

VILLAGE SPIRE

June 2018



Retirement Celebration

(Last call to RSVP!)



Please plan to join in a celebration of Pastor Dick's retirement at Labelle Winery on Tuesday, June 12 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. A cocktail reception will begin at 5:30, followed by dinner and a time for remembrances at 6:30. Tickets are \$40 per person, and a vegetarian meal is an option. Seating is limited, so please reserve your place by contacting Andrea in the church office, or by going to our website www.ccamherst.org before June 1. This promises to be a special night. Don't miss it!

VIDEO TRIBUTE: As Pastor Dick retires, many people would like to wish him well. We are compiling a video tribute of messages for him that will be shown at his retirement party. If you would like to contribute, please record a short video -- 10 seconds or less -- on your phone or other device and email to revretires@gmail.com. Please submit your video by June 6.

Getting Outside Your Comfort Zone

An Interview with the Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip Volunteers

By Jeanne Neverisky

"There were lots of spiders." That's one thing Connor Lindsey remembers about his first day on the job of his first youth mission trip last year. He was lying in a crawl space underneath a trailer home for seven hours, installing insulation in the Miami heat. It was probably the hardest work he's ever done—demanding work by anyone's definition. But he's coming back for more this year because he knows he's helping people who really need and appreciate the improvement to their living space or life. That and making connections there, and friends.

"I'm looking forward to bonding with my friends...while doing work that's meaningful," Kate Lindsey, Emma Doherty and Ellie Allen agree. That's a combination that's hard to beat. It seemed a common theme when I had a chance to meet with this sincere and upbeat group last week. They value the exchange—helping, getting to know folks from completely different walks of life, and they definitely value the friendships they have in the CCA-SHYG. They'll be camping in the church, bringing sleeping bags and making their own food.

Each day will be different for the youth that are going down to DOOR in Miami, Florida this June. One day preparing meals at a soup kitchen, another day helping out at an inner-city homeless organization; the next perhaps harvesting vegetables from the farm or visiting with seniors at the senior center. Each day, talking with the people that they are serving, getting to know a little more about them, and perhaps sharing a little about themselves.

As they go from place to place each day, changing their destination and workplace, they'll be taking public transportation, the same way the people they are serving have to get around in order to access the various services they need. This year they are very much hoping to meet the people that they're helping more often. On other trips they weren't always able to see or meet the people that they were helping out.

"Getting outside your comfort zone" is what Pastor Maureen describes it as and it sounds like our youth thrive on just that.

20 dedicated youth are going on the trip, along with 6 (also dedicated!) adult chaperons, June 17-23.



2017 SHYG mission trip participants

VILLAGE SPIRE

A Parish Newsletter
Editor, Andrea Cyr

The Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
11 Church Street
Amherst, NH 03031

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Church school and nursery care available.

How to reach us:
Office Phone (603) 673-3231
www.ccamherst.org
[Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst)

The church office
is open Monday–Friday,
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Send in all news by the
15th of the month.

Announcements
for the Sunday bulletins
are due Thursdays.

OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Richard G. Leavitt
Senior Pastor
revlev@ccamherst.org

Maureen R. Frescott
Associate Pastor
pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Andrea Cyr
Church Office Administrator
andrea@ccamherst.org

Sara L. Phelps
Director of Music
kalben1@comcast.net

Michael Havay
Organist
michaelh117@gmail.com

Wendy Valeri
Handbell Choir Director
wendyvaleri@tds.net

Marilyn Gibson
Church School Coordinator
mgibson@ccamherst.org

Church School News

Marilyn Gibson, Church School Coordinator

THANK YOU!

There are no words of thanks that can truly be printed or said to those who teach and volunteer their service to our church school children. Their talents and skills are bountiful, and their volunteerism is not a sacrifice to them, it is a gift. It would be greatly appreciated for you and your child to personally thank the our church school teachers Alison Batey, Leona Hendrickson, Maureen Minner, Larissa Riley and Sue Werst. Thank you also to our church school volunteers Obie Dart, Meredith Dart, Nye Hornor, Sue Manchester, Emma Pyles, Gretchen Pyles, Heather Stone and Marianne Stone.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In previous years when church school numbers were at their highest, we were able to create Vacation Bible School. However, with many families engaged in other summer time events, we are being creative. Recently I held a meeting of Christian formation ministries in our vestry, and the Hollis and Mont Vernon Congregational churches were generous to invite our children to their VBS programs. Last year, I and two children attended the Mont Vernon VBS, which was super.

So, in an effort to further nourish the faith of our children, please consider your child/children attending one or both of these VBS programs.

