

R  
E  
V  
E  
L  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N  
!

“The Lord has more light and truth yet to break forth out of God’s Holy Word.” John Robinson

“This day is a new day that has never been before.  
This year is a New Year, the opening door.”

*Grace and peace from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come, from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the commander of all the rulers of the world. (Revelation 1:1)*

Revelation is our theme for 2011. What is Revelation? It’s a book in the Bible, the last book. It was a vision Jesus Christ gave John, a vision for the churches.

If someone says, “I had a revelation!” what does that mean? Enlightenment, seeing new things, understanding things not understood before.

If someone says, “I looked up and had a revelation,” what does that mean? Revelation means **discovery**. Astronomers think they have discovered a new planet. What light and truth will we discover in God’s Holy Word this year?

If someone said, “That study is revealing,” they mean that information has been **uncovered**, the cover was removed, a veil or curtain has been opened, what was hidden or concealed is now revealed for all to see.

If someone said, “I revealed to my friend my deepest thoughts,” what does that mean? Revelation is telling, communicating, letting others know important truths like God’s plan for our world.

Paul said he was commissioned by God to present the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. “The glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.” (Colossians 1:25-27) This is the secret we are going to make public, to open up to view, to put on display, to tell others. This is the revelation that has been shown by God to us.

Let us each ask for revelation this year, for new insights and understandings, discoveries, better and more effective ways to communicate, to reveal to the public the glorious riches of Christ Jesus.

Let us pray that we will be given a clearer revelation of God’s plan – something new from God’s Holy Word – more light and truth, breaking forth!

We are on the path of revelation, adventure, discovery in 2011.

There was a man who decided to take up hunting. He found deer tracks and followed them all day. He followed the tracks all right, but in the wrong direction, getting farther and farther away from the deer. We want to read the signs, follow the tracks, and head in the right direction through Revelation in 2011.

Pastor Lori Wiley

## A Life Remembered

June B. Brindley, 86, went home to be with her Lord on December 30, 2010 at her home on Tanner Street in Penacook.

Born in 1924 in Cambridge, MA, she was the daughter of Henry and Marguerite (Coburn) Dolliver. She graduated from Belmont High School in Belmont MA with the Class of 1942. After high school, June attended the Cambridge Hospital-Mount Auburn School of Nursing and graduated in 1945.

She worked as a registered nurse at the Osteopathic Hospital in Philadelphia, prior to moving to Kensington CONN, and did per diem work for the Hartford Hospital and the New Britain Hospital, as well as several area nursing homes in the Kensington area, until her retirement to New Hampshire in 1994.

June was a member of this church and very active in the Women's Guild, serving as Treasurer, leading the Monday morning Craft group, serving on the Music Committee, and generally making everyone feel at home and welcomed. She was truly a friend to all, and we are going to miss her.

Her husband of 56 years, William, died in 2000, as did her sister Elisabeth Carlisle, who was 7 years older. June raised a family of two sons, Richard and Carl, and three daughters, JoAnn, Pamela, and Barbara. She had 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Many members of the Church family talked with June the day before she passed on. She was so happy to have members of her family come to the Christmas Eve service, and her son, Carl, a vice-principal in Maryland, sang "O Holy Night" as a surprise for her. June knew how to look on the bright side of life, to bring out the best in people, to accept everyone for the good she saw in them. In many ways she lived a hard life, but you would not know it if you talked with her. She had the ability to be pleased over good things happening, and to show pleasure over happy things.

She was a warm and hospitable hostess, having people come to visit her on Tanner Street. Her home was a lovely sanctuary filled with beautiful things she had picked up yard-saling. A nature lover, she had woodpeckers outside her window, and her own bird sanctuary.

*New occasions teach new duties;  
Time makes ancient good uncouth;  
They must upward still, and onward,  
Who would keep abreast of Truth.  
Lo, before us gleam her camp-fires!  
We ourselves must Pilgrims be,  
Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly  
Through the desperate winter sea,  
Nor attempt the Future's portal  
With the Past's blood-rusted key.*

(James Russell Lowell)

*To be effective in ministry...requires that both pastor and congregation truly struggle to discern what's working and what's not, what needs to be added, and what has to be retired to make room for God's new vision for ministry.*  
(Jill Hudson)

*Maintaining the status quo is not a viable option for the future of the churches. Just surviving is a drag, and everybody feels the weight. Doing something new is invigorating and enlivening. The church can ignite a **fire of renewal**. We have something to teach, even as we open ourselves to new learning. Everything can change for the better if it is Spirit-led and Spirit fed.*

*The sacred cows of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, we must think anew.* (Steven Berry)

Revelation begins with an evaluation of the churches, a description of what they are doing well, and where they need to improve. Revelation ends with a great marriage feast, Jesus to his Bride, the Church. The Church is described as a bride without spot or wrinkle or blemish of any kind.

