

VILLAGE SPIRE

October 2018



Upcoming Pastoral Needs Assessment Discussions Planned

We're hoping you were able to join the launch of the Pastoral Needs Assessment study on Sunday, September 23. In case you missed it, please look for information that was sent to all members both electronically and by hard copy mail.

To continue the discussion, small group sessions have been scheduled throughout the month of October. Your opinions and wishes are critical to this process and we look forward to seeing you at one of the following sessions. Please sign up for the session most convenient to you following Sunday services in the community room:

- ◆ Sundays following services: 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, in the parlor.
- ◆ 2 week night options: Wed., 10/17, 6:30 p.m. in the parlor, or Tues., 10/23, 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room/library.
- ◆ Men's Group: Tuesday 10/9, 8:30 a.m. in the youth room.
- ◆ Woman's Association: Monday, 10/15, 12:00 p.m. in the vestry.



Our Time, Our Turn is Here!



Our 2018 Capital Campaign is in full swing! We have just celebrated the Kick-Off for *Our Time, Our Turn* and we are so excited about the progress we have already made. The celebration on Sunday, September 30 was the "official" start of Phase 2 of our fundraising efforts, and we were thrilled to announce that we have already raised a significant portion of our goal. The games, trucks, prizes, and ice cream energized young and old alike to continue the enthusiasm to make *Our Time, Our Turn* a reality.

We need both enthusiasm AND support to succeed. During Phase 2, one of your fellow church members will be calling to ask about visiting with you in person for 30-45 minutes to discuss the church, the campaign, and the importance of every pledge. We are asking you to please set up an appointment with your campaign "visitor" when he or she calls. Please note that there will be NO pressure tactics, and that your pledge will be confidential. Prior to your visit, you will receive a package with a brochure and many details about the campaign. In advance, we thank you!

The committee promised to keep you up to date on our progress. The first project in the campaign, the Fire Suppression System, is nearing completion. The replacement work has been ongoing all summer, with pipes replaced above the sanctuary and narthex in mid-September. The school wing was ready for the new PIV/church school season. The project is currently on schedule and budget. We look forward to undertaking the remaining projects for both the church building and the parsonage as funds are received.

Read the interview in this *Spire* with Susan Lewis and Peter Heinrichs, principals of Full Harvest Fundraising, our campaign consultants, and with committee members Susan Holden, Doug Topliffe, Kathy Skoglund, Will Redway, and Todd Whitney. Discover how our leaders are so capably shepherding this very important campaign! To track our progress on a regular basis, check out our website (www.ccamherst.org), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst>), the Sunday bulletin, and *News from the Pews*. And if you have any questions about the campaign or the pledging process, please don't hesitate to contact co-chairs [Susan Holden](#) (566-2394) or [Doug Topliffe](#) (673-7346).

SHYG Pancake Breakfast

Join the Senior High Youth Group on Mission Sunday, October 21, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. for a special PANCAKE BREAKFAST before worship. This is our way of saying THANK YOU to the congregation for supporting our mission trip to Florida last June. Our youth and adult advisors spent 7 days in Miami helping individuals and families in need, volunteering in soup kitchens, day care facilities, and community gardens.

During the breakfast, we'll show a photo slide show and share a bit about the trip! Bring your appetites and curiosity for the experiences of our youth! Breakfast is FREE, but donations for next summer's trip are always welcome!

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.
July & August Worship 9:00 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:

Maureen R. Frescott
Acting Senior Pastor
pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Katherine Rogers
Acting Associate Pastor
pastorkate@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
wendylazott@tds.net

Marilyn Gibson
Church School Coordinator
mgibson@ccamherst.org

Church School

Marilyn Gibson, Church School Coordinator

The church school program is well under way with a fantastic Rally Day, with the support from the Fellowship team, and Worship For All Ages with the blessing of the backpacks.