Vacation Bible School at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church, July 31 through August 4: Join our team of *Mountain Movers* as we explore the mighty faith it took to move the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Visit the Mont Vernon church's website to download your registration form: <http://montvernonchurch.org/childrens-ministry>. Any questions? Please contact Tanya Fox at the Mont Vernon Church.



Vacation Bible School at the Hollis Congregational Church, July 23 through July 26: *Fruits of the Spirit*. Each morning from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., children engage in worship, music, crafts, drama, games, dance, science experiments, outdoor activities, friends, snacks and lots of laughs! Children ages 4 through sixth grade are welcome to attend, with volunteer opportunities for youth entering seventh through twelfth grades to be assistants! Contact CE@hollischurch.org for more information.

HORTON CENTER SUMMER CAMP

Do you have children, grandchildren, or neighbors who struggle with the summer vacation plans for the little ones? Well, here is the invitation to bring the dilemma to an end. Horton Center is a truly rounded and grounded experience to dabble in.

Horton Center Getting Started Camp
July 15-18, 2018, for Campers Entering Grades 3-5

This is a special half-week camp for younger campers to experience all Horton Center has to offer. Come join Deans Amber Gove and Betty Applin and make new friends, play games, enjoy campfires, sing, run and worship in a new safe place where you can be your true self! Join us for the first time as we discover all the best of camp life on top of Pine Mountain.

There are other Horton Center camps for all ages too. Check out their website: www.hortoncenter.org.

The Big “R”

The Rev. Richard G. Leavitt, Senior Pastor
June 2018

Well, the Big R is approaching fast for me. And I'm very excited—mostly. Retirement is something of a finish line that we put out there at the beginning of our adult working life but hardly think about in emotional terms until it draws close. It hangs on a projected age and financial goal that impacts our career path in very real ways, but which doesn't change our rhythm much from day to day. Even when I first announced my plans to retire to all of you back in January, this date of July 15th felt very far away—whole seasons hence! Now, it is almost here! Yikes!

I imagine the first few weeks after that date in mid-July will feel a lot like summer vacation, with folks taking a break from the busy church year and me getting more time to pause and breathe, too. As usual, I'll have time for outdoor recreation, reading for pleasure, warmer weather to sit on my screen porch. Then after several months, it may feel like Sabbatical. Yes, those times are rich, offering opportunity to reflect, to re-tool, to live at a gentler pace. Maybe there will be some travel, a chance to visit friends, an opportunity to worship in different churches. By mid-autumn, I suspect the deeper reality will set in. What? You mean I don't have to report on my renewal and learning activities? I don't have to submit for continuing education funds? I don't have to plan a sermon series or write Spire articles? And I can keep doing this new thing indefinitely? (as long as finances allow, of course!) Wow! Wow?!

Still to process and accomplish before I leave you on July 15th is the administrative and institutional handoff. How can I help Maureen begin with a running start? What are the details she needs to know that I don't even think about anymore because they're instinctive, automatic, or part of my 14-year history as your senior pastor? What do the other staff members and the lay leadership need from me before I depart? How do I begin to clean out my desk and files that will not only declutter my life, but also transfer the knowledge to whomever needs to receive it? Will I ever need this resource again? Do I need to keep that?

Then there are the pastoral care transitions. Are there ongoing concerns that others need to know? I have a rich and storied history with so many of you. I have walked with you through illness, through the marriage of your daughter, the birth of your grandchild, the death of your spouse. I sat with you when you lost your job and panicked about the future, when your daughter went missing and your son was arrested for drugs. When the community was rocked by violence or tragedy, I met with you individually and collectively we wrestled with how to respond as people of faith. In the upheaval of shifting politics and changes in society and church, we have shared tears and joy, outrage and sighs, laughter and hope. How does God want us to respond to this latest change or new reality? What an honor and sacred privilege it has been to walk with you these past years!

While we are not immediately moving away from Amherst, both Debbie and I will be stepping away from the church to allow new leaders to form relationships and establish their own priorities and style. It will be difficult to say goodbye, but oh so important for both Debbie and me and for all of you to bring this chapter of our shared life to closure. We'll continue to see you out and about. We won't stop caring about you. We may even see you at a WA holiday fair, or the Fourth of July parade. But I will no longer be able to serve you as your pastor. How our friendship will be sorted out is yet to be revealed. And it is always a little bit tricky to navigate because sometimes the distinction between pastor and friend can get professionally blurry.

