

Pastor's Message

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman. God sent his Son to buy freedom for us, so that God could adopt us as his very own children. And because you have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father. Now you are God's own child. And since you are God's child, everything God has belongs to you. *Galatians 4:4-7*

When the right time came ... when the time was right... Timing is everything ... in God's time.

The first Sunday of Advent (November 28) marked the beginning of the Christian Year, which opened with the season of Advent. During Advent we reenact the historical waiting period for the Messiah, as promised by the prophets for thousands of years.

We think about Mary waiting for the birth of her child. Joseph, waiting with her. And the waiting of children – how many days until Christmas?!

Why did God create time?

We pride ourselves on our time management skills. We multi-task, micro-wave, and make caffeine work for us in our race against time. Being busy is a virtue, or is it?

We find that time is managing us. Our datebook, cal-

endar, and clock are harsh taskmasters, making us their slaves. During the Christmas season we are rushed like prisoners on schedule. We realize time is controlling and manipulating us.

May we learn the fine art of waiting, waiting for the right time, God's time. Receive with gratitude the gift of time and use it wisely.

Pastor Lori Wiley



Contact the Pastor: Sunday through Wednesday

Rev. Dr. Lori Wiley
Transitional Pastor

Call or email to set up an appointment.
603-848-2788 (cell, calls and text)
pastorucpnh@gmail.com

Special Celebrations**Hanging of the Greens: December 5**

“Peace” “Bethlehem”
Second Sunday of Advent
Annual Reports available

Proclamation Sunday: December 12

“Joy” “Shepherds”
Third Sunday of Advent
Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: Colossians 1:13-20
Gospel: Luke 2:8-20
Annual Meeting of the United Church of Penacook

Blessing of the Creche: December 19

“Love” “Angels”
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Old Testament: Psalm 103:20-22; 148:1-2
New Testament: Hebrews 1:1-14
Gospel: Matthew 1:16-25; Luke 2:1-5

Joy to the World:**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00**

A Pageant by Children and Adults
All are welcome to participate.
Arrive at 6:15 to choose a costume.

(There will be no Midnight or Late Service this year.)

Bless you, my child: Simeon and Anna: December 26

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14
New Testament: 3 John 1-12
Gospel: Luke 2

Special Event

Public Supper
Spaghetti and Meatballs
December 4
5:00 pm and 5:45 pm
Adults \$8 Children \$4

Buffet style dinner includes:
Salad, Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Desserts and Coffee

Christmas Sing-a-long begins at 6:00

Contact Cheryl Rodgers at 753-8471 to donate money or food items or to help with the preparation and serving of the supper.

Parsonage Sale Team

Do you want to buy a house? Or do you know someone who wants to buy a house? The former Parsonage on Eel Street is up for sale through Century 21 Realty. To see the listing, go to http://nnerenmls.com/nne/maildoc/per1684_1289400280-Nov-10-2010-9_44_40am.html

The Parsonage Sale Team, appointed by the Moderator after the Church voted to sell the Parsonage at a Special Meeting October 24, is working with Jennifer Nolin to negotiate a sale. They have had three meetings and spent many hours working on the details. Many thanks to Alice Colby, Church Contact regarding the Sale, Ken Hanson, Property maintenance, and Elizabeth Blanchard, for taking on this task.

Finance Committee

The United Church of Penacook was blessed with a gift of \$1000 from the American Baptist Church Aide Fund, as well as \$1000 from the Women's Guild, and \$5000 from Ethel Furlong in honor of her mother.

Proposed Budget

The Finance Committee presented a recommended budget to Church Council at the Council's November meeting. We thank the Finance Committee for spending more than five hours balancing the budget. As you can see from the following figures, the budget for 2010 could not possibly have been met by the projected income. Fortunately, more than \$17,000 came in as income than was

expected, and actual expenses were approximately \$12,000 less than budgeted, but the Church was still over \$18,000 in the red and had to draw down from all available endowments to meet regular expenses. Under the direction of the Church, two investment funds were closed, and the money used to pay bills.

This year's finance committee was determined to be fiscally responsible, which meant major cuts, and is still \$5000 over projected income. We have faith that God will help us meet our expenses, and bring in the extra \$5000. We are truly dependent on God, and believe that as we do the right thing God will bless us financially.

