

# THE BROOKSIDE CHRONICLE

Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528

Tel. (603) 669-2807 • Fax (603) 668-9041

Visit Our Web Site: [www.brooksideecc.org](http://www.brooksideecc.org)

January, 2007

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## ***Christmas Traditions***

***featured again***

***in Epiphany Play***

***Sunday, Jan. 7***

***during 10 am worship***

*...more on page 2*

**TWO ALL-CHURCH  
MEETINGS THIS  
MONTH: Jan. 7 & 28  
CAST YOUR VOTE!**

*...more on page 2*



### **Special Meeting to Approve Pastoral Search Committee**

A Special Meeting of Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ will be held at 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, January 7, 2007** in the Sanctuary, immediately after the Epiphany Play. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on a slate of nominees to form a Pastoral Search Committee.

### **Attend Brookside's Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ will be held at 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, January 28, 2007** in Fellowship Hall. As we enter another new year of working together as a congregation, plan to attend as a covenant member to participate in the common life of our church.

#### ***January's Teachers***

Infant/Toddler Room:

*Sue Bilodeau*

Preschool (3-5 Year-olds):

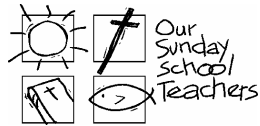
*Sandy & Alyssa Mun*

Grades 1-2: *Nancy MacPhail, Bonnie Hoyt*

Grades 3-4: *Robin Davison, Scott Harris*

Grades 5-7: *Doug Thomas, Dawn Brockett*

\***Reminder:** There is no Sunday School on January 7 (Crib Room child care only)



#### ***Christmas Traditions to Be Featured***

It's that time of year again. Christmas is over, the presents are all opened and now it's time to get back to "the real world." First, however, we need to re-center ourselves on the reason for this season. Why is it that we are Christians in the first place? It's because of an amazing man who gave his life for the sake of all our sins and his name was Jesus. No matter how you look at it, that humble birth in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago changed the world in amazing ways.

Come join us for the Epiphany Play this year and share the diversity that has evolved out of the story surrounding that simple birth, long ago. We would like to have all of the children involved this year, if possible. It really takes about 50 people (plus adults) to

put this play on and we'd love to have your children involved. If they want to speak, there are narrator parts that require them to read a few lines, but there are no memorized parts (like in a normal play) and there are LOTS of parts that just require looking cute (which most kids do without even trying!). There is only one rehearsal so the time commitment is minimal. The rehearsal will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Sunday, January 7** in the Main Sanctuary. Please contact *Jean Dickson, Sue Benson, Dawn Brockett* or *Debi Rapson* to see what part your child can have in sharing the joy of the Epiphany Play!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! *Debi Rapson*

#### ***Sunday School Teacher Vacancies***

- ~ Infant/Toddler Room – May
- ~ Preschool (ages 3-5) – 2nd teacher needed for March, April, May
- ~ 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 2nd teacher needed for March, April, May
- ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 2nd teacher needed for March
- ~ 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 2nd teacher needed for May

Please consider volunteering some time to be with our children on Sunday morning. Contact *Sue Benson, Jean Dickson* or any member of the CE Board.

**Youth in Grades 9-12: Come and Learn About a Mission Trip!**

The Senior High Youth Group will meet in the Youth Lounge on **Sunday, January 14** at 11:30 a.m. to plan our winter schedule and explore the possibility of going on a mission trip during April vacation week, with up-to-date information regarding costs and other details. **Bring your own Lunch – beverages will be provided!!**

**Save the date!** The Sr. High Winter Weekend is planned for **January 26-27**. We leave from Brookside at 4:00 p.m. Friday and return about 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Watch the bulletins for more information or call *Ed Mitchell* at **472-7490**.

**Middle School Youth Group**

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on **Sunday, January 21** from 11:45 to 1:00. If there is snow on the ground, bring warm outdoor play clothes and join us for games and fellowship. Lunch will be provided.

**Sunday, January 28** – help with child care for the Annual Meeting of the church.

**Senior High Mission Trip Opportunity**

In the autumn of 2005, Florida was hit by several hurricanes which left many people homeless and 85 percent of the citrus crop destroyed. Last April vacation, two of our Sr.

