

THE NCC CALLER

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2018

NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

Upcoming Events

2/14 - 7PM Ash Wednesday Shared Service at Newington Town Church

3/11- 11-1pm Quarterly Meeting

4/14 - 2-7pm Prominence

4/15 - 12-7pm Prominence

5/13 - 3:30pm NCC Annual Golf Tournament @ Exeter Country Club

New Food Pantry Hours

The food pantry, located in the Fellowship Hall of the church, is no longer open on Saturdays. Our new hours are:

Thursday - 4:30-6:30pm

Friday - 10-12pm

New Thrift Shop Hours

The Newmarket Community Church Thrift Shop is located at 10 N. Main Street in Newmarket. The hours are:

Wednesday - 10-2pm

Thursday - 10-3pm

Friday - 10-2pm

Saturday - 12-2pm

For general questions or information on donating or volunteering please call 603-659-0607.

Reflections from Pastor Patty

God has filled my heart with a fresh expression of hospitality and love through my experiences on my most recent mission to Guatemala. Through working to build the foundation of a church for a small but mighty church family led primarily by women, I experienced love and generosity like never before from people who have very few worldly possessions. Every single member of the mission team was welcomed in and treated like family, no matter who we were, what we looked like, or how well we could do our assigned tasks. It was humbling to be the receiver of such a tremendous experience of love and welcome when we were on a mission trip and had charged ourselves with the responsibility to spread love! We went to serve, but we were served and provided an opportunity to learn so much about what it means to be welcoming and accepting.

I look forward to sharing more about this over the coming weeks in our worship time together, and I wanted to give you something to think about in the meantime about hospitality. When have you felt a significant sense of hospitality and love? What did it look like and feel like? Do you feel that you've been successful in showing that same level of hospitality and welcome to others in your personal life? In your work life? In your church life? If not, why not? What keeps you from doing so? If you're successful at offering that same level of extravagant hospitality that you have experienced and enjoyed enough to remember, how do you do it? I'd love to hear from you on this, particularly as we start our Lenten Journey towards Easter next week on February 14th - the day of Love! What a great day to remember that God loves you so much that you

Monday Morning Bible Explorers

Everyone is welcome to join an inspiration/devotional Bible Study each Monday at 11:30AM in the Pastor's office. You will find engaging conversation, a hot cup of coffee or tea, and encouragement for finding God in your every day life.

Cookies and Conversation

Join us each Monday from 1:30-3pm at the Terrace Room for this brand new bible explorers group. We will share our stories, explore our faith, and learn from one another... and eat cookies too!

Theology On Tap

This group meets at The Riverworks on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM for casual conversation focused on God and our faith. Join us for great food, good beer, and meaningful conversation.

Community Lunch

Each Friday at 12:30 the volunteers of NCC serve up a delicious meal to community members in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are graciously accepted and go towards continuing this service. All are welcome!

are provided with an opportunity to turn around and repent of your old ways that keep you from being fully present to and connected with God.

Whether you're thinking of fasting from something that gets in between you and God or feasting on that which can bring you closer to God, the point is to be *intentional* about moving closer to God. Here are a few ideas to consider:

Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion

Fast from greed, Feast on sharing

Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance

Fast from fear, Feast on peace

Fast from lies, Feast on truth

Fast from gossip, Feast on praise

Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience

Fast from evil, Feast on kindness

Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement

Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude

Fast from noise, Feast on silence

Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope

Fast from hatred, Feast on love

So, what will you embrace? How will you choose to live and work these next five weeks to bring you closer to God? You don't really have to answer this question aloud or tell anyone about what you are doing -- just do it! Think about how you might come out on the other side, not tired and worn down, but with a renewed sense of exactly what resurrection life is like - a fresh start, a life where the light does and will overcome the darkness. A life that really matters and sustains you through the darkness, sadness, grief, and despair. This journey we take each year towards Easter really does matter and really can make a difference in your life as you strive for the exact same thing we all strive for - to love and be loved. The secret is.....JESUS!

