

# February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>February Fellowship: Missions</b></p> </div>					1	2
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><u>February Acolytes</u>            Feb 3 – Steven &amp; Jack Desjarlais            Feb 10 – Nick Farrell, William Hurley            Feb 17 – Lauren O'Connor, Haley Baxter            Feb 24 – Michael Maryak, Anthony Trussell</p> </div>						
<p>3 Choir 8:45am Sun. Sch. 10:00am Worship 10:00am</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>PPRC meets after worship</p> <p><b>Souper Bowl Sunday!</b></p>	<p>4 Food Pantry 10am-12noon</p>	<p>5 Fair Workshop 9-11:30am</p>	<p>6 Food Pantry 6-8pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>First Parish Team does Table of Plenty 3pm</p> <p>Contemporary Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service at United Methodist. Berwick, 7pm</p>	<p>7 Food Pantry 3-5pm</p> <p>Adult Book Study 6:30-8:30pm</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>First Parish All Committee Workshop 9-11am Church Hall <u>ALL</u> committee members are asked to attend</p>
<p>10 Choir 8:45am Sun Sch. 10:00am Worship 10:00am</p> <p>Wm's Fellowship Business Meeting follows worship</p> <p>Lenten Series 2-4pm</p>	<p>11 Food Pantry 10am-Noon</p> <p><b>Diaconate 6:00pm</b></p> <p><b>CE 6:30pm</b></p>	<p>12 Fair Workshop 9-11:30am</p> <p><b>Trustees 6:30pm</b></p>	<p>13 Food Pantry 6-8pm</p> <p>Contemporary Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7pm</p> <p>Lenten Prayer Service, 7pm at Holy Trinity, Somersworth</p>	<p>14 Food Pantry 3-5pm</p> <p>C-S Clergy Bible Study, 9am Rochester</p> <p>Adult Book Study 6:30-8:30pm</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>Prepared To Serve</p> <p>Pembroke 8am-3:45pm</p>
<p>17 Choir 8:45am Sun. Sch. 10:00am Worship 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten Series 1-2:30pm</p> <p>Wentworth Home Worship, 3pm</p>	<p>18 Food Pantry 10am-Noon</p> <p><b>Mission Committee 6:30pm</b></p>	<p>19 Fair Workshop 9-11:30am</p> <p><b>Church Council 6:30pm</b></p>	<p>20 Food Pantry 6-8pm</p> <p>Contemporary Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7pm</p> <p>Lenten Prayer Service, 7pm at Tri-City Covenant, Somersworth</p>	<p>21 Food Pantry 3-5pm</p> <p>Adult Book Study 6:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Spaghetti Supper Prep 3pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Public Spaghetti Supper 4-6pm</b></p>
<p>24 Choir 8:45am Sun. Sch. 10:00am Worship 10:00am</p> <p>Lenten Series 2-4pm</p>	<p>25 Food Pantry 10am-Noon</p>	<p>26 Fair Workshop 9-11:30am</p>	<p>27 Food Pantry 6-8pm</p> <p>Contemporary Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7pm</p> <p>Lenten Prayer Service, 7pm Our Lady of Peace, Berwick</p>	<p>28 Food Pantry 3-5pm</p> <p>Adult Book Study 6:30-8:30pm</p>	29	

# First Parish News

**First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)**

**P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street, Somersworth NH 03878-0228**

Rev. Mark A. Rideout, Pastor

Church office: (603)692-2057

[www.somersworthfirstparish.org](http://www.somersworthfirstparish.org)



FEBRUARY 2008

## Lent Begins

The 40 day season of the church year, Lent, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. We will gather for worship with our friends AT The United Methodist Church, Berwick on that day at 7PM.

The 40 days become an opportunity, a possibility, a definite "set aside time", for God, and God alone. I hear often, about "giving up something" (like eating chocolate, or that extra cup of coffee), which, in itself isn't bad, but it lacks the "umph" of what Lent represents. We parallel the 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness, to prepare our hearts and reflect on our lives, in preparation for Easter, for Resurrection Day.