High Youth traveled to West Palm Beach, FL to help provide hurricane relief, working with CROS Ministries. We have a similar opportunity to send Sr. High Youth to Florida in April 2007. Work projects include building repairs, drywall, painting and yard work. The cost covers air and van transportation, lodging, building materials and meals.

The Sr. High Youth Group will be hosting a number of fundraisers throughout the winter months. The approximate cost is \$650 per person. Please help support these young folks as you can.

-----**Reminder**-----

If you are a Sr. High Youth, 14 or older, and interested in joining a group from UCC churches in New Hampshire for this important mission work, **deadline** for registration, including a \$100 nonrefundable deposit, is **February 15, 2007**. See *Jean Dickson* if you have questions or need assistance.

**Youth Groups to Serve at New Horizons**

Volunteers from the Middle and High School Youth Groups, grades 6 – 12, will be serving the evening meal at New Horizons on **Tuesday, January 30**. Meet at the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. We will eat dinner together at a local restaurant after we finish at New Horizons, and return to Brookside by 7:00. The Parent Permission Form (see below) must be signed and returned.



**Parent Permission Form**

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in serving a meal at the New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Tues., Jan. 30, along with supervising adults from Brookside Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to participate with my child on January 30.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not able to participate this time but am interested in assisting with supervision for future events.



### **It's January – Think Warm, Sign Up for Summer Camp!**

Children and youth applications for Horton Center and Geneva Point will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sundays.

Adult unit leaders are needed for a variety of ages and camp experiences. Please consider being a camp leader this year.

For more information, please speak with *Cindy Migliori* or *Jean Dickson*.

### **Confirmation Class Update**

Due to the Epiphany Play rehearsal, the Confirmation Class will meet at 8:30 a.m. on **Sundays, January 14** and **January 21**.

**Save the date!** The Confirmation Class will be attending a Sabbath service at Temple Adath Yeshurun at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, February 3**. We will meet at Brookside and travel together to Temple (152 Prospect St.). Following the service, Rabbi Beth Davidson will meet with us to discuss the service, tour the Temple and answer questions.

### **Super Bowl Suppers Coming: February 4**

The Senior High Youth Group will be taking orders for Super Bowl Boxed Suppers during the month of January. Profits from this fundraiser will be put in a special account to support our mission trip planned for April 2007. Watch for posters and order forms in Fellowship Hall.



### **Technical Assistance Needed**

The church has received a number of TV monitors, VCR and DVD players, for which we are very grateful. However, we now need someone with strong AV/Tech background or experience who can work with our CE Director to successfully match the sundry pieces. If you can help and are available in the evenings or on a Sunday afternoon, please contact *Jean Dickson* at **669-2807 x 104**.

### **Women's Study Group**

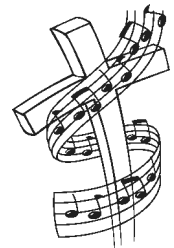
The Women's Study Group is hosting an evening of dinner and fellowship at **Shorty's** in Northside Plaza on Wednesday, **January 3 at 6:30** to catch up with one another's lives and decide on our next book.

Our plan is to continue to meet on **Wednesday** evenings, 6:30-8:30, during the winter months, sharing the hospitality of individual homes on a rotating basis. For more information, call or email *Jean Dickson*, **647-0889**, [jad3of6@hotmail.com](mailto:jad3of6@hotmail.com).

### **Notes From Rob**

Happy 2007!!

What a terribly busy December! The many projects I engaged myself in challenged many aspects of my being, causing a great deal of stress and anxiety. I discovered the negative behavioral effects caused by stress as I struggled with personal character issues and overall mental health. Nonetheless, a great sense of accomplishment along with the joy of bringing music to the folks at Brookside makes the work worth every effort. The *Joyful Noise* concert was overwhelming, however, the concert would have proven to be impossible without the tireless help of the Music Committee. Co-chairs Gil Desjardins and Gwynne Gorton, along with many others who shared in producing a successful concert, ought to be commended for their outstanding work. You, the members of Brookside Church, deserve concert programs of this quality and we are happy to bring that to all of you.