We are blessed with many hands and faithful teachers both on the Christian Ed team and church school. However, we are in need for substitutes as well as assistants. Both are vital for the Christian formation of our children, being a consistent program as well as one of quality. There are many of you who would cherish the abundant smiles of our little ones in grades Pre-K/K and the enthusiasm of our elementary kiddos in grades 1 and 2, as well as 3 and 4. The substitute and assistant roles are as flexible as you desire, hence, the more the merrier.

Please stop by our table in the community room after worship and record your name and contact number on the paper and fix it to the poster.

If you would like to ask questions, either get me in fellowship after worship or call me at 673-3231, ext. 20.



Church School Mission Projects 2018 and 2019

God Made the Earth and We Must Care For It

- September: Animal Rescue League - paper towels
- October: Heifer Project - pennies
- November: Mill Apartments - Thanksgiving lunch
- December: Christmas Eve stuffed animal collection
- January: Eye Glasses - gently used RX
- February: Fellowship - community room
- March: SHARE Outreach food - item of the month
- April: Senior Tea - seniors of the community
- May: Children's choice

*Updates in the church bulletin.

Church Is Not a Building

The Reverend Maureen R. Frescott, Acting Senior Pastor
October 2018

We've heard it said many times before that the church is not a building. The church – the community of faithful believers – is found in the people, and this vibrant, compassionate, loving community would still exist even if you took all of our buildings away. Some would argue that it would not be such a bad thing if our buildings were taken away. Here in New England, where many of congregations meet in sanctuaries and meetinghouses that are over two hundred years old, there are no shortage of folks who bemoan the fact that so much of our time, energy, and money goes into maintaining our aging buildings. After all, just imagine how much more good could we do as a church if we were spending our pledge income on community outreach, Christian education, and spiritual formation rather than fixing our roofs, updating our fire suppression systems, and painting weather worn clapboards over and over again.

In this modern era of shrinking congregation size there is a movement afoot to return to the days of the early church, when believers met in peoples homes or in the back room of a local shop. Some long-time congregations have even gone as far as to sell their historic buildings and move to renting a storefront, space in a school, or some other multiple use building that allows them to be free of property obligations and thus able to respond more quickly and fully to the needs of the local community. New church start-ups have been known to gather in local bars, in coffee shops, in public parks, and anywhere else where people naturally congregate. Moving outside the traditional church building is especially appealing to those who equate organized religion with stodginess and a steadfast desire for self-preservation above all else.

Having said all this, even these smaller, more mobile congregations need to carve out a "space" for themselves eventually. If they plan on serving a community of all ages and hope to grow over time they need to set down roots somewhere. It isn't long before they realize that they need a place to store their communion set, their Sunday School craft materials, and their coffee hour supplies. Before long they've acquired cribs and toys for the nursery, hymnals and Bibles for worship, and robes for the choir. In our leaner, high-tech age some churches have dispensed with these traditional items, but then they find they need space to store their projection screens, soundboards, and praise band instruments. And to do the level of community outreach that they seek to do requires a designated space to store food pantry donations, rummage sale items, and supplies for the community suppers. There's no getting around the fact that an active church community can and does accumulate a lot of "stuff" in the course of doing ministry, and it makes sense to keep that stuff in the location where it's being used. Perhaps a building is needed after all.

But a church building is so much more than storage space. It is sacred space. It is healing space. It is learning space. It is respite space. It is resurrecting space. It projects the hope of our future and anchors our connection with the past. Whether a building is one year old or two hundred years old, it holds the memory of those who have worshiped and worked under its roof. There's something comforting and healing about having a familiar space to gather before God, which is why even those who have fallen out of the habit of attending church will come back when they've experienced a loss or some other upheaval in their life. Even before we human beings had words to express this pull towards our Creator, we were building altars out of stone and placing offerings of gratitude upon it. God is everywhere, but having a designated space for encountering God seems to be woven into our human DNA.

This is why we put so much love and care into our buildings. This is why we have capital campaigns to replace windows and electrical systems, spend countless volunteer hours tending to the grounds and painting fences, and engage in the never ending internal battle over storage space - deciding what stays, what goes, and what group gets what closet or meeting room, hopefully without stepping on toes or straining relationships in the process.