With Peace and Prayers,

Pastor Patty

Opening Our Doors to Serve

One of the many blessings we have at NCC is two beautiful campuses (137 Main St and 10 North Main St) in Newmarket. Over the past few years we've intentionally sought new ways to invite more people into our buildings and we have increased our hospitality in many ways. A few of our most recent outcomes of this focus effort are very exciting for our community and we'd like to share the news!

In the fall of 2017 the changes that we made in how the food pantry operates allowed us to create what is now known as The Granite Room. This new open space has allowed us to become the satellite location for Southern New Hampshire Services. Each Wednesday that space is used by people who apply for **heating assistance** in Newmarket and the surrounding towns. Prior to opening our doors, if people needed help they would have to drive to Raymond, Seabrook or Portsmouth, which isn't always an option for people struggling to make ends meet.

Beginning in February we will also serve as the local office for the **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program** which provides nutrition education and nutritious foods to help keep pregnant women, new mothers, infants and preschool children healthy and strong, as well as the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** which provides nutritious food resources to income eligible adults over 60. These programs, which is also run by Southern New Hampshire Services will operate in our building one Friday per month - again providing a local satellite location for Newmarket residents to ensure access to these support services is as easy as possible.

Beginning in June through August, we will partner with the **Newmarket Linked Together Summer Program** which provides child care for school aged children through sixth grade. This program, previously located at the school, needed a summer location due to the construction scheduled on our school buildings. The program will operate out of our building Monday through Friday for approximately seven weeks over July and August. We have worked out a schedule for this program such that all of our existing programs and groups which use our building will not be negatively impacted. We are thrilled to partner with Linked Together and have so many Newmarket families in our building this summer to experience our hospitality and wide welcome as we live out our faith in Jesus Christ with open doors, open minds, and open hearts!

News from our Trustees

As we put a close to 2017 the trustees are preparing for a successful 2018. We completed certain projects, started others, and continue to work on financial matters, including record keeping improvements. There is a lot to do before the end of our fiscal year!

The end of 2017 ended with a bang. Literally! If you have not been downstairs in a few weeks, we had an issue with our heating system that caused an expansion tank to fail. The failed tank flooded the downstairs classroom, Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall, and the elevator shaft. The damage was controlled rather quickly by the quick thinking of Mark Thomas who shut off the water supply to avoid further flooding. Trustee extraordinaire, Skip Manseau, quickly got the cleaning staff on site to dry out and start the long process of getting the place put back together.

The Trustees have filed an insurance claim on the accident and believe that the expenses related to this accident will be fully covered.

As we celebrated Christmas in the sanctuary, I hope you all had an opportunity to see the changes to the Choir loft. The changes were made to accommodate the needs of the choir and the Music Director as well as better utilize space in the sanctuary. The changes made seem to blend in well with the sanctuary as if the choir loft had always been there.

The winter weather impacts the church in many ways. The snow needs to be shoveled and moved. Ice, the nemesis of all mankind, is difficult to keep out of the driveways and walk ways and we have sand on each exit. So, be careful, and if need be, throw some sand out on the stoop if it needs it, or notify one of the trustees so we can take care of it. The cold also impacts us. The Tennant Building at 10 North Main Street has been winterized; however, the new thrift shop remains open. As such, we are exploring heating options for the basement, where our volunteer staff do a lot of the sorting and prep work.

As the trustee start looking at 2018, we start looking at our future too. The site assessment by NH Timber Restoration of the Tenant property at 10 North Main Street, and the church building downtown was conducted in late December as part of our grant from the NH Preservation Society. The trustees hope to see a report early in 2018. The report will allow the Trustees to prioritize and plan for fixing and maintaining our properties. It will be a useful tool for our budget for years to come. And speaking of budgets, the trustees will start to put together our budgets for the upcoming year. We are currently running a deficit of approximately \$10K in the first half of our Fiscal year (June to December). We anticipated a budget loss of approximately \$24K in June 2017. However, heat is expensive and is often a budget buster for churches and this year will be no different, especially given the prolonged cold snap in December and in January. We will need to close this gap as we cannot continue to run our finances in deficits into perpetuity. Please thoughtfully consider increasing your giving so that we can continue to be the Hands and Feet of God in Newmarket.

