

# CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

April/May 2015



## PASTOR'S LETTER

Although Christmas is the most celebrated Christian holiday, Easter is by far the most important event in the life of Christ, for he came to die for the sins of mankind, be buried and rise again on the the third day for our justification. This is the Gospel message in a nutshell as Paul proclaims in I Corinthians 15:1-4, which consists of three facts that took place during the Easter holiday: 1.) **That Christ died.** 2.) **That He was buried.** 3.) **That He rose again on the third day.**

The season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty weekdays to Easter, is observed by Roman Catholics, Anglican and certain other churches. It is a time to draw close to God through prayer, fasting, repentance of our sins, and a time to reflect upon our lives and our relationship with God. We live in the most complex age known to man! Never have there been so many options and alternatives for our lives as there are today, not to mention possessions. But life has become so complex that we hardly have any emotional, spiritual, or intellectual free time or down time. From the moment we rise in the morning until we crash at night, we sprint through the day.

So what's a follower of Christ to do in the twenty-first century? Is this the way that our lives should look, or is it possible to live a simpler, less complex life? Another way to ask that question is to consider how Christ would live in 2015. What do you think would occupy His time and His mind?

It's time for us to take steps toward simplicity. If you depend on caffeine to fuel your daytime, and sleeping pills to soothe your night, if you are too busy to exercise regularly, if you stay up late watching TV, if you spend hours every week surfing the internet, and if you have time to read the newspaper but not the Bible, it's time to detoxify. You will feel better and live better too. If Jesus could make time to go into the mountains to relax and pray, surely you and I can. A life without time to reflect and contemplate, is a life that is too complex.

As Christians, we must stay focused on a lifestyle that is living in the presence of Christ, through prayer, worship, and fellowship. This is the gateway into living a focused and simple life. And the more time that we spend with Him, the more our life will look like His.

So my prayer for you all this Easter, is that you would consider these strategies and others as you seek to develop a lifestyle of priorities and peace. Because being simply a Saint should be our highest calling. May you all have a peaceful and meaningful Easter.

--Pastor Earl

## KEY DATES

### Late March

27	Sports Awards Night
28	Easter Egg Hunt
28	Middle School Film Festival

### April

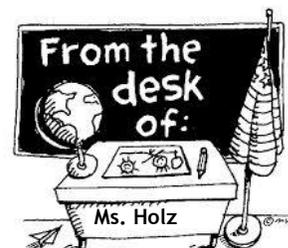
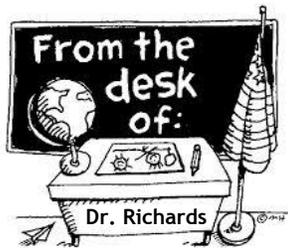
5	Easter Sunday
10	CPR Class @ MCS
11	Scrapbooking Day
13-17	Spring Vacations, MCS/SJA
18	Large Trash Day
18	4H Fashion Show
21	Bobcat Fish & Game Program

### May

1	Cinco de Mayo Party
3	Scholarship Apps Due
5	PTF Officer Elections
11	Mother's Day

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## JOB OPENING

The Monroe School District is posting our Financial Director position for the 2015-2016 school year. This position is full time/full year and is responsible for the financial management of the district. This includes development and management of financials, budget, district reporting to the State of NH, working with the auditor, payroll, benefits, and accounts payable. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Dr. Jeannie Richards at the Monroe Consolidated School, 77 Woodsville Road Monroe, no later than April 19, 2015. A job description is available upon request.

## AND A THANK YOU!

The Monroe School Board and Superintendent Jeannie Richards would like to thank all our townspeople for a successful annual school district meeting. Your support of our schools by your participation in our school and our work is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



## FROM THE PTF

PTF has our Cinco De Mayo Celebration on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at Town Hall, starting at 6 pm. It is a potluck; we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Mexican dish to share. Music, games and a great night of family fun. It is free and open to everyone in Monroe.

We are also in the middle of a fundraising drive featuring Yankee Candle. You can order on-line at [yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://yankeecandlefundraising.com). (Use our group #990010904). Orders will arrive before Mother's Day!

At our May meeting we will be holding our elections for new officers for the upcoming school year. The meeting is Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 in the school cafeteria. Join us!

## CONGRATULATIONS, SOPHIA!

Congratulations to Sophia Beardsley, winner of Monroe's National Geographic Geography Bee. Sophia will advance to the State Geography Bee at Keene State College on March 27th. In other award-winning news, our seventh and eighth graders will represent MCS in style for the second year in a row at the North Country Middle School Film Festival at the Rialto Theater in Lancaster on March 28th.

## MORE SCHOOL NEWS . . .

Smarter Balanced assessments are in full swing. The third and fourth graders started the week of March 16th. They completed sections in Math and English Language Arts. They also completed Performance Tasks in both Math and English Language Arts. Grade 5 will test the week of March 23rd, Grade 6 the week of March 30th and Grades 7/8 the week of April 6th.

The Sports Awards Ceremony will take place at 6pm pm on March 27th at the Town Hall.

Our school-wide expedition, "Amazing Race - MCS" has kicked off and each grade is studying a different part of the world. Stay tuned for news about an exhibition night so that you can come see all we've done!