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and will present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." This is what the Church will look like to Jesus at the end of the world. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

EVALUATION based on the LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Revelation 2, 3

Score your church on a scale of 0 to 3, 0 being "not at all" and 3 being "very well." Write the number in the box.  
Write your own score in the small box.

- \_\_ 1. I have seen your **hard work**. (*service*) Do people in this church work hard? (Ephesus)
- \_\_ 2. Your **patient endurance** (also Thyatira). "Because you have *obeyed my command to persevere*." (Philadelphia) Do you see patient endurance and perseverance in this church?
- \_\_ 3. You have *patiently suffered* for me **without quitting**. "I know about your suffering. Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. *Remain faithful* even when facing death." (Smyrna) Are people in this church remaining faithful, without quitting, even when they go through tough times?
- \_\_ 4. **Endure slander**. I know the slander of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they really aren't because theirs is a synagogue of Satan. (Pergamum) Has this church had to endure slander?
- \_\_ 5. **Remain loyal**. "I know that you live in the city where that great throne of Satan is located, and yet you have *remained loyal* to me. And you *refused to deny* me. Is the church being loyal to Jesus?"
- \_\_ 6. **Hold on to what you have**, hold to it firmly, so that no one will take away your crown. (Thyatira). I will ask nothing more of you except that you hold tightly to what *you have* until I come. Hold onto your faith. Is the church holding on to what it has? What does the church have that needs to be held onto tightly?
- \_\_ 7. **Hate immoral deeds**: I know you *don't tolerate evil* people. There is this about you that is good: You *hate the deeds of the immoral* Nicolaitans who are among you, just as I do. And yet I have a few complaints against you. *You tolerate some* among you who are like Balaam... who taught God's people to commit sexual sin. Repent. Has this church taken a stand against sexual immorality?
- \_\_ 8. **Examine the claims** of false leaders. You have *examined the claims* of those who say they are apostles [church leaders] but are not, who have followed this false teaching ('deeper truths,' as they call them--depths of Satan, really). You have discovered they are liars. Has this church examined its leaders for honesty and integrity?
- \_\_ 9. Keep your **first love**: But I have this complaint against you. You don't love each other and me as you did at first! Look how far you have *fallen from your first love*! Turn back to me again and work as you did at first. *Go back* to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly and turn to me again. (Sardis) "I know all the things you do--your *love*." Does this church show love? How? (Laodicea)
- \_\_ 10. **Passionate Faith**: "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth! Be diligent *and turn from your indifference*." (Sardis) Are we passionate about our faith?
- \_\_ 11. **Be alive** spiritually!: "I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive--but you are *dead*. Now wake up! *Strengthen* what little remains, for even what is left is at the point of death. (Philadelphia) How alive are we spiritually?"
- \_\_ 12. **Obey the Bible**. You have little strength, yet you *obeyed my word*. Are we obeying God's Word?
- \_\_ 13. **Do the right thing**: Your *deeds are far from right* in the sight of God. Yet even in Sardis there are some who have not soiled their garments with evil deeds. (Laodicea) Rev 19:8 "The fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Are we taking care of our mistakes and things we have done wrong?
- \_\_ 14. **Embrace God's values**. You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that *you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked*. I advise you to buy gold from me--gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. And also buy white garments so you will not be shamed by your nakedness. Store treasure in heaven: I know about your *poverty*--but you are rich! (Thyatira) Are we rich spiritually?
- \_\_ 15. Have **eyes to see** spiritual things. "Buy ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone I love." (Smyrna) How well do we see the issues? Have we received correction from Jesus Christ?
- \_\_ 16. I can see your **constant improvement** in all these things. Are we improving?

\_\_\_\_\_ Total for Church      \_\_\_\_\_ Total for Self      GOALS FOR 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