The church is not a building. The church is found in its people. But the people will always seek to build a sacred and secure home - to worship, to serve, and to find sanctuary, before God.

Peace and blessings,

Maureen

Worship For All Ages

Third Sunday of the Month
10:00 a.m.



Mark your calendars! On the third Sunday of every month, our 10:00 a.m. service is now "Worship For All Ages." This is not an adult service (where kids can get wiggly) and it's not a kid's service (where adults can get wiggly). We'll come together as the community of Christ to worship God with meaningful music, communal prayer, and an "object lesson" message to engage all ages. This service is SHORTER and more INTERACTIVE than our traditional service and each will have a theme to frame our worship:

September 16	<i>Care of Creation</i>
October 21	<i>Serving Neighbors</i>
November 18	<i>Grace</i>
December 16	<i>Incarnation</i>
January 20	<i>Light</i>
February 17	<i>Love</i>
March 17	<i>Abundance</i>
April 28	<i>Doubt</i>
May 19	<i>Imagine</i>
June 16	<i>Family</i>

Nursery care is available, and our Kindergarten/Pre-K children will have the option of staying in worship or going to their classroom for an activity/lesson.



Contact Info Update

Please take a few moments to update your contact info with us. We have found that many phone numbers and email addresses have changed, so it can be challenging to communicate with you. A contact update form is on our website, or call or email Andrea in the church office with your current info.

Fall Adult Ed Series
 Wednesdays, October 3 & 17
 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor



ISLAM 101: The Jesus Fatwah

In our western culture, much of what passes for information about Islam is disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. How might we come to better understand our Muslim neighbor? In this five part DVD series, seventeen Islamic and Christian scholars discuss what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we might go about building relationships across the lines of faith.

In Arabic, the word "fatwah" simply means "opinion." In a religious context, a fatwah is a spiritually instructive opinion. Jesus was a master of the art of fatwah. His teachings, revered by Christians and Muslims alike, remain among the most beautiful and powerful fatwahs ever issued. How might we better live out Jesus' most famous fatwah, which tells us to "Love your neighbor as yourself?" It begins with the willingness to ask questions so that we might better understand one another.

Each 90-minute session includes a 30-minute video presentation and a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. Sessions will take place every first and third Wednesday, from September through November. All are welcome!



Calling all 5th, 6th, and 7th graders!

CCAmherst's church school has a NEW Sunday morning experience for you, starting September 30. Pastor Kate and Dave Hagestrom are leading a Sunday school class on the New Testament full of fun games and cool facts, and grounded in sound theological and historical scholarship. Come learn how YOUR story fits into the stories found in the Bible. Come see and explore the Bible, and make some new friends while you're at it! And definitely bring a friend! All are welcome.

Senior High Youth Group October Schedule

- October 7: NO MEETING—Have a great Indigenous Peoples Weekend!
- October 14: Kate's Ecclesiastical Council—Come see your Associate Pastor defend her ordination paper, and stay for snacks!
- October 21: PANCAKE BREAKFAST! (No Meeting)
- October 28: Pumpkin Carving—Come carve pumpkins to decorate the church for Halloween
- October 31: Want a way to celebrate Halloween, but too old to trick-or-treat? Come hang out with Pastor Kate at the church and hand out candy to the town! Bring a friend, all are welcome!



Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. Read about how this offering is transforming lives: <http://www.ucc.org/nin/>.

Hurricane Relief

UCC Disaster Ministries is responding to the needs of people affected by the 2018 hurricanes, both within the United States and around the world. Recently, Hurricane Florence roared ashore in the Carolinas and many communities experienced mass flooding.

The UCC is responding! Your donation helps the UCC respond quickly to immediate disaster and long-term recovery needs. Their actions focus on the most vulnerable by addressing injustice, responding to the whole community, and filling gaps in service. One hundred percent of UCC disaster relief funds are used for direct service to individuals and communities, and rehabilitation programming.

