

THE BROOKSIDE CHRONICLE

Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528

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Visit Our Web Site: www.brooksidecc.org

December, 2008

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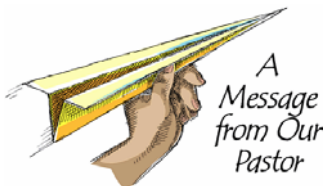
CHRISTMAS BASKETS

*~ Christmas Eve Services ~
Wednesday, December 24:
4:30 p.m. Children's Service
7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols*



Dawn's Doings

Unpacking is a lot more fun than packing! Yet, as I settle into our



home, I am amazed by the amount of "stuff" we have accumulated over the years. Greg and I filled two homes in these past eleven and a half years of living between Falmouth, ME and Hopkinton, NH. Now, we are happily consolidating into an 1802 Cape that has been our home for 31 years.

Furniture has been given away. Clothes sorted through for a realistic assessment of what we will ever wear again! Dishes have been shared, and there is still too much. Even going through my office, I pitched files and resources that I have not referred to in years, and there are still many boxes of books and papers. It seems that Greg and I are savers of things that we might need some day, but that day never arrived before moving day.

In this Season of Advent, I am particularly aware of my need to live more simply as I begin again. Rather than filling space with stuff, I need to make room for the hope, peace, joy, and love which are Advent promises. Rather than more presents cluttered under a tree, I need the breathing room of wonder and a Word that is made flesh in my life, a true Christmas presence.

How tempting it can be to succumb to consumerism, to measure worth and happiness by busyness! But, Greg's and my real joy this Christmas will be our time together without the long trek between houses. Our love is best expressed in the gift of sponsoring Thulasi, an eight year old girl in India who was abandoned at birth. She will have shelter, food, clothing, and most especially, an education.

Hope is what I feel as you and I begin our ministry together, and the peace of God which passes all human understanding will fill us as we worship together. The music of Advent will create within us a longing that only God can satisfy as we make room in our lives and in our hearts for Jesus' birth.

So, simply put, come and worship this

Advent and Christmas Season! Give a donation in honor of someone that will not clutter life, but be life-giving in its service. Slow down and make some breathing room for the wonder of Word made flesh. May the blessings of Advent and the presence of Christmas fill you with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Dawn

Committee Invites You to "Meet and Greet"



By the time you are reading this article from the Pastoral Settling Committee (formerly know as the Pastoral Search Committee), Brookside will have welcomed the Rev. Dr. Dawn C. Berry as our new pastor. We are grateful for the prayers and support members and friends have provided to Dawn and the committee as we begin our ministry together.

Although the Advent Season is filled with many special activities, Dawn and the committee want to provide several opportunities for her to meet and greet members and friends in a less formal setting before the New Year. Accordingly, informal gatherings will be held in the Manning House on:

- **Monday, December 8** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 10** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (light lunch will be provided)

If you are unable to attend one of these events, don't worry – others will be scheduled after the first of the year. If you do plan to attend one of the December events, please let the church office know (**669-2807**) so that we can plan refreshments.

As always, we are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Pastoral Settling Committee

Tricia Lucas, Chair	Karen Horsch
Gil Desjardins, Vice Chair	Joe Lachance
Kerry Richardson, Chaplain	Pete Lovejoy
Laura Sevigny, Clerk	Judi Mitchell
Jeff Fletcher	Dale Trombley



Third Rotation Workshop Unit Gets Underway

We have now completed two workshop units – “Out of Egypt” and “Ten Lepers,” and our Advent Unit is underway! This Unit is “Christmas Around the World.” Our Scripture is the Birth Story from Matthew which is the story about the wise men. The children will be exploring Christmas stories from around the world and making gifts for Christmas baskets. We have 4 workshops in this unit: Storytelling with Jean Dickson, Art with Dawn Brockett, Science with Ellen

Tourigny and Cooking with Karen Horsch. The coming of the wise men to visit Jesus is traditionally celebrated on January 6. The children will be sharing their learning in worship on **January 11**.