Budget 2010: Projected income:	68,452.32
2010: Projected expenses	<u>116,648.00</u>
	-68,335.52
Actual 2010: Income	86,150.00
Actual expenses	<u>104,388.60</u>
	-18,238.60
2010 Projected income	68,452.32
Actual income	<u>86,150.00</u>
	17,697.68
2010 Projected expenses	116,648.00
Actual expenses	<u>104,388.60</u>
	12,259.40
Budget 2011: Projected income	85,900.00
2011: Projected expenses	<u>91,555.00</u>
	-5,655.00

Prayer

The success of any endeavor, especially that of a church, depends on prayer. There is no point in engaging in activity, unless we have prayed first, and invoked God's blessing. Otherwise, we are wasting our time. We have designated 5:30-6:00 pm on Sundays as Prayer Time for this Church. A group is gathering in The Parlor at that time. If you want to be part of it, you are invited to come to the Church, or to call in, and we will put you on Speaker phone so you can participate wherever you are. Praying means communicating, whether talking or listening. We may read prayers or just pray from the heart. There are many ways to pray, and each person has your own comfort level. Just pray!

Special Greetings and Prayers

Each month the Diaconate selects people to receive special greetings from the congregation. During November we ask that you drop the following people a line or give them a call.

Mrs. Alta Bolduc, 35 Abbott Road, Penacook, NH, 03303
 Eunice Clark, c/o EllaMae Cochrane, 345 N. West Road, Canterbury, NH 03224
 Betty Craigue, Presidential Oaks, Room 305B, Pleasant Street, Concord, NH, 03301
 Tracy Craigue, 117 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303

Prayers for Military

Please pray for our military personnel and their families.

Eric Peperissa (Son of Nancy and Ken Peperissa, in Qatar)
 379 ECES/CEF
 APO, AE 09309

Christian Education

“Only a boy named David, only a little sling.
 Only a boy named David, but he could pray and sing.
 Only a boy named David, only a rippling brook.
 Only a boy named David, but five smooth stones he took.
 And one little stone went in the sling and the sling went round and round. (repeat)
 And round and round and round and round and round and round and round.
 And hit the giant in the head and the giant came tumbling down.”

The Early Childhood Sunday School class is on its second page of stickers for attendance! Adrien, Emily, Hank and Harvey have received prizes for attending their first five classes, and another prize will be earned soon!

The Toddler class has been playing in sand (build your house on the rock!), painting pumpkins, and generally making a mess – but it's all GOOD! Many thanks to Jude Blodgett for her enthusiasm, and for preparing wonderful projects that the children love.

Tabitha Gregoire now has a telephone in the Children's Center, so parents can call her, and she can call them. This is a safety feature, as well as for parent convenience.

The children continue to bless the congregation during the first part of the Worship Service, and will be part of the Christmas Eve pageant. They are hoping adults will join them, so start thinking about what character you want to play!

Adult Bible Study

“Revelation!” here we come. The Adult Bible Study, taught by Lloyd Wiley, finished the book of Ephesians in November, and has chosen Revelation as its next book. It will be taught from a covenantal perspective, rather than dispensational. If you have wondered what some of those strange creatures stand for, join the Early Birds at 9:00 on Sunday morning for coffee and conversation.

Christian Education Committee

Buy 2011 calendars for Christmas presents, and support the tuition for young people to go to Camp Sentinel next summer!

The Christian Education closet has been re-organized, and is well-stocked with craft materials. The children are truly blessed to have so many materials, books, and willing teachers!

Property Committee Had Another Busy Month

We had a few tense moments when the Sanctuary heat would not come on, but Larry Blodgett got the pump to turn again, a new, simpler thermostat was installed, and now all is well. The Property Committee will determine the temperature necessary to keep costs down, but maintain comfort. If you have concerns about the temperature in any part of the building, speak to one of them. The Parlor also has a new thermostat because the old one was behaving poorly. New exit lights were installed that work when the power goes off; more will be added soon to comply with Fire Department requirements.

Many thanks to the people who have stepped up to take on a cleaning task in our church! Without a sexton, it is a really big help for the Property Committee.

At its November meeting the Property Committee conducted a "key sorting." The spare keys are now housed in the Church Office. If you need a key, speak to Ken Hanson.