Know that I am thrilled about the prospect of doing less and breathing more deeply after retirement. At almost 65, I've been doing parish ministry for a long time, still strong but with less energy than I used to have. Debbie and I savor all kinds of possibilities in our less structured life ahead. But I know I will miss this sacred calling and my unique relationship with all of you. As a congregation, you have my blessing and encouragement going forward. I am confident you will have many exciting and wonderful new adventures ahead. Hopefully, you'll miss me a little bit, even as I will miss you! What has been and what will be are glorious indeed, and I give thanks to God for our time together. Blessings to all of you!

Grace and peace, love and prayers,

Dick

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Pastor Maureen, who has been named Acting Senior Pastor of this church beginning August 1, following Pastor Dick's retirement. In preparation for a congregational decision, the combined leadership team of Council and the Pastoral Relations Team organized six small group discussions and one open forum to help educate the membership on possible scenarios for pastoral transition as we move forward. Designating Maureen as the Acting Senior Pastor was selected overwhelmingly at the annual meeting on May 6. The term “Acting Senior Pastor” does not mean it is just a “temp” or “trial” position. It gives both the congregation and Maureen an intentional time to explore ministry together in a time of mutual discernment. A decision on whether to extend a settled call to Maureen and whether she will accept that call if offered will be made no later than our annual meeting next May. We will rely upon the Holy Spirit to help guide our discernment and our future as pastor and people.

Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the Congregational Church of Amherst will be called to order on Sunday, June 3, 2018 directly following worship. The meeting will be held in the community room. The purpose of this meeting is to ask the congregation to consider entering into a contract with, and approving the expenditure of \$28,000 for Full Harvest Fundraising, a professional capital campaign consulting company, to consult on a capital campaign for the Congregational Church of Amherst. The congregation will also be asked to approve the overall plan of the 3 year capital campaign as outlined at the meeting. Child care will be provided. Please plan on attending.

Summer Schedule



During the month of June our Sunday worship time remains at 10:00 a.m. For the Sundays in July and August our worship service begins at 9:00 a.m.

Our church office moves to its summer schedule beginning June 11: open Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and closed Saturdays through Tuesdays.

Our monthly newsletter takes a break for the month of July; articles to be published in the August *Spire* are due in to the church office by July 15.

Everyone Could Win!

"How?" you might ask – it's simple! Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket in the community room any Sunday after church and you could win one of ten prizes valued from \$500 to \$5,000. For each \$20 ticket sold, \$10 comes back to our church. As an added bonus, each ticket comes with a \$20 coupon valid at Giorgio's, a coupon for \$10 off a full-service oil change at Valvoline in Milford, \$100 coupon from Shattuck Paving, and a 15% discount at The Copy Shop (restrictions apply to all coupons, see ticket for details). An even bigger bonus: write the name of our church, instead of writing your name as the purchaser of the ticket and the church might, just might win the grand prize! This is a fundraising effort of the Milford Rotary Club in conjunction with 100 Holes of Golf in One Day.



Garden Flowers Wanted for the Altar

Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please call Anne Krantz (673-9684) to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

Welcome Our Newest Members.

We were blessed to welcome two new members to our church at our April 29 New Member Sunday service. Our new members are:



From left to right: Carol St Jean and Romi Krosch

Carol St Jean recently moved back to NH, settling in Amherst. She previously spent 17 years in Cary North Carolina, where she retired from a corporate position. Before moving to NC, she spent many years as a self employed artist in the Monadnock region of NH and on Cape Cod, working in clay and then hand painted silk scarves. Carol has stepped right in to church life, quickly joining and becoming an active member of the Woman's Association.

Rosmarie (Romi) Krosch has been attending church for many years and decided it was time to become an official member. Before retirement, she worked as a nursing administrator first in NYC for many years, followed by an 8 ½ year stint at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home. Romi has been a docent in many of the recent CAV tours and has been a friend of the Woman's Association since her mother Marie was a member.

Please say hello and welcome Carol and Romi when you see them in church.

Community Supper Needs Volunteers

Our next commitment at SHARE in Milford will be on Tuesday, June 5 for a spaghetti supper, serving from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Your help is needed with table set up, greeting, kitchen help, serving, clean up and dessert making. This is a great opportunity to serve your community.

If you can help, please contact Bob Miskelly at 554-8789 or robertmiskelly@comcast.net; or Bob Gibson at 672-7244 or gibson@myfairpoint.net.

SHARE Food Pantry

The SHARE Food Pantry continues to be busy. Please know your donations are needed and truly appreciated.

June Pantry Requests:
canned fruit,
flour, sugar,
boxed mixes and
baking supplies,
coffee and tea,
juice, granola



Donations may be left in the cupboard in the narthex, or in the marked containers near the community room. Thank you for your continuous support!