## What's Happening at UCP?

- Worship Service has moved to the Fellowship Hall until Palm Sunday. Thanks to the hard work of the Boy Scouts, Poppi Tong, Art Bigelow, Fran Temple, and many others, the Fellowship Hall has received a facelift!
  - More and more people come to the Food Pantry, which is presently well-stocked. Food Pantry served 52 families for a total of 142 people in November. In December 33 families were served for a total of 74 people.
  - More and more people come to the Open Door Community Kitchen, and they stay longer, to chat and visit. The Kitchen served 286 people during 13 serving days in December and 294 people during 14 days in January.
  - We said Good bye to Nancy Jackson, Church Secretary for 16 years.
  - New computer systems are in place, thanks to donations and the skilled work of Bob Fletcher.
  - UCP has a new Bookkeeper, Sandi Flanagan. Sandi is skilled with computer entries on QuickBooks, and has years of experience working with churches.
  - All financial records are now kept at the Church in secured locations.
  - The Parsonage has been SOLD, and the money was used to pay back funds that were designated for specific projects. Many thanks to the Parsonage Sale Team, Alice Colby, Chair; Ken Hanson, and Elizabeth Blanchard, for the many hours they spent working with Jen Nolan, Realtor with Century 21. God was good to make the sale go through in good time.
  - UCP has opened a new account specifically for designated funds such as the attic insulation to conserve energy, new bathroom on the Sanctuary floor in the Narthex, and other Capital Improvement Funds.
  - A Bathroom on the Sanctuary Floor in the Narthex is being planned. Bids have been received and we await approval from the City of Concord.
  - Church Council, at its January meeting, approved a contractor for the attic insulation to begin soon. The bid was \$6265.
  - A contractor is drawing plans to take to the Concord Code Department for the Sanctuary level bathroom. Please pray that this project moves along in a timely manner.
  - A stained glass window in the "Costume Room" was broken and a second damaged window was discovered. The repair process is under way.
  - Welcome to the new officers, board and committee members for 2011. May the work this year bear much fruit.
- In order to conserve energy during the winter months, all

activities and offices have been moved to the Fellowship Hall, and the heat has been turned down on the two other floors. The heating bill is \$1300-1700 per month.

- Pastor Lori Wiley has moved her office to the Fellowship Hall so as to be more accessible and to support the work of the Food Pantry and other activities of the Church, as well as to save on the cost of heating the middle floor.
- Walter Howard, who has given years of service on the sound system, has been granted a 10-week sabbatical while the Worship Services meet downstairs. Thank you, Walter, for your faithfulness. We hope you enjoy your break.
- Bulletins are available on the round table in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend on Sunday but wish to be kept up-to-date, pick up a bulletin when you are at the church during the week.
- Official papers of the Church have been moved from the Safety Deposit Box to a safe place on site, eliminating the need for signers and keeping track of keys, as well as the cost.
- **NOTICE CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** UCP *no longer has a post office box.* The new/old address is the street address: **21 Merrimack Street (without the post office box number).**
- We look forward to Scout Sunday, February 13, when we will welcome our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.
- Girl Scout cookies go on sale February 1. Contact Cheryl Stinson. Order forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall.
- Treasurer's Report for December:
 

Income:	\$10,064
Expenses:	\$6,861
- You may have noticed there was no January issue of The Spire. Boards and committees were forming during the first part of the month, and had not yet made their plans, so you are receiving a combined January/February issue.
- Attendance for December and January:
 

Dec 05:	65	Jan 02:	43
Dec 12:	56	Jan 09:	48
Dec 19:	69	Jan 16:	41
Dec 24:	119	Jan 23:	49
Dec 26:	50		

**Officers of Committees**

**Officers**

Moderator Robert Whitcher  
 Vice Moderator Tracy Craigue  
 Clerk Donna Rae Whitcher  
 Treasurer Kellee Easler  
 Financial Secretary David Anderson  
 Head Usher Nancy Brochu/Karen Weeden  
 Historian Heather Fletcher

Delegates UCC Lawrence Jones  
 Delegates ABC Tracy Craigue

**Diaconate**

Chair Tracy Craigue  
 Vice Chair Walter Howard  
 Secretary Bob Fletcher  
 Treasurer Ethel Furlong  
 Chaplain Tracy Craigue  
 Council Rep Ethel Furlong

Refreshments Summer  
 Meeting Last Sunday  
 1:00 pm

**Property**

Chair Larry Blodgett  
 Vice Chair Ken Hanson  
 Secretary Anita Hanson  
 Chaplain Lee Colby  
 Council Rep Larry Blodgett

Refreshments Fifth Sunday  
 Meeting First Sunday  
 1:00 pm

**Finance**

Chair Alice Colby  
 Secretary Ken Peperissa  
 Chaplain Alice Colby

Refreshments Third Sunday  
 Meeting Wednesday before Council  
 7:00 pm

**Christian Education**

Chair Shari Greenleaf  
 Secretary Cheryl Rodgers  
 Treasurer Cheryl Rodgers  
 Chaplain Shari Greenleaf  
 Council Rep Cheryl Rodgers