Church Cleaning

If you come to the Church building regularly during the week, you might think about signing up for a cleaning chore. See the list on the bulletin board at the back entry.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the 41 individuals (28 giving units) that have made their pledges to UCP for 2011.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Anyone who wishes to do so may supply their own poinsettia for the altar during the month of December. If you would like your contribution listed in loving memory, or in honor of, a specific person or family, please contact Nancy Jackson at the Church office and it will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias will not be ordered from a florist this year.

Music Committee

The Choir is looking for ways to bring cheer to the Community Kitchen as the weather turns to the cold and gray of New Hampshire winter. An after-dinner caroling session is being planned for a Wednesday in December.

Sing-alongs after the holiday season have also been suggested.

The piano in Fellowship Hall is tuned, thanks to two donations for that purpose. The piano is ready for Connie LaRosa to perform her magic.

Did you know that Ruth Nichols plays the clarinet? The best kept secret came out when Dariana Greenleaf brought her clarinet. B flat books were purchased, and the two clarinetists are blessing our congregation with uplifting music! We will get extra joy out of Chris Rodgers' drumming in December, because he is taking the month of January off.

Many thanks to the Choir and our wonderful accompanist, Connie LaRosa, for their hours of practice so they can lead the congregation in worship. "We are so blessed!"

The Fair

As usual the Women's Guild outdid itself by hosting a beautiful holiday fair complete with craft items, jewelry, delicious food, baked goods, the white elephant table, and Santa Claus. Connie LaRosa provided Christmas music throughout the day, and an impromptu group sang. A good time was had by all.

Nominating Committee

This is the time of year when we are reminded that every member has a mission. The Nominating Committee is considering people to nominate for offices that begin January 1, 2011. This is a good time to pray that the Holy Spirit will show each person what they should or should not be doing to minister to the Church this next year. Contact Lee Ann Woody or Karen Weeden if you would like to be involved.

Membership Orientation

A series of four orientations was held in November for those considering membership. Ken Marshall was the guest speaker at one class, since he grew up attending church in this building.

Missions and Outreach on Some Missions

Thank you, Thank you! For Pantry Donations

- ?? The 8th grade class at **Merrimack Valley Middle School** collected six boxes of canned goods during a food drive for the Food Pantry.
- ?? A truck from the **Concord State Prison** stopped by on a busy Monday morning and offered 9 large bags of a variety of squash. This unexpected harvest bounty was shared with local residents during Community Kitchen and the Food Pantry.
- ?? Throughout the summer, **Ken Marshall** has provided fresh tomatoes, zucchini, squash and corn to the Pantry and Community Kitchen along with the veggies he shares with the congregation. This fall he continued his generous donations with squash for the Pantry and Thanksgiving baskets.
- ?? Staff from the **Penacook Family Physicians** decided to support a local group this Thanksgiving and collected ten bags of food for the Pantry.
- ?? Many others continue to drop off non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. We extend a "thank you" to all of you as we meet the increasing needs of our neighbors.

Scouting for Food

On November 13th, our local **Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts** participated in the Scouting for Food event. The Food Pantry and Community Kitchen will share the 26 boxes of food. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy endeavor. A special thank you goes to the Scouts and their families who collected all the food, brought it to the National Guard Armory to be sorted and boxed for distribution to food pantries and community kitchens like ours all over the state.

Become a Christmas Angel

The green felt tree, loaded with Christmas gift wishes for local children, is in the Narthex. Can you please find it in your heart to take a tag (or 2 or 3)? Help a child in our community have a Merry Christmas. Unwrapped gifts need to be back at the church by Sunday, December 12th so the Committee can prepare for the gift pickup by parents. Prayerfully consider being a "Christmas Angel." You will get back so much more than you give!

Your Old Eyeglasses

You drop your old pair of eyeglasses into the container in the Narthex - did you ever wonder what happens to them? Your used eyeglasses are brought to Lenscrafters where they are cheerfully taken and added to a collection of other used eyeglasses. Lenscrafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical, Target Optical and participating independent practitioners are part of OneSight. OneSight is a family of charitable programs dedicated to improving vision through outreach, research and education. Since 1988, OneSight has helped millions see their world more clearly and donated millions to support, research, and education.