The Final Accounting of Moving the Meetinghouse: \$7,593.94

Anne Krantz, Historian

As explained in the *Spire* history article of May, *Raising and Rebuilding the Moved Meetinghouse*, the meetinghouse was on its new foundation across from the common by mid-August 1836. The rebuilding continued through the fall and the newly refurbished building was ready to be used in January 1837 when "it was again occupied by the society for Sunday services. The exercises on this occasion, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Silas Aiken, were appropriate and of a very interesting character." [Secomb's, pg. 248] Coincidentally, Rev. Aiken only preached a few weeks in the new church because he accepted a call to become the minister of Park Street Church in Boston. His contract was dissolved on February 28, 1837, just as the final finishing tasks were being completed. Surely his strong leadership played a major role in the successful completion of this historic project. While minister, (March 1829 to February 28, 1837) membership soared. During his seven-year ministry he admitted 209 new members; 79 joined in 1835 after a "revival."

The *Farmer's Cabinet* article on August 26, 1836 that describes the expert work of Nathan Call of Concord, who moved the building for \$86.25, also explained that it was to be "modernized." "It is to have a basement story for a town hall and a vestry, with a room above as a sanctuary of the Lord, where the people will assemble for his worship." Modernization in 1836 also meant that it would have a stove(s), as recorded in various receipts: stove 12.00 - Aaron Lawrence.

The Meeting House Committee to D Hartshorn included:

- for 374 lbs Ru? In Pipe at 18 cents per pound – 67.32
- for eighty two lb Sheet of iron – 11.42
- for fixing stoves etc. 1.50
- for two ash pans- 2.00

Expenses for the clock:

- for transporting the clock face from Milford to Amherst and work on clock face – 2.00
- for making numbers and painting them on – 1.00

All the expenses and payments were compiled in the final report of "Your Committee Appointed to Superintend the Moving and Repairing of the Meeting House make the following Report of the Receipts and expenditures" (see photo right)

This remarkable ledger document of 8 pages, 4 sheets of ledger paper sewn together with thread, is a meticulous accounting of every financial receipt and expenditure for the moving and rebuilding of the meetinghouse in 1836-37:

"By cash received as follows"—listing of 151 payments plus 32.59 collected in interest.

"Expenditures"—listing of 141 payments including four for pews in old House.

What is unclear is how it was determined how much each was to pay, and who paid. Because the expenses were for both the church portion of the house and the town owned parts like the clock, and the basement town meeting room, it appears that all town residents were invited to contribute or assessed a tax. Some names on the cash received list do not appear on our list of church members in the 250th manual of the church. And the name Charles Atherton, who left the church in 1824 to form a new church society (Unitarian) does NOT appear at all.

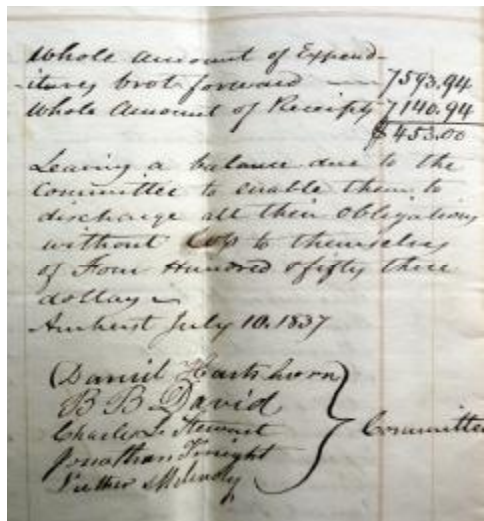
Two members of the committee, Jonathan Knight and Charles L. Stewart are not in our list of church members. Remember that Knight was the major contractor for the rebuilding at 2,300.

Here is the final tally (*second photo right*), the last page of ledger with final total and names of the committee members



Whole amount of Expenditures brought forward -----7593.94
 Whole amount of Receipts ----- 7140.94
 453.00

Leaving a balance due to the Committee to enable them to Discharge all their obligations Without costs to themselves Of four Hundred fifty three Dollars ----
 Amherst July 10, 1837



The Congregational Church
11 Church Street
Amherst, NH 03031

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Woman's Association
Fall Rummage Sale
Friday, October 5, 4:00—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.—noon

RUMMAGE WANTED!!!



Please leave rummage in WA work room
over the summer:
We need clothing for men, women,
children and babies—especially winter clothes.

Other popular items wanted include jewelry, antiques
and vintage items, collectables, toys, games, puzzles.
Also wanted are linens, table cloths, mats, towels,
clean bedding, curtains, small household items,
home decorations, dishes, glassware, kitchen utensils,
holiday décor, small tools & garden tools.

Please NO large sports equipment, electronics -
computers or TVs, car seats, large furniture or
appliances, bicycles, stuffed animals or textbooks.