What's next, you may ask? To be honest, I was thinking about a future project long before *Joyful Noise* was complete. I am not one to snoop around informing people about pipe dreams that promise to become reality. Sorry, Brookside....you will just have to wait and see what's in store!

Blessings,

Rob



### **Loaves and Fishes**

We collected 45 bags of groceries in December. Our next collection of non-perishable food items for New Horizons is on **Sunday, January 7**. Remember, if you are not going to be at church that day, you can always leave your donations in the box near the church office.

### **Nursing Home Services**

Worship services this month are as follows:

– **Sunday, January 21:**

- Courville, 2:00 p.m.
- Hillcrest Terrace, 3:00 p.m.

Parishioners are always welcome to come along as visitors or participants.



### **What Goes Around, Comes Around**

This Christmas Season, Brookside enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Tree in our sanctuary. The tree's back story begins in the garden we provided refugees. One day, Master Gardener Jean Stefanik was talking with former Pastor Bill. It seems that 15 years ago, Jean planted a NH White Spruce seedling alongside her driveway. Years passed and soon the 15-foot-high tree needed to be removed. Jean was loath to just cut down the well-shaped tree and wondered if it could be used someplace for Christmas. In a refugee garden conversation with Bill, Jean mentioned the tree's availability. Bill agreed to cut, transport and erect the tree at Brookside, with help from Senior High youth. Thus, our generosity to strangers has been repaid, by someone who is not even a Brookside member. Thanks, Jean!

### **Please Note:**

The schedule for Baptisms and New Members will be on hold until such time as we have an Interim Pastor in place; please do not rely on the dates as set forth on the pink "Year-at-a-Glance" sheet from September.

### **Holy Communion**

Because of the Epiphany Play on January 7, the sacrament of Communion will be celebrated one week later than usual, on **Sunday, January 14**. Serving will be: *Joyce Lovejoy, Kathleen Dube, Bill Hoysradt, John Marcotte, Keith Hamer, Sandi Decknick, Paul Rich and Norm Noel*.



### **In the Spirit of the Season**

Many thanks from Women's Union to all Santa's elves who gave so generously of their time, energy and talents to the Christmas Fair. With your support, once again we realized a profit of \$3,144 and many favorable comments from fairgoers.

We are delighted to report that \$500 was donated to the Union Leader Santa Fund; the remaining monies were donated to the Boylston Home for Girls, Church Women United, Webster House, Staff gifts and a reserve for charities we support throughout the year.

This is a tradition we hope to improve on each year. All comments and suggestions for next year's fair will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you, *Sally Sederquist, Chair*

### **Women's Union Takes a Break**

Just a reminder that there's no meeting in January... but plan to come to our next meeting on **Thursday, February 15**.



### **Are You Missing...**

...a pair of black shoes? An umbrella? Books, baby toys, various articles of clothing, jewelry? Well, we have those and more in our overcrowded Lost and Found box, located across from the church office, under the brown bench (jewelry is in a small box in the church office – please ask). If you've been missing that favorite scarf (or whatever), take a look, and reclaim your long-lost precious belongings.





### **Give the Gift of Life – Give Blood**

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive here at Brookside Church, in Fellowship Hall, on **Friday, January 26**, from Noon to 6 p.m. There will be delicious food, t-shirts and raffles, and best of all, the opportunity to save a life with your donation. For more information, please call **625-1951**.

### **If You're Hospitalized...**

Because federal law greatly restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals, the church staff and Deacons may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized, and would like a visit, it is important that you (or a family member) notify the church office as soon as possible. Call us at **669-2807**. Remember, hospitals no longer can provide this information to us.



### **Nurse Hours Will Resume on Jan. 11**

One more week off – Jan. 4th – then the Parish Nurse will resume hours here every week, on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon in Room E. Avail yourself of free nurse consultation, blood pressure checks, health information, referrals and more. Be sure to check out the Parish Nurse bulletin board across from Room E to learn about events throughout Manchester!