OneSight volunteers will clean, repair, recycle and hand-deliver your glasses during a Global Clinic. Two million pairs of recycled glasses are needed each year to supply the Global Clinics. 250 million people worldwide suffer from poor vision. Your used glasses will help someone have a better outlook on life! Volunteers travel to developing countries to hand-deliver much-needed, free eye care and recycled eyewear through organized Optical Clinics.

To learn more about OneSight and participation opportunities, visit www.onesight.com or call 1-888-935-4589.

From "My Turn" in the Concord Monitor

"I would ask everyone to consider this: Visit the small church in your town, and if it is open to serve all in need, and has a good feel about it, please consider supporting its service to all who need it. Think of it as your insurance for spiritual matters when you need it in crisis or a serious event. If you pay us a 'premium' so we can exist and provide the service we're committed to, we'll be there when you need us." (Margaret Venator, Dunbarton)

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to **David Anderson** who was inducted into the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association's Hall of Fame one Sunday in November. He has coached 41 years, at four schools, two sports, two state championships, and a major leaguer. (Concord Monitor)

Congratulations to **Cheryl Rodgers** who was named Foster Parent of the Year.

(Continued on page 6)

From **Nancy Brochu**: Al and I will not be sending out Christmas cards this year. The cards and stamps are costly. We decided, like last year, to donate the money to charity. May God bring you many blessings in the New Year. Merry Christmas, Nancy and Al Brochu



December Birthdays

12/06	Tracy Crague
12/07	Bob Lyford
12/14	Trevor Tatham
12/16	David Staples
12/20	Marie Durant
12/23	Lillian Cilley
12/23	Nancy Brochu
12/26	Virginia Mattice
12/31	David Anderson

Book Group

The Book Group discussed the book Joshua and then watched the movie. They are now reading Prayer of Jabez, a short book that can be read in less than an hour, or better yet, ten minutes a day for one week. They will discuss it the first Monday in December. Come and join!

Birthday Party for Agnes Marshall

Yes, she was surprised! Family and friends gathered in the Fellowship Hall to wish her well on her 90th birthday. Many happy memories were shared.

News and Notes for The Spire

Have you noticed The Spire keeps changing. Pastor Lori and Lynne Raleigh have been experimenting each month with layout and writing/reporting styles. We are open to suggestions and requests!

To reduce copying and mailing costs, the list of recipients has been reduced. Most will receive their Spire at church the Sunday before the first of the month. A few copies will be mailed to those who can't make it to worship services. Others will be delivered by relatives, friends, neighbors or deacons. You may be asked to drop off copies to those who live near you. Those living in other areas of the country will get a monthly email to check the UCP website where a Spire archive is available.

The deadline for the January Spire is **December 17**. Email information to lcrdesigned@msn.com or provide copy to Lynne Raleigh.

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	2 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	3 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	4 5:00 pm Public Supper and Christmas Sing-a-long
5 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Prayer Service**	6 3:00 pm Property Comm 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 7:00 pm Book Group	7 9:30 am Food Pantry 10:00 am Lazy Kates Spinning Grp 6:30 pm Pack 83 Committee 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	9	10 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	11
12 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Annual Meeting 5:30 pm Prayer Service 6:00 pm Bible Read/Disc Kids' Gifts Due	13 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	14 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 4:30 pm Christian Ed	15 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting 7:00 pm Finance Comm.	16 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	17 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 7:00 pm Cubs Scouts Spire Deadline	18
19 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Prayer Service 6:00 pm Sisters in Fellowship	20 4:30 pm Community Kitchen No Church Council	21 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	23	24 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm Pageant costumes 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!
26 10:30 am Worship	27 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	28 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Prayer List Deadline	29 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	30	31 4:30 pm Community Kitchen New Years Eve Party	Happy New Year!

**First Sunday prayer service is done by conference call only

**The United Church of Penacook
PO Box 6178
21 Merrimack Street
Penacook, NH 03303**

Return Service Requested



The Spire

United Church of Penacook

American Baptist Churches of Vermont/New Hampshire
United Church of Christ of New Hampshire

PO Box 6178, 21 Merrimack Street
Penacook, NH 03303

Disability Accessible

Fall/Winter Hours: 9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

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December 2010