Truth is, we, in this country, have it too easy. Yes, we have our own face to face troubles of illness, ups and downs of family relationships, AND economic concerns. But we don't, by and large, starve, or go

without heat, or not eat out.

We might begin our journey with a deep thanks to God, and consider those who DO go without—neighbors we know, and the myriad of countries who struggle for water, or food, or an opportunity to live without fear.



Lent is a time for YOU to look inside Scripture, spend time in prayer, be a part of weekly worship. God wants YOU to begin a mission initiative. It's is YOUR time to get up, and get going. Give up being selfish.

Celebrate the love and care that God HAS given, and share it.

To help with your Lenten preparations, Lenten Devotionals will be available beginning Sunday, 2/3 in the Library area. There's something for everyone.

CANCELLATION POLICY  
REVISITED

After we had to cancel a morning worship in December, contacts were reviewed, and this is what we have in place:

WTSN 1270 AM is easily accessed and information is easily shared.

WOKQ 97.5FM is not as easily accessed, but every effort will be made to make the contact.

WMUR-Channel 9 We have submitted paperwork in order to submit information via e-mail. Our cancellation would then be "scrolled" along with other cancellations at the bottom of the television screen. This is pending, but we will keep you posted.

If the decision to cancel is made in advance, and information can be shared on our church phone message, we will do this as well. These decisions will be made taking into consideration the anticipated or present weather conditions, traveling conditions and whether or not Pastor Mark (and others) can get out of their driveways! Please - use common sense in your decision to drive on a snowy Sunday OR for any other church related activity!



*Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Services* will be held on Wednesdays, 7PM, with hosting churches as follows:



**February 13**

The Parishes of St. Mary, Rollinsford, Holy Trinity and St. Martin, Somersworth, host AT Holy Trinity Church, 404 High Street, Somersworth, NH

**February 20**

Tri-City Covenant Church, 150 West High Street, Somersworth, NH

**February 27**

Our Lady of the Angels Parish AT Our Lady of Peace Church, 25 Saw Mill Hill, Berwick, ME.

**March 5**

First Parish UCC, 176 West High Street, Somersworth, NH

**March 12**

Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Greek Orthodox Church, 35 Tate's Brook Road, Somersworth, NH

Each service will be offered with leadership from the host church, from that church's tradition. The scripture theme is, "*Blessed are those who... thirst...*" (Matthew 5:6).

Fellowship will follow each prayer service. This is a wonderful time to visit churches you've not visited, and to INVITE a friend or neighbor to engage the larger community of Christians in our area.

## February Celebrations

- Feb 1 Geoff Day  
Feb 2 Aidan Allen  
Feb 3 Brett Mathews  
Feb 5 Bernice Stucker  
*Robie & Karen MacRae (anniv)*  
Feb 7 Janice Wentworth  
Feb 9 Gabriel Rouleau, Nathan Trussell  
Feb 10 Whitney Bailey  
Feb 11 Ada Hess, Julie Hurley  
Feb 13 Bethany Fournier  
Feb 19 Phil Wentworth, Jeff Mitchell  
Feb 21 Linda Oelkuct  
Feb 22 Leni Redden, Alex Vollkommer  
Feb 23 Butch Boucher  
Feb 25 Ferne Fogg, Jack Desjarlais  
Feb 26 Troy Brown  
Feb 28 Stephen Lucey

### Christian Education

Rachel Fournier \* Julie Mathews  
Gayle O'Connor \* Leah Trussell \* Tina Heath  
Holly Rouleau, Coordinator

Nancy Day has decided to retire from the CE Committee after contributing her time and energy for 16+ years! We would like to say a heart felt thank you to Nancy for her many contributions to the committee, children, and youth of First Parish United Church of Christ.

With Nancy's departure, an opening has become available on the committee. Please consider joining our group. If Nancy's longevity is any indication, we are a fun crowd and the work is fulfilling. Speak with Holly Rouleau to find out more about becoming an active CE Committee member.

Thank you to all who attended the Epiphany Luncheon. Good food was shared as well as fun and laughter!

There will be Nursery coverage until 11:30 a.m. during the Annual Meeting on January 27th.