We look forward to a great 2018 and wish our church family good tidings.

Cordially

Dan Bilodeau

On behalf of the Trustees: Skip Manseau, Tim Dempsey, Jim Marsden, and Steve Cook.

Worship Team Update

We strive to create a positive worship environment where everyone can find a home, feel the presence of God and be inspired by the Spirit.

The worship team continues to work together to create a worship experience each Sunday morning where all feel welcomed and find a safe place to feel the presence of God and worship God. Our series **Angels Among Us** was both fun and inspirational with our wide variety of angels from bikers to news reporters we expressed that angel's really do come in all shapes and sizes and I think we got our point across - with a few laughs too! The 5 PM Christmas Eve service had the largest attendance we've seen in many many years, tipping towards 200 people!

It was WONDERFUL to have so many people at worship and overall the feedback from the service was very positive. We still reviewed the service carefully as a team, however, and found ways we can and will improve the Christmas Eve experiences next year to include more congregational singing of well known, much loved Christmas carols and also we're going to continue making A/V improvements to eliminate disruption during services.

Lent starts on February 14th, ending with Easter Sunday on April 1st! Funny dates this year, Lent starting on Valentine's Day and Easter on April Fool's Day, we are sure to have some fun with all of that! Each year we share our Ash Wednesday Service with Newfields and Newington Churches and this year the service is hosted by the AME Zion Church in Newington at the Newington Town Church at 7PM. Our Lenten season series is called **Listen** which will provide us with new opportunities to listen more closely to God and deepen our relationship with God in the process. We will continue with our annual Maundy Thursday service, prayer vigil led by Marilyn Allen, Easter morning Sunrise Service, breakfast and the 10 AM service. In addition, Pastor Patty is leading a Lenten Small Group series which will meet for 5 Tuesday evenings beginning February 20 at 6:30 PM. This group will explore prayer and take on a 40 day prayer challenge together!

Sunday worship is vitally important and an area we are constantly focused on for continued growth and improvement. If you would like to join this team, help out in anyway at all in the worship experience, or if you have new ideas and/or suggestions for improvement, please let us know! We would really love to hear from you.

Peacefully,

Pastor Patty

On Behalf of the Worship Team: John Allen, Mary Burson, Ron Orcutt, Colin White, Meagan Maganti, Venus Folsom

Deacon Team Update

This past fall the deacons were been involved with a luncheon bible study, prayer chain requests, Theology on Tap, giving rides to those in need, visitations, support for the new member class and community support. We also held two Prayer services after a tragedy had happened in our country.

This winter Pastor Patty and Mary Burson are leading a small Bible Explorers group called the Cookie and Conversation Club at the Terrace Room on Gordon Ave. We are looking forward to sharing our faith with others in the community by going out into the community to share our faith. Pastor Patty also continues to have her Monday morning Bible Explorers group which meets at 11:30 am. Please remember that everyone is welcome to these groups and you can just drop in whenever it works for you!

At our monthly meetings, each Deacon is leading communion and for some of us, this is the first time we have ever done this. Everyone has served communion in a meaningful way, introducing us to new ways to experience this sacrament. It has been a wonderful experience for all of us, Thank you Deacons!

We continue to provide services at The Pines where Steve Case and Mary Burson sing with the residents. If you would like to join us at any time, please let us know, we'd love to have more people come along!

The Deacons are here to provide any help, spiritual and other, that is needed. If you or someone you know may be in need of a shoulder, a prayer, a listening ear, or help with anything at all, please let us know how we can help you!

In Your Service,

Mary Burson

On behalf of the Deacons: Steve Case, Kate Heidt, John Decker, John Allen, Deb Grochmal, Leslie Ann Guilbault, and Bill Beddie.

