

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2013



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

In a newspaper advice column a few years ago there appeared a letter submitted to the writer of the column for her comment, which said: "I've worshiped in church most Sundays, and I've heard thousands of sermons. But I can hardly remember a single one. Is it worth it?" The columnist asked her readers to answer it.

This is the letter she later printed: "To the guy who wondered if going to worship and hearing sermons is worthwhile: I've eaten thousands of meals that my wife prepared, but I can remember very few. But they all helped give me strength and energy to live my life. And going to worship and hearing sermons does the same."

Good response, I think. I've preached thousands of sermons, and I've asked myself the same question; Is it worth it, all the time and energy invested both by me and by listeners? And then I've heard the responses, many that went beyond the conventional "Good sermon, pastor," as people go out the door. As folks have faced tough times in their lives—when a family member became critically ill or died, when jobs were lost, or when children got "off track" and were a source of worry, folks have frequently said "Worship, with hymns and scripture and the sermon have been what kept me going. When trouble has come, I sensed that my life was more "connected" with God and God's plan for me, like the wise man in Jesus' story of the two builders."

Those are what have kept me going, because I have the sense that when we gather for worship—at least some Sundays—we are connected with the Source we call God, the foundation for life.

Pastor Don

KEY DATES

April

14	8 th Grade Breakfast
15	Ugh! Taxes Due!
15	MCS & SJA School Break Begins
19	Farm Girls Meeting
22	MCS & SJA School Resumes
22	Earth Day

May

3	NCC in Littleton
4	NCC in Bradford
5	NCC in Peacham
15	Mother's Day
27	Memorial Day Town Offices Closed
30	Begin plant drop-offs for Church Plant Sale

INSIDE

MEN'S CLUB NEWS	2
CALLING FOR PLANTS	2
4H UPDATE	2
NO. COUNTRY CHORUS	2
SCHOOL BOARD NEWS	3
FARM GIRLS!	3
LIBRARY NEWS	3
SUMMER PREVIEW	3
8 TH GRADE BFAST	4
FAREWELL PARTY	4

MONROE MEN'S CLUB GRANT AVAILABLE

The Monroe Men's Club will again be awarding their Educational Grant to any student who is entering the first year of any type of post-secondary school. The student must be a resident of Monroe and/or the dependent of a member of the Monroe Men's Club. For further information or to apply please contact: Maynard Farr, Secretary at 638-2612.



PLANTS WANTED!

Does your flower garden have extra perennials? Please consider donating them to the Plant Sale, Saturday, June 1st, a fundraiser for the Monroe Community Church and the Monroe Garden Club. Plants in containers (genus and blossom color tags would be appreciated – they can be as simple as something written on a popsicle stick or a tag) may be left near the picnic table in the park **on Thursday or Friday, May 30th or 31st**. If you have questions, please call Eileen Ward at 638-2809, Barbara Farr at 638-2612 or Jane Fearon at 638-4002.



4H-ers are having a great time learning about gardening from Becky Colpitts - we've been growing things (sprouts, beans, carrots, and grass) all winter long and are excited for our outside gardens. Members are looking forward to participating in a shooting sports program that will be held this spring. Amanda Geil took first place and Monica Zuk took third in the Cook-Off at the County Food Show in January. Want to join 4H? Call Jessica Sherman at home, 638-4096..



Because we have so many Monroe residents who either sing, have sung, or enjoy listening to NCC, we are pleased to share this news for **North Country Chorus' Spring Concert!**

Mass in D by Antonín Dvorák
Requiem by John Rutter

Alan Rowe, Musical Director
Guest organist ~ Peter Beardsley

Friday 3 May 2012 at 7:30 pm
First Congregational Church, Littleton, NH

Saturday 4 May 2012 at 7:30 pm
United Church of Christ, Bradford, VT

Sunday 5 May 2012 at 3:00 pm
Peacham Congregational Church, Peacham, VT

Tickets available from www.catamountarts.org or at the door: \$10 (\$5 for students)

For more info visit www.northcountrychorus.org

TOWN INFO

Remember that Town Offices will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th. And a warm welcome to all newly elected office-holders. Unofficial minutes of both the School and Town Meeting are posted on www.monroetown.com (there is a link on the home page.)

Haven't licensed your dog yet? Please get in touch with Town Clerk Marilyn Bedell at 638-2644. You'll need proof of rabies vaccination.

MONROE SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

As the Monroe School Board begins their transition to a new board composition, they want to get the word out that anyone wishing to receive meeting minutes via e-mail should drop a brief e-mail to: monroeschoolboard@gmail.com, and they'll be sure to add your address. Even if you used to get minutes in the past, you will need to send a quick note for future minutes. Otherwise, published minutes are posted at monroetown.com/school-board-minutes.

They would like to thank everyone for their support, and encourage everyone to please come to the meetings!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE A FARM GIRL!

We've now had four meetings of the sisterhood. Some of us have learned to knit or crochet, simple projects like dishcloths or scarves. At the second meeting Farmerette (younger member) Monica Zuk taught us all how to make cream puffs that were shaped like swans, and at the third gathering we made three different types of salad dressing including Mary Elise Thomas's honey mustard dressing. Then we taste tested them on a beautiful fresh salad made by Mary Elise. Most recently, we learned how to make fresh mozzarella cheese. Obviously, we like to eat!

The meetings are held either at the Library or the Town Hall on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The location depends on whether we need the kitchen.

The next meeting will be on Friday, April 19th at 6:30 at the Library. If interested or just curious come join us. Call Sonia, 638- 4191 for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

Interested in a **book club**? Grab a few friends and neighbors then let us help you by providing a space to meet and enough copies of your chosen book for everyone in the group. Kids' clubs are welcome too as long as there are parents to help out. Interested but don't know who to ask to be in a group with you? We'll "gather names" and see if we can match up people with like interests. Call the Library at 638-4736 or just stop by.



We are gearing up for **Summer Reading fun**. We'd like to offer programs for multiple age groups but can't do it alone. Are you a parent (or grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend!) of a preschooler, young child, tween or teen that would like to help out? Contact Jessica at the library to discuss the possibilities.

SUMMER PREVIEW

Parents, here's some advance info for summer activities:

- The Town will again provide swimming lessons for children ages 3-8th grade. Lessons will be the last two weeks in June, at SJA. Details up on monroetown.com shortly.
- Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 15th. This year's theme is "Fun Fairs Around the World".
- And check out www.stjrec.com for camps, sports programs, and activities. The fees are reasonable, even for 'non-residents.'



FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

The Monroe School 8th Grade Class will hold a breakfast on Sunday, April 14th, from 7-10 am at Town Hall. These hard-working kids (and their parents!) would like to thank everyone who has supported them and helped them make their trip happen!



FAREWELL PARTY

We know, we know. This is an April/May newsletter, but we're putting this in early. Please mark your calendars for a farewell to Don & Mary Elise Thomas. We will celebrate their retirement (and upcoming move to Maine) on Sunday, June 30th, at Town Hall. (It will be an afternoon event.) More details coming.

Did you have an item for this newsletter that was missed? E-mail it to Eileen at leen_brown@hotmail.com, or call 638-3002, and we'll get it in the next "e-newsletter." The next paper newsletter will be mailed in late May.

NO, THIS ISN'T JUNK MAIL!
Monroe Community Church
P.O. Box 179
Monroe, NH 03771-0179

ECRWSS
NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MONROE, NH 03771
PERMIT NO. 6



POSTAL PATRON
MONROE, NH 03771