## Lectionary for February 2008

### **February 3**

#### **Last Sunday after Epiphany**

*Liturgical color: White*

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### **February 10**

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

*Liturgical color: Purple*

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **February 17**

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

*Liturgical color: Purple*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

John 3:1-17

### **February 24**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

*Liturgical color: Purple*

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42



First Parish continues to collect those **Little Special Soda Can Tabs** for the Rochester Assembly No. 11 of the International Order of the Rainbow Girls. Each little tab helps the Shriner's fund cancer research and enables them to purchase medical equipment. Your continued donation of hundreds and hundreds of tabs is amazing! Please drop your tabs in the plastic container in the church hall. Linda Breden continues to oversee this so if you have any questions, see her.

# Ministry of Care & Concern

**Helen Stewart** & friends of *Riverside Rest Home*  
276 County Farm Rd., Dover, NH 03820

**Bob Philbrick** *Berwick Estates*  
75 Portland St., S. Berwick, ME 03908

*Please do send your cards and greetings.*

## In Our Thoughts And Prayers

Linda Breden (recovering from surgery); Macine Brown (health—Troy Brown's aunt); Karl Bye (recent hospital stay); Marion Burnham; Bertha Carr; Rolande Faucher (recent surgery, now in rehab - Sue Boucher's mother); Ray Harmon (health - Sherie Dinger's father); Elaine Packer (recent surgery on hand); Gayle Stofanak (anticipating hospital overnight end of January); Margaret (MAT) Tilson; Rev. Lea Ann Tung (at home).

### **A card or phone call is always appreciated.**

Why not brighten someone's day and share God's love! *Remember, Marion Burnham (692-4169) sends cards on behalf of the Church Family.* Let Marion know if a card would be welcomed.

## AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

-Peace! Inner peace of heart and soul; lived out in actions that reflect the life and witness of Jesus.

-NH Conference Partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

See Hunger Appeal information in this newsletter.

--Our Sunday School and Youth Programs

--Those serving in the Armed Forces, and in support capacities.

## **Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of :**

Ben Licciardello on December 22,  
Elaine Packer's brother-in-law

Maine Smith on December 23,  
Linda Breden's uncle

Robert Dolby on January 15th,  
Husband of Gladys Foss Hayes Dolby

May God's deep peace surround these families with the light and love of the Lord.

Received into the care of Christ's Church in the Sacrament of Baptism on Epiphany, Sunday, 1/6, was Asa Emmanuel Fingall-Mowbray, son of Tiffany E. Mowbray and Darrell Fingall. Godparents are Julius Smith and Cassandra Mowbray.

*May God's richest blessing surround them all.* We celebrate that this became a part of John & Carol Cummings (Asa's great-grandparents) 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration. John & Carol's anniversary was January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Prayer Concerns may be added to the Prayer List, in writing to the Church Office; using a Prayer Card in worship. Prayer Group members include: Sue Boucher, and Elaine Packer (who are down South during the winter months but remain in close contact with this prayer ministry), and Bertha Carr (207-698-4635). Feel free to contact Bertha or Pastor Mark to add names to this active Prayer List. These concerns are held until the next quarterly meeting of the group. Do note: It is up to person submitting a name/concern to keep the Prayer Group informed.

# From Our Pastor...

First, I want to thank the First Parish Church Family for the generous financial gift which was given on December 23rd. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness for this, and for the greetings, and many remembrances to me and my family, received over the Nativity season. Many, many thanks.

With no opportunity to stand still, we move into the Lenten season and as in Advent, prepare. But Lent is different. There is an assumption of our knowing the story of Jesus life and ministry. Events, human decisions, and Jesus selfless sacrifice, will lead Jesus' disciples to The Great Week, that begins with Palm/Passion Sunday and culminates in the dawning day of Resurrection. The Church Universal walks together in these days. We are each asked to commit TIME for prayer and reflection, fasting from one or another parts of our personal life that need to be reviewed (patterns of consumption related to food, television, en-



ergy; ignoring the need of our neighbor), worship. Lenten devotionals are on hand, seek them out. Lenten series will be offered, make time to attend. Ecumenical Lenten Prayer will happen each week—know where to be present.