Make a secure donation online at <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Disaster>.

Our church is also accepting donations; please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on your memo line. Thank you!



What is Small Group Ministry?

Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet in a committed group with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God.

The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by trained lay members of the congregation.

The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

We have 3 groups that meet at a variety of times/days to allow members to pick a group that best fits their schedule.

Benefits of Small Groups

Allows for deeper conversations that we can't always have in committee meetings or during coffee hour.

Provides a relaxing and safe place to explore and ask questions about issues of faith and life.

Facilitates the building of friendships and creates an atmosphere of mutual encouragement, support, and prayer.

Participants feel a greater connection to one another and to God, and are FIVE TIMES less likely to drift away from church.

All of our groups follow a common curriculum provided by Pastor Maureen.

Our theme this year is
The Lord's Prayer
—the familiar words which encompass so much of our human experience and our relationship with God.

Topics for 2018-2019

October:	Our Father— Who is God?
November:	Who Art in Heaven— Where is God?
December:	Thy Kingdom Come— Change
January:	Thy Will Be Done— Discernment
February:	Give Us This Day— Trust
March:	Forgive Our Debts— Guilt & Shame
April:	As We Forgive— Loving Enemies
May:	Into Temptation— Addictions
June:	Delivered From Evil— Dark Forces

Choose a Group!

First Tuesday	1:30–3:00 p.m.
Third Tuesday	1:30–3:00 p.m.
Sunday	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

All groups meet in the church parlor or the third floor youth room.

How To Get Involved

You may join a group at any time of the year as long as your choice is still open. Each group is limited to 10 members.

Sign up online at ccamherst.org or fill out a registration form in the church office. You may also sign up by contacting Pastor Maureen at 603-673-3231 x11 or pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Make a Joyful Noise!



We are always looking for new members and you may join at any time.

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Sara Phelps, rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the vestry.

The Bell Choir, under the direction of Wendy Valeri, rehearses on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Questions? Please contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music, at kalben1@comcast.net.

Are You Ready to Join?

Anyone interested in becoming, or just thinking about becoming a member of the Congregational Church of Amherst UCC, is cordially invited to attend one of the two orientation sessions, scheduled for Thursday, October 18 and Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Find out more about our church and membership. New members will be formally received during worship on Sunday, November 4. For more information or to sign up for an orientation session, please contact Andrea in the church office at 673-3231 or andrea@ccamherst.org. Also, feel free to talk with either pastor or any deacon (green name tag folks). We look forward to hearing from you.



Raising the Meetinghouse in 1836

Anne Krantz, Historian

As a member of the Capital Campaign building committee, last summer I volunteered to inspect the crawlspace under the narthex, including the space under the tower. It was an astonishing adventure. I crawled through the tiny opening in the back corner of the WA workroom, to discover a dry sand floor with a few boards to crawl on. I hauled two flood lights on long extension cords so I could take photos to document the condition of the timbers and supports. This exploration happened the day after a big summer storm. The sand floor was as dry as a desert, as well as all the wood timbers and beams.

But what was most amazing were the two piles of flat stones that support huge hand-hewn beams. After consulting the floor plan from the 2000 restoration, I realized that they hold up the two inside posts of the tower!!! What a crude appearing system, but it obviously works since they have been there since the meetinghouse was moved in August of 1836.

Thinking about this for weeks, it finally dawned that they had to jack up the tower at the same time they jacked up the meetinghouse. The building was raised in order to dig the basement under the sanctuary that the town wanted for meetings. They raised the building about 8 feet. Obviously, since the tower is attached to the building, the tower was raised simultaneously the same height.

I sent the photos to James Garvin, a New Hampshire historical architect who spoke at our final 275th anniversary event in May 2017. He was astonished and fascinated too:

"I wish that we had more information--especially surviving examples of the hardware--on the ways by which buildings were lifted in the 1700s and 1800s. What we do know is that it was very common, especially in cities, to lift buildings and insert new stories underneath, and to move buildings some distances. Somewhere I have a list of 70-odd buildings that were moved in Portsmouth alone in the 1700s and early 1800s.