Sunday, December 7 will be an intergenerational worship service (see article on page 4). There is no Church School on **December 28** and **January 4**, but there will be child care for 5 and under.

Rotation Schedule for “Christmas Around the World”

	STORY TELLING	ART	SCIENCE	COOKING
Teacher	Jean Dickson	Dawn Brockett	Ellen Tourigny	Karen Horsch
Location	Upstairs Rm. A/Lounge	Upstairs Room B	Downstairs Room C	Manning House Kitchen
November 23	4 year olds and kindergarten	1 st and 2 nd grades	3 rd , 4 th and 5 th grades	6 th and 7 th grades
November 30	1 st and 2 nd grades	3 rd , 4 th and 5 th grades	6 th and 7 th grades	4 year olds & kindergarten
December 7 Intergenerational Worship, Communion	Preparing for Joy Good Tidings Trimming the Christmas Tree			
December 14	3 rd , 4 th and 5 th grades	6 th and 7 th grades	4 year olds and kindergarten	1 st and 2 nd grades
December 21	6 th and 7 th grades	4 year olds & kindergarten	1 st and 2 nd grades	3 rd , 4 th and 5 th grades
January 11	Sharing in Worship	Sharing in Worship	Sharing in Worship	Sharing in Worship

Helping Others Through Heifer Project

Starting on November 23, the children’s offerings will go to support Heifer Project International. At the beginning of each Unit the children receive offering envelopes for that unit. The money collected in their classes will go toward buying an animal or animals which we will talk about on January 11 when they do their sharing on the unit “Christmas Around the World.” Since 1944, when Heifer Project was founded, they have helped 9.2 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. The impact of each initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to “pass on the gift” by giving one or more of their animal’s offspring or the equivalent, to another in need.



Experience the Christmas Spirit: Assist with Christmas Baskets!



Join in the festivities this Advent season by assisting with Christmas food baskets, which will be distributed to 74 local families in need. Sign-ups for food donations and volunteer assistance will begin on **Sunday, November 30**. Members of the congregation who wish to donate food can bring it to Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 7** or **Sunday, December 14** where members of Outreach will inventory and store the food. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

Many volunteers are needed:

Saturday, Dec. 20 - to assist us in carrying the food we order into Fellowship Hall and to set up the hall for basket assembly.

Sunday, Dec. 21 - All members of the congregation and visitors are invited to join in the fun of assembling the baskets.

Monday, Dec. 22 - Volunteers are needed to carry baskets up the stairs from Fellowship Hall to waiting vehicles.

If you would like to join in the fun, please sign up during coffee hour or see any member of the Outreach Board.



Loaves and Fishes

Thanks for your generosity! During November, we collected **38 bags** of food for New Horizons food pantry. By remembering to place a few extra items in your grocery cart every month, you can make a big difference in the life of a neighbor.

A recent newsletter from New Horizons states that there is an **URGENT NEED** for donations to their food pantry. Demand for their services is increasing, while donations are down. During August 2007, they provided food to 784 families, including 763 children. This year, August 2008, they provided services to 839 families, including 852 children. They anticipate demand will continue to increase, as the weather turns colder. New Ho-

rizons Food Pantry is most in need of the following items: diapers (especially larger sizes), baby formula, peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, canned goods, tomato sauce, pasta, and tuna. Our next *Loaves & Fishes* collection will be held on **December 7th**. Thanks for your support!

Thanks for Your Help

A big thank you to all who helped us provide 72 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need of assistance. This is a huge undertaking and would not be possible without all the support from the entire congregation!



More Thanks: A Note from Carolyn Keilig

Thank you very much for the generous and loving farewell that you gave to me my last Sunday with you at Brookside. The beautiful and unique gifts given by the committees and the financial gift are very much appreciated. I believe you know how much I enjoyed my time in your midst. I wish you the very best in your future.