It would be easy to skip from Ash Wednesday to Easter, though, Sunday Worship will be a reminder that this IS Lent, and we ARE walking together. Be attentive!

God is still speaking, and the world needs YOU to help interpret hope, trustful belief, humble loving kindness. By God's grace the journey will be fruitful.

Grace and peace to you in Jesus' name

~~Pastor Mark



FIRST PARISH  
ALL COMMITTEE  
WORKSHOP  
Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>,  
9-11AM.

The Church Council is asking **each person who has taken on the responsibility of serving on a committee or auxiliary group** here at First Parish Church, to embrace that responsibility and attend this first of it's kind workshop!

We promise to be on time, and succinct in sharing information. Brief review of committee responsibilities, brief presentations by our Moderator, Treasurer, Pastor, with an opportunity to ask questions. Who does what, and how does it happen? We'll answer it! Coffee and munchies provided. Please, embrace this as a way to support open communication in our shared life.

Questions?? Speak with Moderator, Rich Whitten (742-7966) or Pastor, Mark Rideout (church-692-2057, home-742-4295).

**Are you anticipating a hospital visit?**

Did you know that due to national privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to call your congregation to let them know you are there? So, if you know you are going to be in the hospital and want to let Pastor Mark know, please contact the Church Office (692-2057). Of course, emergencies come up, so please feel free to call Pastor Mark at home (742-4295).

If you find yourself in the hospital unexpectedly:

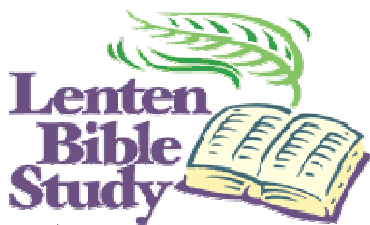
1. **YOU need to clearly request** that Pastor Mark be called, or
2. **YOU need to request** that you'd like to see the hospital chaplain, who CAN call Pastor Mark and let him and our Church community know you are there.

We want to surround you with love, support and care, but we cannot do that if we never find out you are ill or needing/wanting a visit. Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and Portsmouth Regional Hospital have a chaplain on staff. Frisbie Memorial Hospital has a network of volunteer chaplains. First Parish Church also has Caregivers who are happy to visit you at home or at the hospital. **The key is communication!**

DEADLINE:  
For March 2008  
FIRST PARISH NEWS:

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008  
at NOON

Contact Priscilla Chellis  
(207)698-5977  
prchellis@comcast.net



A Lenten Series on the theme, "God's Love in Jesus", is being offered on five consecutive Sundays (2/10, 17, 24 and 3/2, 9) from 2-4 PM, EXCEPT on 2/17, from 1-2:30PM (as Pastor Mark is leading a 3PM worship service at The Wentworth Home, Dover). Pastor Mark will be using part three of the video of the Franco Zeffirelli film, Jesus of Nazareth. Each session will include, opening prayer; viewing scenes from the video (20-25 minutes); invitation to share personal reactions to the video; historical questions; and questions of faith and life. Each session will close with prayer. Study questions will be distributed at each session. Please indicate if you plan to attend this series by adding your name to the Narthex list.

REMINDER that the Hunger Appeal for Zimbabwe is ongoing. Funds received by the NH Conference UCC office were sent to Zimbabwe in early January, so that it can begin to work right away. You may send contributions to: NH Conference Finance Office, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275. (Please note Zimbabwe Hunger Appeal in the memo.) Funds will go through the ecumenical agency, Christian Care, which has partnered with the UCC-Zimbabwe and our UCC Global Ministries Board. Thank you for responding to our Ukama/Partners in this time of crisis in their land.



## COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Just about the time you figured you had heard the last from me about the Food Pantry, here I am again! For awhile, at least, I will be sending along any information coming from the Pantry. But, I am delighted to report that Tom and Diane Brown, who many of you know already, will be the Food Coordinators for the Food Pantry.