According to written accounts, buildings were lifted using large "screws," sometimes made of cast iron and sometimes, apparently, made of hardwood. These worked on the same principle as modern screw jacks, which are still used to lift buildings. When I worked at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, we hired an expert building mover from Tilton, who lifted entire houses, chimneys and all, with screw jacks. One man was stationed at each jack, and each simultaneously gave the screw a half turn on a signal from the boss. After the houses were lifted sufficiently, timbers were placed underneath and the buildings were rolled on railroad tracks to a new location.

Today, building movers tend to use hydraulic jacks to accomplish the same thing, but the principle is the same, and goes back centuries.

Of course lifting and sliding a building is one thing, but lifting it and turning it 90 degrees is another---especially if the building has a heavy tower at one end. In the case of most meeting houses, including yours, the tower is firmly tied to the main building by heavy timbers that extend from the upper tower into the attic, where they rest on the tie beams that extend across the building at each roof truss. Still, the tower would have to be lifted from its sills at the bottom--where you were--simultaneously with the jacking of the main building." Email, 9/2/18

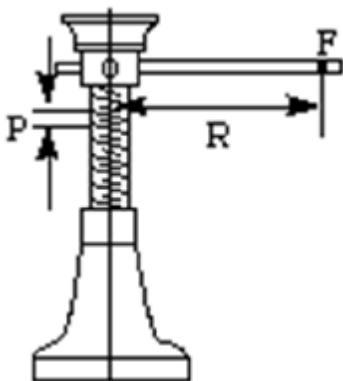
Nathan Call of Concord, NH, who was hired to execute this miraculous meetinghouse moving project, not only possessed expertise, courage and confidence, but at least eight screw jacks; four for the meetinghouse corner posts and four for the tower corner posts. He also supplied the block and tackle equipment; the ropes and pulleys, used to pull the structure to its new site. He performed this work in 11 days for \$86.25 in Aug. of 1836. See *April, 2018 Spire, Meetinghouse Moving Week, August, 1836*.

How screw jacks work:

David Macaulay in his wonderful children's book *The Way Things Work* describes a screw jack this way: A screw jackuses a screw mechanism to lift a car (or building). The handle may move fifty times further than the car, so the force on the car is fifty times greater than the effort on the handle.

One of the most common applications of the principle of the inclined plane is in the screw jack which is used to overcome a heavy pressure or raise a heavy weight of W by a much smaller force F applied at in the handle. R represents the length of the handle and P the pitch of the screw, or the distance advances one complete turn. <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~rapidproto/mechanisms/chpt2.html>

The "tackle" that was mentioned in the account of Nathan Call was "block and tackle," or large pulleys and ropes. These were and still are used to pull or lift heavy



Raising the Meetinghouse in 1836, continued

objects, and they provide a great multiplication of the effort as workers pull on a rope that passes over the sheaves in each "block" or pulley. The same kinds of tackle were used for the rigging in a sailing ship.

I wish that we knew more and, as I said, that we had actual examples of the implements that were used to lift and move buildings before the advent of modern crew jacks and hydraulic jacks. In any case, early building riggers and movers were able to accomplish miracles through knowledge and hard labor.

I looked up Nathan Call in Bouton's History of Concord (1856), hoping to find more about him. Somewhere, I think that I have read accounts of his raising church steeples, etc., but today found little in Bouton's book. I'll keep looking.

Thanks very much for sharing your adventure and great photos with me!
Jim



Woman's Association's Annual Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 17, 2018

Now collecting items for the
Treasures and Silent Auction
booths

We need like-new merchandise suitable for 're-gifting:' never used wedding presents, unwanted Christmas or other gifts; never worn men's and women's clothing, sweaters, scarves and accessories, new or quality JEWELRY, unread recent books, new but unneeded tech devices from camera's to phones.