*Blessings,
Carolyn*

Christmastide Service Opportunity

We are looking for a 5-member team of volunteers to serve supper at the New Horizons Soup Kitchen on **Tuesday, December 30** from 4:15-6:00. If you are interested, e-mail *Mike Wentzell* at mikewentzell@hotmail.com or call **244-2132**.





Holy Communion

The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 7**, served by: *Jeff Fletcher, Keith Hamer, Joyce Lovejoy, Jeff Rapson, Kerry Richardson, Kathleen Dube and Russ Dunn.*

Nursing Home Services

Worship services this month are as follows:

- **Monday, December 8:**
 - Masonic Home, 1:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 21:**
 - Courville at Manchester, 2:00 p.m.

Parishioners are always welcome to come along as visitors or participants. Please try to work it into your schedule this month!



With Sympathy

Dr. Robert Lord died October 28. He and his wife Betty, who died on June 1, were active at Brookside and in numerous community, environmental and charitable organizations. He is survived by 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. A memorial service for Bob & Betty Lord was held at Brookside Church on November 15.

We also note the passing of *John Regis*, father of Brookside member Paula Wakefield, on November 12.

Please keep these families in your prayers during their time of loss.

If You're Hospitalized...

Because federal law greatly restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals, the pastor and church office may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized, and would like a visit from the pastor, 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.

Health Matters

The Parish Nurse has hours here every week, on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 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!



Another round of Chair Massage will take place on **Thursday, December 4**, between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Call **663-8004** to reserve a time slot (the cost is \$10 for 15 minutes).

How Is Faith Promise Faring?

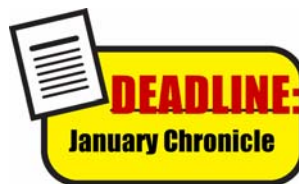
Thank you for your generous contributions to this year's Faith Promise. As of November 9th we had received 104 pledges totaling over \$132,000, compared to 99 pledges totaling \$144,000 last year.



God Loves a Cheerful Giver

This has obviously been a financially challenging year for many of Brookside's families. We are very appreciative of the pledges made to date and we are hopeful that those of you who have not yet had the chance to return your pledge cards to the church will do so at your earliest convenience.

The Faith Promise Committee



Don't Be Late!

Please submit all material for the January *Chronicle* by **Friday, December 12**.

You can send it by mail, deliver it in person, e-mail it to: nicoleg@brooksidecc.org, or fax it to **668-9041**. Thanks.

Looking Ahead to Annual Reports

Please submit all Annual Reports for 2008 (written and financial) to the office by **Monday, January 5, 2009**.



Fair Succeeds Again

The results are in! Thanks to everyone's generosity, time and talents, Brookside is again reporting another successful fair. We are pleased to announce an increase in profits of \$200 over last year. Yes, \$3,730 profit and a continuing tradition of over 55 years of the Franklin Street and Brookside Christmas Fair! The fellowship and goodwill of the tradition continue long after the monies earned are dispersed. Women's Union appreciates all your support and will soon be looking for volunteers for the 2009 Fair.



Women of Faith Group

On **Thursday, December 4** at Manchester City Library, join the Women of Faith group for a program entitled *Light up the Darkness*. Come and learn as Moslem, Hindu, Jewish and Christian speakers share their winter festivals and traditions of light with us. Meet women from other faiths and enjoy the music and refreshments of the season. Bring a special candle holder, menorah, or light to display if desired. RSVP by **December 1** to *Ellie Kelton, 627-7054*.

Women's Union to Enjoy Greek Meal, Special Music



The **December 18** Women's Union meeting will feature a traditional Greek dinner prepared by *Cynthia Diamantis*, a new member of our group. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 for social time, and dinner is served at 5:30. Call *Hope Pearson (483-2295)*, *Ellie Kelton (627-7054)* or *Myrtle Walker-Noel (669-2669)* with your reservation. The Holiday Musical Program will follow, and all are invited regardless of whether you attend the dinner. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lyric soprano *Karol Carroll* has a wide range of performance experience on both the concert and opera stage. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the classical vocal ensemble *Belle Voci*, founded in 2001. The group performs concerts of Opera, Broadway and Classical Recital works throughout the year, and last year released a holiday CD entitled *Christmastime*.