Tom and Diane are the parents of Troy Brown, they are active in St. Martin's, the Somersworth Children's Festival and other organizations. Tom was, at one time, part of somersworld.com. They are a wonderful couple with a lot to give and will do a great job. Tom is putting in hours already, just learning some of the things I have been doing - and he hasn't quit yet! It is a very satisfying feeling to know that someone as dedicated as Tom and Diane will be heading up the Pantry. Seems like prayers work very well if you give them a chance.

So I am here for a while longer, at least. I am not planning on quitting the pantry for a while. I can substitute for Berta Minnick when she needs a helping hand; I will continue the Tuesday morning bread regimen; and I will continue to be there for Tom and Diane when they need some help, advice or encouragement. However, I will not be the one making decisions on the running of the Pantry, planning the events or interacting with all the donors. I wish Tom and Diane a lot of luck in their new venture and hope they find it as rewarding as I did.

Pat Whitten

New Year's Greetings from Hawaii, received from Steven and Alexis Dascoulias. See the Narthex bulletin board for the card, and some neat photos of an outdoor Christmas Eve Worship Service from Keolahou Hawaiian Congregational Church.

Their new home address is:

Steven & Alexis Dascoulias  
61 Kopi Lane #3-203  
Wailuku, HI 96793





# Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting was held on Jan. 13, 2008, with twenty two attending. With the absence of our Pres. Gayle Stofanak, who awaits surgery, Janice Wentworth chaired the meeting.

Election of new officers are:

President - Fran Nichols

Vice President - Toni Rhode

Secretary - Janice Wentworth

Treasurer - Helene Courier

Discussion on the budget brought forth changes: an additional \$350 for Heat (making a total of \$500) and \$100 for Programs. Our new budget amount is \$6,595. An additional donation of \$1,000 for Parsonage kitchen updates was voted on as well.

The TML (Tues. Morning Ladies) are off to a good start. Please join us from 9-11:30am. We are working on items for a SPRING FAIR on March 8th. Your help and ideas are needed for this event.

Our Business Meetings now will be held on the second Sunday of the month, following worship. All are welcomed to join us. This way one knows what is happening.

Remember - all that we do takes many, many hands.

In Joy and Peace- Helene Courier

  
*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**  


Posted on the Narthex bulletin board is the Thank You received from Riverside Rest Home for the "wish gifts" we provided for 15 residents.

## Riverside Rest Home Pen Pal Program

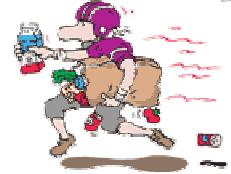


The **Pen Pal Program** is alive and well, thanks to Connie Ricker (335-1242)! There are *fifty-two* First Parish people who are paired up with one or more residents of Riverside Rest Home. And there's always room for more! Whenever the spirit moves, cards or notes are sent to the residents. You can sign your name on your correspondence or you can do it anonymously; you may visit with your Pen Pal or you may just wish to write. It's up to you how often you correspond, or how you correspond. It doesn't matter how often you get in touch for each note or card is a treasured piece of mail to the Riverside resident. Valentine's Day is coming! Send along some LOVE wishes. Speak to Connie if you'd like to be a Pen Pal. She'll even save you a 41 cent stamp and deliver it, if you wish.

\* February 3rd \*

Help the Youth Group  
Support The Food Pantry.  
See article elsewhere in  
this issue.

**Souper  
Bowl Sunday**



Flower Chart for 2008 is posted in the Church Hall. Please, feel free to sign up to offer flowers for a particular Sunday. Altar flowers may be offered in memory of someone, in celebration of an event, to honor someone.

While there is not a lot of space on the flower chart, your name secures the date. Please, if you sign up to provide flowers, provide IN WRITING to the church office, one week prior, particular wording and spelling of names. Flowers can include a favorite plant, garden cuttings, special arrangement of fresh, dried or silk flowers. Thanks for your sharing in this way.



# Mission Committee

Both Jeff Mitchell and Virginia Burgess left the Mission Committee at the end of their term to spend more time and talent on their first love, music. We will miss them both but the Music Committee will flourish. The Mission Committee welcomes Priscilla Chellis who began her first term at our meeting on January 17, 2008. Brenda Davidson will be the Chairperson with Gracie Melendy and Pastor Mark continuing to provide their wealth of experience and support. If you have interest in joining the Mission Committee or organizing a project please speak with any member.