Also good condition antiques, collectibles, and vintage household items, sterling silver, framed art, quilts, quality craft items, Amherst and church memorabilia and souvenirs, etc.

Search basements, attics and garages and all your closets and drawers for forgotten and unwanted treasures hiding in your house, looking for a new home where they can be reused and appreciated.

Please leave your labeled treasures or silent auction donations in the WA workroom or the office. Provide your name if you want an acknowledgement for your donations.

Holiday Fair Raffle Baskets



The Woman's Association is busy preparing for the Holiday Fair. We will again be featuring our ever popular raffle baskets and need some help to fill them. We plan to have a chocolate lovers basket, a basket filled with special occasion wines (750 ml bottles), and a local items (Hillsborough County basket).

If you have any items to donate to these baskets please leave your donations in the WA workroom or contact Maureen Minner at Maureen.minner@gmail.com or Adrienne Topliffe at abtopliffe@comcast.net.

All donations will need to be at the church by Tuesday, October 30 at noon. We will have the Raffle Basket Workshop on Tuesday, October 30 at 7 p.m., all are welcome, many hands make light work.

Woman's Association Fall Rummage Sale

Friday, October 5,
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday, October 6,
9:00 a.m. – noon



A FANTASTIC amount of clothing, including donations from a local clothing consignment shop. We have women's clothing, shoes and accessories, men's clothing and children's clothing.

Also jewelry, housewares, kitchen utensils, dishware, glassware, home décor, toys and games.

RUMMAGE SALE HELP NEEDED:

We appreciate any amount of time that volunteers have to help with the Rummage Sale, which raises money to support both the church and community charities.

Wednesday, October 3: From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. we will set up tables, haul rummage to the community room and begin sorting clothing. Strong backs are appreciated!

Thursday, October 4: Beginning at 9:30 and lasting through the afternoon we need a lot of help sorting rummage in both the vestry and community room.

Friday, October 5: Help with final preparations is needed in the morning, beginning at 9:30. The sale is open from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Extra sales help is always needed.

Saturday, October 6: Clean-up help is needed beginning at noon. Pack up unsold merchandise, take down tables, sweep floors, take trash to dump.

Come by the church when you're able to help or contact Sally Bowkett at 673-7409 to sign up for a specific job.

Getting to Know Our Steering Committee Team for the Capital Campaign

an interview by Jeanne Neverisky, with contributors

As I parked my car behind the church to head inside for the interview upstairs, I was a little surprised to hear busy voices through open basement windows. Peering in, I could see people in the community room actively sorting and arranging books for the town library's book sale. Of course! Community members, young and old, were getting ready for the annual town event. On my way upstairs I passed the bulletin boards posted with youth group activities, community suppers, Sunday school, Preschool in the Village and more.

Our church is a busy place—a hive for spiritual sustenance and community engagement. Any week, and probably any day, you can find ample evidence. Keeping this alive and vibrant are among the reasons our team leaders choose to serve in this way.

Help yourself to an introduction!

Our Very Own Capital Campaign Leaders:

Will Redway—*Co-Chair Visitation for the Campaign*

"I'll start it off with my surprise at how much more fun and meaningful this has been—to me— than I ever thought it could be. I've loved having more time with these people that I've known only somewhat over the years. Not only were people nice, they were thoughtful and they were ready," said Will.

Will and his wife Mary Ellen have been on lots of our church's committees and taught Sunday school. Daughters Anna (sophomore in college) and Margot (senior at Souhegan) both went through Sunday school and were active in youth group, going on many mission trips.



Kathy Skoglund—*Co-Chair Visitation for the Campaign*

Most Sundays you can find Kathy in the front of the church, happily singing soprano in the choir. She and her husband, Skip, have been members of the church since 1986. Kathy values the way the church is integral to both members and to the Amherst community. Being part of that legacy is very meaningful to her, and she wants to help the building endure and continue to serve people. Kathy and Skip's grown children are Gail Dexter, Todd Skoglund, and Andrew Nicholls. Kathy and Skip live with Cookie, the cutest 13" beagle in NH!