Press Release, News from the Thrift Shop and Women's Union:

~ The Thrift Shop needs: **winter coats** for men and women, and **winter clothing** for children. The need is great, please donate!

~ Women's Union thanks all who made the Nov. 20 Auction for Sakubva Church a success! We raised \$305 for our sister church in Zimbabwe.



Poinsettias for Christmas ~ \$11 Each ~ Deadline to Order is Mon., Dec. 8



I/We _____ wish to donate

_____ poinsettia(s) in memory of _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (made payable to Brookside Congregational Church).

~ Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve candlelight service ~

Kids' page to go here...

This Month's Financial Check-up

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT			
For the period ending October 31, 2008			
	<u>Actual vs. Budget</u>		
October	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Var</u>
Total Income	27,592	26300	1292
Total Expenses	27,416	25664	1751
Net Gain (Loss)	176	636	(459)
Year-to-date			
Total Income	275,921	262,466	13,455
Total Expenses	290,106	275,990	14,115
Net Gain (Loss)	(14,185)	(13,524)	(660)
YTD Pledges	<u>132,059</u>	<u>119,795</u>	<u>12,264</u>

GREETERS	
December 7 Ferranti family	December 14 Bob & Anne Lachance
December 21 Karyn O'Neil	December 28 Virginia Mabie

TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK	
December 7 Steve Ferranti	December 14 Pete Farwell
December 21 Dave Migliori	December 28 Gail Goodman

CE PERSON OF THE WEEK	
December 7 Donna Moody	December 14 Ed Mitchell
December 21 Liberty Dhlwayo	December 28

DOORPERSON	
December 7 Dave Migliori	December 14 Mike Wentzell
December 21 Keith Hamer	December 28 Jeff & TJ Rapson

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.

Fellowship Hour Schedule

The Board of Trustees will be hosting Fellowship Hour during the month of December.



DEACONS OF THE WEEK

December 7 Don Waldrupe Dale Trombley	December 14 Jeff Rapson Don Waldrupe
December 21 Kerry Richardson	December 28 Jeff Rapson Kerry Richardson



The Lectionary

Each issue of the *Chronicle* features monthly Bible readings, so that you can read and reflect on your own. Underscored passages will be used by Pastor Dawn in worship.

Lectionary for December

December 7 – Advent 2

Old Testament	<u>Isaiah 40:1-11</u>
	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
New Testament	2 Peter 3:8-15a
	<u>Mark 1:1-8</u>

December 14 – Advent 3

Old Testament	<u>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u>
New Testament	<u>Luke 1:47-55</u>
	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
	John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 – Advent 4

Old Testament	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
	<u>Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</u>
New Testament	Romans 16:25-27
	<u>Luke 1:26-38</u>

December 28

Old Testament	<u>Isaiah 61:10–62:3</u>
	Psalm 148
New Testament	Galatians 4:4-7
	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>

READERS

December 7 Tom Cleary	December 14 Linda Seabury
December 21 Darcy Newman	December 28 Victoria Benson

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United Church of Christ
2013 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03104
Telephone (603) 669-2807
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Web Site: www.brooksidecc.org**

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

Rev. Dr. Dawn Berry, Pastor
Office Hours 9–2, Mon.–Thurs.
Office tel. 669-2807 x 101; home 746-5033
email: pastor@brooksidecc.org

Please remember that the pastor is frequently called away, or may have other commitments during the day. It is best to call first if you need to speak with her.

ACOLYTES

December 7 Claire Tourigny	December 14 Meagan Wong
December 21 Catherine Stantial	December 28 Andrew Auger

USHERS

December 7 Karyn O’Neil David Gates	December 14 Tricia Lucas Jeff Fletcher Peter Lovejoy Becky Guimont
December 21 Bill Hoysradt Heather Soucy Jim Soucy	December 28 Doug Thomas Cindy Migliori Dave Migliori Joe Lachance