The medical equipment lending program that we initiated last will continue. Jeff Mitchell has generously offered to maintain the list of folks willing to donate equipment and he'll continue to receive and store the equipment. Please contact Jeff directly if you have anything to donate such as walkers, canes, shower chairs, etc.. Think of this project as a lending library for equipment that one might need for a short time. If Jeff has that item in stock, you are welcome to borrow it for the time you require.

The warm sweaters and jackets which you generously donated will be delivered to the Seafarer's Friend at the port of Portland, ME by early February. Thank you so much for your support of this project. We anticipate having an ongoing relationship with the Seafarer's Friend.

Many of you have expressed interest in volunteering time for local schools or community agencies. There is a handout on the literature table in the Narthex identifying the needs of various schools and social service agencies in Somersworth and greater Strafford County who would welcome your special talent. The Mission Committee has merely compiled this list, we have no special contact or connection with any one organization. Please directly contact the school or agency that interests you. Telephone numbers have been provided. Let us know how things work out for you!

As you can see, we have started a few new projects in the past year and plan to continue the roll this year. If you have any ideas for mission projects that you would like to see developed, speak with any Mission Committee member. We can work as a team to serve and educate our church family and wider community.



This year, our Youth Group will once again participate along with many other organizations around the country, in the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - Working together - Feeding the Hungry.

On Feb. 3rd, the Youth Group asks you to bring monetary donations or non-perishable food items to church as we aim to Fill the Soup Pot in the Narthex on Souper Bowl Sunday! All donations will be given to the Community Food Pantry. This month, the Food Pantry asks for hot and cold cereals, pancake mixes, fruit & vegetable juices, and muffin mixes in particular, however, ANY donation is welcomed!

As you food shop between now and Feb. 3rd, please think of those less fortunate than yourself. Yes, we all struggle with higher costs and rising heat bills but purchasing an extra can or two of soup or an extra box of cereal, will help those really in need throughout our community.

Please help out this nationwide cause and support our own Youth Group as they aim to Fill The Soup Pot!

Questions? Contact Christina Chellis at 603-978-2987 or [chrisc419@gmail.com](mailto:chrisc419@gmail.com)

**Grief Support Group** at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, held in the Community Conference Room [1<sup>st</sup> Floor], 5:30-7PM, Tuesday, 2/5—"Grief-Living with what we got instead of what we wanted..." and Tuesday, 3/4—"Grief—Will I always hurt?" are offered to the public. To register or for more information contact Monica Viel-Weiss MSW, 740-2853.

# Spaghetti Supper



As I was getting the Spaghetti Supper sign-up sheet to pass around one Sunday, someone asked me if I would like her to sign up immediately or "should I just come in?" I asked her to sign up immediately, please! If we know which jobs are filled, Tom and I don't have to figure out at the last minute, who will fill a particular job. Sometimes we end up with more people than we really need and we don't always want that. I realize that it is difficult to know, at the beginning of the month, what is going to be happening in your life by the end of the month. However, if people sign up and can't make it to the supper, they can call Tom or myself and give us a heads-up. We can find someone to take that position either the day before or that day, if necessary. As far as desserts are concerned, at least 24 hours would be preferable.

I understand that the sign-up sheet coming around during worship can be an interruption. However, most every week there is someone who hasn't seen it before that month, or who wasn't there the weeks before. There are also times when a job looks as though it is going begging and someone figures they could do that one. Since NO job is owned by any one person, don't be afraid to sign up for something new and different. It's a great way to find out what other jobs there are, work with someone different, and keep the suppers fresh and fun! So sign up, come and join us and be a part of making a good amount of money for the church.