For more information, call the Parish Nurse office at **663-8004**.

### **What a Milestone!**

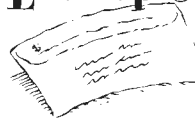
Congratulations to *Berwyn Daniels*, a past Associate Minister at Brookside Church, who was recently honored by the United Church of Christ for **60 years** of ordained ministry!

### **Writers, Take Note!**

**Annual Reports for 2006** (written and financial) will be due in the office by **Thursday, January 4, 2007**. Please help us to prepare the Annual Report booklet in a timely fashion!



### **Offering Envelopes**



### **The Envelope(s), Please...**

Offering envelopes for 2007 are in the Sanctuary Narthex, arranged alphabetically. Please remember to pick yours up on Sunday, on your way to or from worship, so you'll have them available for your 2007 pledge payments. Thanks.

### **It Takes a Village...**

The Nominating Committee thanks **everyone** for their interest in serving on a Board or Committee, even those who declined.

### **Fellowship Hour Schedule**

Monthly hosts for Fellowship Hour are:

- **Jan:** Christian Ed. Board
- **Feb:** Outreach Board
- **Mar:** Board of Deacons



### **Chronicle Deadline**

**Resolution:** to submit Chronicle articles **ON TIME** every month!!

Submit articles for the February *Chronicle* to the office by **Thursday, January 18** and you'll be golden. You can deliver them in person, send them by mail, fax them to **668-9041**, or e-mail them to: [nicoleg@brooksidecc.org](mailto:nicoleg@brooksidecc.org). Then, keep up the good work throughout 2007!



## Women's Retreat

### Are We Ready for Another?

In March of 2004, women from Brookside Church traveled north to Contoocook for a weekend retreat at a beautiful little camp. Discussion is underway for a possible retreat in March of 2007. For more information, or to volunteer to help with planning, please contact *Jean Dickson* (647-0889, [jad3of6@hotmail.com](mailto:jad3of6@hotmail.com)).

### Words From an Observant Lad:

Sunday School teacher: "Why is it good at times to get away from everyone and have some quiet moments?"

Boy: "So our conscience can bother us."  
(from *The Newsletter Newsletter*)

### Keeping You Up to Date with Finances

Any questions regarding the detail of the treasurer's report below may be directed to *Gail Goodman* at 656-9038, or e-mail her at [ggoodman@elliott-hs.org](mailto:ggoodman@elliott-hs.org).

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period ending November 30, 2006

##### Actual vs Budget

<b>November</b>	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	30,503	29,854	650
Total Expenses	37,549	29,034	8,515
Net Gain (Loss)	(7,046)	820	(7,866)
<b>Year-to-date</b>			
Total Income	342,817	329,492	13,325
Total Expenses	328,747	329,417	(670)
Net Gain (Loss)	14,069	75	13,995
<b>YTD Pledges</b>			
	\$164,121	\$159,708	\$4,413



#### TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK

January 7  
Norm Noel

January 14  
Judi Mitchell

January 21  
Dave Migliori

January 28  
Rod Leavell

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The objective of *The Brookside Chronicle* is to disperse church news; inspire people to a new awareness; and interpret the ministry of our church. We will be faithful to the truth, honest and caring, and strive for accuracy.

The *Chronicle* staff appreciates and welcomes input from all organizations, boards, officers, members and friends of Brookside Congregational Church. We reserve the right to edit, cut or leave out articles according to available space, timeliness and priority.

**DEACONS OF THE WEEK**

**January 7**  
Dale Trombly  
Keith Hamer

**January 14**  
Keith Hamer  
Kathleen Dube

**January 21**  
Kathleen Dube  
Joyce Lovejoy

**January 28**  
Joyce Lovejoy  
Kerry Richardson

**CE PERSON OF THE WEEK**

**January 7**  
Leandra George

**January 14**  
Pete Lovejoy

**January 21**  
Cindy Migliori

**January 28**  
Heather Soucy



**Bible Readings for the Month**

**This Month's Lectionary**

Each issue of the *Chronicle* features monthly Bible readings, so that you can read and reflect at home, on your own schedule.

