck  
Brunch**

**Saturday, May 9,  
8:30 am to 10:00am**

Thought for the day:

Mothers and Memories –

\* Some may be mothers,  
BUT...we all have had  
mothers.

\*Come join in the fun, enjoy  
the food and memories.

Create new ones too.

Our sympathy to the family of Ed Mitchell

January 14, 1919 ... April 7, 2009

Ed was a long time active member of WLCC. A Memorial Service was held at the West Lebanon Congregational Church on Saturday, April 11, 2009. Memorial contributions may be made to the West Lebanon Congregational Church.

Sincere thanks to the Upper Valley Home Schoolers for their hard work in raking, weeding and hauling away the winter debris from the Church Yard as their celebration of Earth Day! !

### **SHAW'S REWARDS CARDS**

We have been advised that the Church needs to be registered for the computerized program to work for the NH Food Bank. We are in the process of getting this done. The money spent on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays will generate funds to go to the NH Food Bank when you use your Shaw's Rewards Card. Thank you for your generous help.

# Worship in May 2009

*Still Spirits* -- quiet, reflective, personal honoring  
and centering worship opportunity on  
Tuesdays in May 5, 12, 19 from 5:15 – 6pm

## May 2009 Worship

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>   | <b>10:00 a.m. Communion Worship/Diaconate Fund</b>                                      |
| <b>Scripture</b>                    | <u>Psalm 23</u> ; <u>Acts 4:5-12</u> ; <u>John 10:11-18</u>                             |
| <b>Message</b>                      | Rev. Robert Vodra, NHC/UCC Minister of Outdoor & Education                              |
| <b>Hymns</b>                        | PH 327, NCH 248 (vss 1-5), NCH 248 (vss 1 & 6)  |
| <b>Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>5:15 p.m. <i>STILL SPIRITS</i> – Spiritual Honoring/Poetry/Communion</b>             |
| <b>Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10:00 a.m. Mother’s Day/CWS Tool &amp; Blanket Sunday</b>                            |
| <b>Scripture</b>                    | <u>Psalm 22:25-31</u> ; <u>John 151-8</u>   |
| <b>Message</b>                      | <i>Growing In God: abiding in love and wholeness</i>                                    |
| <b>Hymns</b>                        | PH 8, NCH 402, NCH 32   |
| <b>Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>5:15 p.m. <i>STILL SPIRITS</i> – Spiritual Honoring/Poetry/Communion</b>             |
| <b>Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10:00 a.m. Laity Sunday Worship/H2O Project</b>                                      |
| <b>Scripture</b>                    | <u>Psalm 98</u> , <u>Acts 10:44-48</u> ; <u>John 15:9-17</u>                            |
| <b>Message</b>                      | Sermon Shared By Rev. Robert Sanderson  |
| <b>Hymns</b>                        | PH 481, PH 366, NCH 495   |
| <b>Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>5:15 p.m. <i>STILL SPIRITS</i> – Spiritual Honoring/Poetry/Communion</b>             |
| <b>Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10:00 a.m. Memorial Holiday Weekend Worship</b>                                      |
| <b>Scripture</b>                    | <u>Psalm 1</u> ; <u>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</u> ; <u>John 17:6-19</u>                       |
| <b>Message</b>                      | <i>Grounded In God: choosing life-giving harmony in God’s ways</i>                      |
| <b>Hymns</b>                        | PH 433, PH 246, NCH 591   |
| <b>Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>10:00 a.m. Pentecost/Strengthen The Church/Food Bin Sunday</b>                       |
| <b>Scripture</b>                    | <u>Psalm 104</u> , <u>Romans 8:22-27</u> ; <u>Acts 2:1-21</u> ; <u>John 15 &amp; 16</u> |
| <b>Message</b>                      | <i>Rekindled In God: transformed into a community of faith</i>                          |
| <b>Hymns</b>                        | Ph 242, PH 240, NCH 286   |

WLCC has been invited to lead worship with folks at Alice Peck Day Extended Care Unit during the Month of May each Sunday afternoon except Mother’s Day. You’re invited to join in this brief half hour of singing, prayer and sharing beginning at 3:30 p.m. at APD/ECU May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for letting Rev. Wierwille or Diaconate members know of your intentions to attend and/or help with reading or music.