\* Tom Allen \* \* Pat Whitten \*

**The Christmas Card Board** (in the Narthex) helped generate some extras funds for local outreach over the holy days. Greetings were received from: Roz Hingston, Clara Philbrick, Lewis & Ele Janetos, Bernice Stucker, Jim & Elaine Goodberry, Bailey & Elaine Packer, Nancy Ainsworth, The Rideout Family, Keith & Sherie Dinger, The Chellis Family, Dave & Toddy Eastman, Connie Ricker, Don & Pat Whitten, Betty Foley, The Fortier Family, Freda Ross, The MacRae's, Nora Gray (Robin Martin's mother), Charlie & Dee Drake, Al & Audrey Loika, The Stillspeaking Ministry of the United Church of Christ, Federal Savings Bank (who holds our church mortgage!).

# Diaconate

Another year has ended and the following Senior Deacons are stepping down: Janice Wentworth, David Stolpe, and Marc Cote.

Serving 2008 as your Senior Deacons will be: Nancy McDonough, Carol Cummings, and Christina Chellis.

With February, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be joining the United Methodist Church in Berwick for services at 7:00 p.m.

The community churches are again getting together for Lenten Services starting on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. First Parish will be hosting the March 5<sup>th</sup> service. We encourage you to join the Christian community of Somersworth-Berwick to enhance your Lenten journey. See the schedule for the Lenten Services, elsewhere in this issue.

Marc Cote



Note  
of  
Thanks

Thank you to the choir for not only my poinsettia, but also my card and cash gift. It is much appreciated!

And to the Women's Fellowship for the gift certificate to the music store. I don't know which little birdie told you I have my eye on a piece of equipment, but that put me over the top and I'll be picking it up soon - thank you SO much!!

Chris Stolpe

### Deadline Reminders:

Sunday Bulletin announcements / information need to be in writing to the Church Office by MONDAY, or you may call or e-mail them directly to Debbie Hall (207-698-1158) at: [kenanddebbhall@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddebbhall@comcast.net)

Monthly Newsletter items MUST be submitted by NOON on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (OR as noted in the monthly newsletter calendar). Earlier is better! This may be done by leaving the written piece in the pocket on the Copy Room door or email to Priscilla Chellis at: [prchellis@comcast.net](mailto:prchellis@comcast.net)

Please be attentive to these deadlines should you wish to submit something to the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter.

### Thank You Received...

*I wish to thank my church family for their cards, phone calls, visits and prayers during my recent convalescence. A special thank you to the ladies who knitted the Prayer Shawl. It brought much warmth and comfort.*

*Thank you all,  
Edith Bowen*

(Note: The Editor apologizes for not getting this in the January newsletter.)

Special Thanks to all who have served on committees this past year, and may be going off as terms end, though some have agreed to stay on!



- Treasurer: Fred Chellis (5 years)
- Deacons: Marc Cote, David Stolpe, Janice Wentworth
- Trustees: Dean Martin [Buildings & Properties], Gregg Fournier [Stewardship & Finance]
- CE: Nancy Day (who has served for 16 years!) Rachel Fournier and Julie Mathews who are staying on.
- Mission: Virginia Burgess, Jeff Mitchell
- Music: Virginia Burgess [who will fill out Laura Mitrovich's 2 year term]
- Delegates: Marc & Patty Cote, Dave Eastman, Brenda Davidson—all serving again.
- Library Resource: Janice Wentworth and Elaine Packer. Elaine will stay on.
- Memorials: Dave & Esther Eastman—staying on.
- Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: Dee Drake, who will continue for another 4 year term.
- Flower Committee: Kim Conley, Robin Martin—both staying on.

And our auxiliary groups that do so much behind the scenes:

- Women's Fellowship: outgoing President-Gayle Stefanak, Vice-President-Gracie Melendy
- Prayer Group: Sue Boucher, Bertha Carr, Elaine Packer
- Webmaster: Gregg Fournier
- Newsletter: Format/Editor: Priscilla Chellis, Copying: Linda Farrell
- Spaghetti Supper Committee: Pat Whitten and Tom Allen—who would welcome another person or persons on this committee.
- Table of Plenty Team Captain: Nancy Day
- Funeral Reception Team Leaders: Priscilla Chellis, Helene Courier, Pat Whitten
- Liaisons to The Community Food Pantry, Inc: Dave Eastman, Debbie Hall, Pat Whitten