Todd Whitney—*Treasurer for the Campaign*

Todd's family has been enriched by this church and the programs over the twelve years they've been members. He wants to keep these available for future generations. While he was involved in long-range planning for our church, Todd could see this kind of campaign was sorely needed.

Todd, his wife, Jennifer, and their children Hannah, Andrew, and Cameron live in Amherst, where their dog Teddy runs the show.



Doug Topliffe—*Co-Chair Steering Committee for the Campaign*

Doug and his wife, Adrienne, are longtime members and have two grown children, Andrew and Neal. Adrienne has enjoyed being in the Woman's Association "for eons," and has served in leadership roles. Doug has been involved with Stewardship and the Diaconate; he helped with the church reorganization, and currently serves as Resource Ministry Coordinator.

Doug is especially enjoying the diverse talents and experience each team member brings to the campaign. "Working on this team has been fantastic—couldn't be better!" Doug truly feels it is our turn to do what previous generations have done to keep the church alive for us. He said, "If we don't, it really can just go away..."

Steering Committee, continued

Susan Holden—*Co-Chair Steering Committee for the Campaign*

Susan learned, literally, at her father’s knee, when he took her on calls such as she is doing now for the Capital Campaign. She was eight or nine years old, and he explained to her the importance of these actions. His lifelong phrase was “Each person has to build a church and a school in their lifetime.” Susan’s parents instilled a sense of commitment by their dedication and leadership in many church and community organizations.

Susan has been a member of our church for forty years. She raised her children here, and she brings her grandchildren here and she recently had her wedding here! While serving as Chair of the Trustees she called together a Long-Range Planning Team, after watching us being able to do nothing but “put a Band-Aid on every issue when it became a crisis.” After six years on Trustees, Susan stepped in as Moderator four years ago.



Also on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Pastor Maureen Frescott.

Helping our team members direct their energies well:

Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis—religious fundraising consultants

Susan and Peter live near Sebago Lake, Maine, and they travel to churches throughout New England, walk, garden, read, meditate—and serve the wishes of their energetic border collie/lab mix, Katy, and orange tabby, Otto.

Peter is a UCC pastor currently serving as an Interim Minister. Years ago, when fresh out of seminary, he trained and worked in religious fundraising. This ultimately led to the business he and Susan co-founded more than five years ago, Full Harvest Fundraising, LLC. Susan has worked as the public relations and marketing director for a nonprofit and as a consultant to businesses and nonprofits.

Both agree that in all forms, communication is key to successful fundraising, as well as an important part of a healthy congregation! They have helped many congregations successfully meet their capital campaign and annual giving fundraising goals.

A history major in college, Susan especially enjoys being a part of keeping historic churches vibrant. “A carefully chosen word that truly resonates with this church and congregation,” she said. “It’s not just about preservation of a building—it’s about thriving and continued growth with and among our communities.”



Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals to homebound senior citizens and disabled adults in communities throughout Hillsborough County. Just a few hours of your assistance on the weekday of your choice from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm can help the elderly and disabled remain healthy and live independently at home. Training is provided. Please call Jillian at 603-424-9967 or email jtoce@SJCSinc.org. You can visit their website at www.mealsonwheelsnh.org.

CASA Needs Volunteers

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire is a statewide non-profit organization that recruits and trains concerned citizens to advocate for abused and neglected children in the courts. There are children waiting for someone to speak on their behalf. Your common sense, commitment to children, and a contribution of 10-12 hours a month will help ensure a child grows up in a safe, permanent home. To become a CASA/GAL volunteer and help the children in your community, please call 800-626-0622, or log onto www.casanh.org for more information or to download an application.

SHARE Food Pantry

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

October 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 Congregational Church
11 Church Street
Amherst, NH 03031

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO. 4
AMHERST, NH

Address Service Requested



OCTOBER

MAILING LABEL HERE

“Good Teacher,

what must I do to
inherit
eternal life?”

Mark 10:17