Praying for Immigrants in NH

Recently we received a request from the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) to consider taking part in the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network as a result of the Resolution of Christian Witness which was approved at the October, 2017 NH UCC Annual Meeting. To find out more about the resolution, you can click here: <https://www.nhcucc.org/uploads/documents/weekly-news-documents/Resolution%20-%20Immigration.pdf>

The Deacons are researching more about this opportunity including reviewing the resolution, the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network, and all other pertinent information to find out more about what taking part really means for NCC. The Deacons will host opportunities for our church family to come together to learn more about this opportunity and determine what participation would look like and mean for our church family. While there is more work to do to determine what it all means, the Deacons have immediately determined that we will take part in this initiative in our prayers, praying for those men, women, and children who are struggling to find safety and security and who are seeking asylum from war torn places where their lives and liberty are at risk.

If you are interested in joining the Deacons in this work, research, and prayerful reflection, please let us know! More information on opportunities for discussion on this topic will be communicated broadly for all to participate!

News from Missions Board

It was a busy 4th quarter for the Missions Board with so many great accomplishments for NCC!

The **food pantry** went through an additional transition to be open Thursday evenings and Friday mornings, no longer opening Saturday mornings. This has been a welcome change for our clients and volunteers. As always, volunteers and food donations are welcome!

The **thrift shop** has been seeing an increase in customers and the coat sale raised over \$6,000 for NCC. The thrift shop is now open 4 days per week, Wednesday – Saturday. If you would like to volunteer in the thrift shop or have donations, please let us know.

The 2nd annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** was held at NCC with the Tailions serving as our chefs again this year. A delicious pasta and meatballs dinner was enjoyed by 70 people. Thank you to the Newmarket High School Interact Club for their support of this event and to all of you who participated and allowed us to thank you for your service through the church for the whole Newmarket Community.

Thanksgiving turkey baskets were provided to over 60 families with church members and friends providing the fixings for delicious meals. We also participated in the Lamprey Health Care program for providing **Christmas gifts and meals** for families in our community.

A team of members and friends of NCC, Stratham Community Church and Eliot United Methodist Church headed to **Guatemala** January 20th to work with **One Heart Mission** in the local communities recovering from the 2017 earthquake. Another mission trip to Houston, TX is planned for April 2018 to aid victims of Hurricane Harvey.

We held a 2018 planning sessions to outline our work and focus areas for 2018. One area we would like to improve visibility is with our support for our sister church in **Zimbabwe**; watch for news in the near future. Planning is already underway for **Seacoast Family Promise** program; NCC will host 2 weeks again in 2018.

We continue to partner with the **End 68 Hours of Hunger Program** and the **Salvation Army food kitchen**, as well as sponsor a free **Friday community luncheon** open to all (donations welcome!).

Thank you for your continued support to our many Newmarket, Community, and Global missions activities. We welcome all you prayers and assistance.

Peace and Shalom,

Cindy Hibert

On Behalf of the Board of Missions: Marilyn Allen, Marcia Wilson, Karen Bishop, Kim Jenlink, Addie Tarbell and Kat Murphy

NCC's Annual Golf Tournament

Save the Date! NCC will be hosting the Annual Golf Tournament on **May 13, 2018 at 3:30pm**. We are excited to announce that the tournament will be held at a new location this year; the Exeter Country Club! This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, so if you have friends or family that love to golf, please invite them. The day includes 9 holes, a meal, and lots of raffles. We hope to see you there!

Prominence

The prom season is an exciting time for high school students but can also be extremely stressful. The price of prom tickets, getting hair and nails done, and of course the dress, can be a huge burden for some students. In an effort to alleviate some of this financial burden, NCC will be hosting Prominence, an event to help Exeter and Newmarket Girls find beautiful prom dresses at no cost while benefiting local causes. The event will take place on **Saturday, April 14th 2-7pm and Sunday, April 15th 12-7pm**. Prom should be a fun and memorable time for all, and we hope by providing these free prom dresses we can help students who might not attend prom for financial reasons have the beautiful prom night they deserve.