Refreshments Second Sunday  
 Meeting Second Monday  
 6:00 pm

**Nominating**

Chair Donna Rae Whitcher  
 Council Rep Anita Hanson  
 Chaplain Ethel Furlong

Meeting First Tuesday

**Music**

Chair Alice Greenleaf  
 Vice Chair Connie LaRosa  
 Secretary Alice Greenleaf  
 Chaplain Ruth Nichols

Refreshments Fourth Sunday  
 Meeting Second Wednesday after Choir

**Missions and Outreach**

Chair Nancy Pepperissa  
 Vice Chair Lynne Raleigh  
 Secretary Cheryl Stinson  
 Treasurer Lynne Raleigh  
 Chaplain Shelia Merrow  
 Council Rep Cheryl Stinson

Refreshments First Sunday  
 Meeting: Wednesday before Council  
 6:00 pm



### Birthdays in January and February

01/07	Leslie Durgin	01/24	Teagan Lavery	02/17	Clarabelle Hilyard
01/11	Andrea Stinson	01/25	Harry Vafides	02/23	Sandy Harvey
01/14	Donna Rae Whitcher	01/27	Jonathon Dorsey	02/28	Chris Rodgers
01/18	Winnie Howard	01/27	Sabrina Longver	02/28	Jerry Greenleaf
01/22	Thelma Heath	01/28	Lynne Raleigh		
01/23	Brittany Anderson				

### Special Greetings and Prayers

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

Mildred Otto, Merrimack County Nursing Home, 325 D.W. Highway, Boscawen, NH, 03303  
 Clarabelle Hilyard, 135 North Main Street, Apt 7B, Boscawen, NH, 03303  
 Mr. Donald Locke, 7385 School Street, Loudon, NH, 03307  
 Eben and Hazel Barnett, PO Box 6143, Penacook, NH, 03303

### Prayers for Military

Please pray for all military personnel and their families.

With great joy and prayers of thanks, Nancy and Ken Peperissa announced that their son, **Eric Peperissa**, has returned from Qatar and is once again stationed in North Dakota.

### To Council Reps to share with committee members and all church family and friends:

I, like many of you, enjoy the comfort of a well worn shoe. Over the past few years we at the United Church had been trying to do God's work but seemed to do nothing more than get ourselves deeper in problems. Well, the church is and has been undergoing many changes the past few months. Thanks to financial help from the ABC and their recommendation of hiring Pastor Lori, our church is fast becoming a hive of activity. Pastor Lori and her suggestions have certainly rocked my bed of comfort a bit and I'm sure you may feel the same, but she has stirred a breath of excitement here. Could it be the Holy Spirit? In order for our church to be a vital mission to this community and surrounding area, we need to work together just as Jesus instructed. Change is not always comfortable but with us working together along with Pastor Lori's guidance and plenty of patience, we'll be all the Lord wants us to be.

Prayerfully,  
 Rob Whitcher, Moderator

# February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am Food Pantry 10:00 am Lazy Kates Spinning Grp 6:30 pm Pack 83 Mtg 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	2 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	4 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	5 Blue & Gold Banquet Location TBD
6 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir practice 10:30 am Worship Fellowship** 1:00 pm Property Mtg 5:30 pm Prayer Service*	7 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	8 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Music Comm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	10	11 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	12 9:00 am Penacook Village Assoc Annual Meeting
13 <b>Scout Sunday</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 9:50 am Choir practice 10:30 am Worship Fellowship** 5:30 pm Prayer Service 6:00 pm Bible Reading	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:00 pm Christian Ed Mtg	15 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	16 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:00 pm Missions Mtg 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting 7:00 pm Finance Mtg	17 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	18 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	19
20 9:00 am Sunday School 9:50 am Choir practice 10:30 am Worship Fellowship** 5:30 pm Prayer Service 6:00 pm Sisters in Fellowship	21 <b>Presidents Day</b> 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Church Council	22 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	23 3:00 pm Choir 4:30 pm Community Kitchen 6:15 pm TOPS weigh-in 7:00 pm TOPS meeting	24	25 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	26
27 9:00 am Sunday School 9:50 am Choir practice 10:30 am Worship Fellowship** 1:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 5:30 pm Prayer Service 6:00 pm Bible Reading	28 4:30 pm Community Kitchen	<b>Prayer List Deadline</b>				

\* First Sunday Prayer Service by conference call only

\*\* Fellowship is immediately after the Worship Service

**The United Church of Penacook  
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

21 Merrimack Street  
Penacook, NH 03303

**Disability Accessible**

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

603-753-4072

[www.ucpnh.org](http://www.ucpnh.org)  
[ucpnh@ucpnh.comcastbiz.net](mailto:ucpnh@ucpnh.comcastbiz.net)

# **January / February 2011**