On April 9th, educators from around the North Country will convene at MCS for a Quality Performance Assessment work session. A team of our teachers and administrators (Dr. Jean Richards, Leah Holz, Teri Gaston, Jen Corkins, Monica Bixby, and Stephanie Chadburn) has been working with this group since last year. This will be the first time that the group will meet outside of the North Country Education Services location in Gorham, and we are more than thrilled to host them. In addition to work sessions, the group will have the opportunity to visit classrooms to listen to students speak about their learning.

We are also happy to announce a program about **bobcats** presented by NH Fish & Game at Town Hall, Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6-7 pm. Everyone is welcome!

## JOIN US FOR A DAY OF SCRAPBOOKING

Saturday, April 11, 2015, downstairs in the Monroe Town Hall, 10 am to 9 pm. Even if you have never scrapbooked, come anyway and see what others are doing with their photos and family history. Even if you have no scrapbooking supplies, just bring photos, and we will be happy to share our supplies to get you started. There's no charge, and plenty of table space. It will be Pot Luck for the Buffet lunch, dinner, and snacks. Water, coffee, tea, and cocoa will be provided. There will be a swap table set up. In the morning there will be a Close To My Heart Demonstration for scrapbookers, cardmakers, and anyone interested. You can check out the latest products available in the catalog. Questions? Call Carol West at 638-2725.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual church-sponsored egg hunt will be held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 3 PM at Town Hall. Crafts, games and "Buddy the Clown" from 1-2 pm, with egg hunts starting at 2 pm. This hunt is ideal for Monroe families and children/grandchildren under 13.

## FREE CPR CLASS

The Monroe FAST Squad is sponsoring a CPR class on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, in the Monroe School Library. You will learn adult, child and infant CPR, choking first aid, and how to use an AED. If you would like an "official" American Heart Association card, good for two years, there is a \$7 charge from AHA for the card; otherwise it's free. Donations to the FAST Squad are always gratefully accepted. **You must sign up in advance for this class;** class size is limited due to AHA guidelines. Please call Eileen at 638-3002 or e-mail [leen\\_brown@hotmail.com](mailto:leen_brown@hotmail.com) to sign up.

Join Grafton County 4-H'ers as they present their fashion and textile projects at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 18. Quilts are displayed from 5-6p.m and the fashion review starts at 6.



## CAN YOU HELP?

*This comes to us from Sherry Tolle across the river:*

"Don't know if you have heard, but Barnet is commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the last Connecticut Valley Lumber Company log drive on August 1, 2015. We are seeking anyone with information, photos or insights about the log drive, and who better than our neighbors in Monroe? Plans include demonstrations by Calvin Willard, Timbersport Champion, insights from authors who have written on the subject such as Helen Pike, displays, children's activities, music about log drives by the Bayley Hazen Boys, and a Bean Hole supper. If you have information, or wish to participate please contact Dave Anderson at 802-748-2565 or Sherry Tolle or Dylan Ford at the Barnet Library 802-633-4436. Thank you!" ----*Sounds fun, Sherry!*

## TOWN NEWS

- ✓ Town Offices are closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk's Office will be closed on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, reopening on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ In case you missed it in the Bridge Weekly, there is a vacancy for the Town of Monroe's Deputy Town Clerk. If you are interested, call Marilyn Bedell at 638-2644.
- ✓ Large Trash Days for 2015 are April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and September 19<sup>th</sup>. No pickers or early birds, and hours are 9 am – 3 pm.
- ✓ Please get your dog licensed by May 1<sup>st</sup>! Neutered/spayed/younger than 9 mos. cost \$7.50. Otherwise, the cost is \$10. Late fees begin accruing June 1<sup>st</sup>, along with the risk of other fines.

You may remember from the last newsletter that Monroe's Emergency Management Director, Maynard Farr, is in the process of updating our town's emergency plan. He has asked us to share this website with everyone: [www.ReadyNH.gov](http://www.ReadyNH.gov) This site gives you tips and checklists for emergency plans and kits, as well as lets you sign up your landline for alerts. It also provides links for apps for smartphone notification - both Android and Apple. Check it out!



## INTERESTED?

Jessica Sherman is trying to determine interest for another town-wide yard sale. This year, there is no church plant or bake sale, so the date is open. Please get hold of Jessica to signal your interest (you can call the Library at 638-4736, or e-mail [monroepubliclibrary@roadrunner.com](mailto:monroepubliclibrary@roadrunner.com)). She will choose a date that works for the greatest number of people.

## MEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP TIME



The Monroe Men's Club has sent letters to graduating seniors explaining the opportunity to apply for their annual scholarship. Applications are due May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a senior and did not receive an invitation, please call Maynard Farr, 638-2612, or e-mail [mfarr30@roadrunner.com](mailto:mfarr30@roadrunner.com).



Slick's Ice Cream is opening Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, noon – 9 pm, and Hatchland's is opening Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 7 pm. Yum!



Would you like to stay up-to-date on news and events BEFORE the next June/July newsletter? Sign up for bi-monthly e-news at [www.monroetown.com](http://www.monroetown.com).

**NO, THIS ISN'T JUNK MAIL!**  
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