**Lectionary for January**

**January 7**

Old Testament                    Isaiah 43:1-7  
   Psalm 29  
New Testament                    Acts 8:14-17  
   Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 14**

Old Testament                    Isaiah 62:1-5  
   Psalm 36:5-10  
New Testament                    1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
   John 2:1-11

**January 21**

Old Testament                    Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
   Psalm 19  
New Testament                    1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
   Luke 4:14-21

**January 28**

Old Testament                    Jeremiah 1:4-10  
   Psalm 71:1-6  
New Testament                    1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
   Luke 4:21-30

**READERS**

**January 7**  
Jim Soucy

**January 14**  
Jeff Rapson

**January 21**  
Janet Kolkebeck

**January 28**  
Beverly Robie

**ACOLYTES**

**January 7**  
Kimberly MacPhail

**January 14**  
Ashlyn Milling

**January 21**  
TJ Rapson

**January 28**  
Phoenix Thomas

**DOORPERSON**

**January 7**  
Dennis Giguere

**January 14**  
Dave Migliori

**January 21**  
Keith Hamer

**January 28**  
Mike Wentzell

**USHERS**

**January 7**  
Sis Dunn  
Robert Dunn  
Russlyn Dunn  
Kerry Richardson

**January 14**  
Sally Sederquist  
Sandi Decknick  
Phillip Decknick  
Kathleen Dube

**January 21**  
Keith Hamer  
Ed Mitchell  
Jeff Rapson  
Don Waldrupe

**January 28**  
Ben Lambert  
Linda Lambert  
Kevin Cate  
John Cooperider

### **Postpastor's Postscript**

Dear Friends,

Karen and I can't say completely enough how profoundly grateful we are for all that transpired during my farewell celebration on December 3. Everything was flawless from my point of view. For me the most beautiful aspect was this: I planned the service, as usual, and a separate group among you planned all the surprises and tributes that interspersed themselves throughout the two hour service and the reception that followed. Yet, it all fit together seamlessly, as though we had all sat together, planning the whole thing.

This showed me how well we all know each other. From the red clown noses to the new laptop computer for my writing, you knew what would delight me, and your offerings were a blessing.

Of course, the day made sense because of something else more important, didn't it? The deepest blessing of all was the privilege of being pastor and congregation for 16 1/2 years, wasn't it? We cared for each other through so many experiences. Our caring was compassionate and faithful, and it had integrity throughout. The events of December 3 were a flowering of that long experience. People who were visiting that day were astonished at the vigor and apparentness of the love displayed.

Please accept my deepest thanks for all that you are. We have shaped each other for the future in loving and hopeful ways. For that I am very grateful, indeed.

So, for the last time in this space, may all of you, every last one of you, have a blessed, joyful, and loving Christmastide!

Peace be with you,

*Bill*

★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★



**Brookside Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
2013 Elm Street  
Manchester, NH 03104  
Telephone (603) 669-2807  
Fax (603) 668-9041  
Web Site: [www.brooksidecc.org](http://www.brooksidecc.org)**

Worship and Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are currently awaiting an Interim Pastor. In the meantime, if you require assistance with a pastoral-related matter, please contact the church office, **669-2807**.

### **A Message from the Moderator:**

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the December 3rd celebration for Pastor Bill. Our new UCC Conference Minister Gary Schulte and Don Lyons from the Hillsborough Association Committee on Ministry joined us for the service and participated in the liturgy of Pastor Bill and the church releasing each other. The celebration also included several moving testimonies as well as gifts from the church. Worship concluded with Bill and Karen being escorted from the Sanctuary by a bagpiper.

After the service, everyone convened in fellowship hall where Bill's retirement from Brookside was celebrated with a light lunch and additional testimonials. All in all a moving "thank you" for a very deserving pastor.

Our interim search committee is in the process of visiting two candidates for the interim position. Ministers from Pastoral Counseling Services and the Brookside congregation have graciously agreed to preach during December and January. The search committee nominees are being finalized for presentation to the congregation in early January. We will keep you updated as developments occur.

*Roger Sevigny, Moderator*