

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER '12/JANUARY '13



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

We are now in the midst of early preparations for the Christmas season. This Sunday we will be celebrating the lighting of the Memory Tree, and with it will be remembering persons who have been a blessing to us in our lives. And last Friday was the notorious “black Friday,” with reminders of how we can easily be trapped in the secular view of Christmas as a time for self-indulgence.

Let's take a moment to remember “the reason for the season.” In the early 1930's a blue-grass gospel group came from the hills of Kentucky to Cincinnati, where they shared some of their original music on one of the radio stations. Among their songs was one which has become a Christmas classic.

“I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
for poor 'onry people, like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.”

That connects Christmas and its meaning with the whole life and ministry and tragic death of Jesus of Nazareth. That's “the reason for the season.” We don't remember and celebrate Christmas because a baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem, but because he grew up to teach and show us how to live, defeated the powers of evil that can seem to destroy life, and offer to us new possibilities to live our own lives with hope. And that message comes to a world of “black Fridays,” and terrible violence in places like Syria and Afghanistan, to people living with hunger and despair in many parts of our world.

That's what Christmas is about! As one Christmas carol reminds us, “..in the dark streets shines the everlasting light.”

That's the “reason for the season!”

Pastor Don

CHILDREN TO LEAD CHRISTMAS SERVICE

At the worship service at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 23, the children of the Sunday and Wednesday School will lead the service of worship, as we share the retelling of the Christmas Story, with the children and other members of the congregation taking the parts of the people who shared in the story of Jesus' birth. Special music by the children, choir, and carol singing will help us all prepare for the Good News of Christ's birth.

CANDLES AND CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm, the Monroe Village Church will hold its annual service of Candlelight, Scripture Readings, and Christmas Carols. The service will conclude with the congregation each holding a lighted candle to symbolize our welcome to the Christ child. All the community is invited to join in this special service of celebration.

KEY DATES

December

- 2 Fire Dept. Breakfast
American Girl Party
Memory Tree
- 3 4H Meeting
- 5 Angel Tree Up
- 9 Mclure's Concert
- 13 PTF Christmas Party
- 17 Angel Tree Gifts Due
Winter Solstice
- 21 Bonfire
- 25 Merry Christmas!

January

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 18 UFO Meeting
- 18 Madrigal Dinner
- 19 Madrigal Dinner
- 20 Madrigal Dinner
- 21 Martin Luther King
Day
- 24 Supervisors of
Checklist in
session
- 25 First day to file to
run for town office

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DECEMBER 2ND, A FULL DAY!

FIRE DEPARTMENT BREAKFAST begins the day, 8 am - 10 am at Town Hall. This is the Fire Department's annual "Fill the Boot" Breakfast, where we are all asked to donate whatever we can. All proceeds go to help Monroe families in need, especially during the holiday season.

AMERICAN GIRL TEA PARTY at the Monroe Library, 2 pm, for girls (and their dolls, of course) to follow their inner star!

MEMORY TREE LIGHTING will be on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, at 4 pm. We will gather at the Monroe Village Church to sing beloved Christmas carols, read the names of those memorialized, and close with sharing of refreshments. This is a time to recall and honor those who have blessed our lives, to recognize those in our community who have died in the past year, and to re-connect again with parts of our own histories and the precious lives of those we have cherished as family and friends. (If you have names to add to that list of those being memorialized, call Winston or Marguerite Currier, 638-2331, and include a gift of \$5 for each person having a light placed on the memory tree; make gifts payable to the Monroe Community Church.)

MCLURE'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Mclure's Alumni Band will perform their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 9th, at 3 pm, at Town Hall. The concert is free; however, donations are always gratefully accepted to defray the band's operating expenses. Please come out and show your support for this great group, enjoy some snacks, and bring the children for a special visit from Santa.

PLEASE BE AN ANGEL!

For the second year, Project "Angel Tree" will help local families in need meet their children's Christmas wish lists. The tree will be in the lobby of the Town Hall beginning December 5th, and will be hung with tags describing gifts and needed items. Please stop by, take a tag, and be an angel this Christmas. **ALL gifts must be received at Town Hall by NOON, December 17th, PLEASE.**

If you do not have time to shop, you can still help! Simply send a check made payable to Monroe Community Church, and get it to "Angel Tree Fund", c/o Winston Currier, 98 Harleyview Drive. Donations do not have to be specifically linked to an Angel Tree tag - last year, generous donations made it possible for the church to assist families with fuel and grocery bills.

PTF NEWS

The PTF would like to thank everyone for supporting the annual Yankee Candle fundraiser as well as the Craft Fair auction!

They will host a Christmas Party for the children of Monroe on Thursday, December 13th, from 12:30 - 4 PM, at Town Hall. Volunteers and donations of decorations, craft supplies, baked goods, etc. are needed and much appreciated! Contact Deb Fiske at 638-2120 for more info, or come out to the party planning meeting on Dec. 4th, 6:30 pm, at the school.

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

During December Wednesday School will meet at Monroe Community Church, 3 pm - 4:30 pm, on the 5th, 12th, and 19th. Activities will include preparing for Christmas, making wreaths and other decorations, and making angel cookies on the 19th. In January, we will begin on the 16th. Stay tuned for more info on the church website (monroetown.com/church) or Facebook page.

WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:00 p.m.

Tom Guganig's Bonfire tradition will continue at the new location just south of his house.

Crisp Air, Friends and Refreshments

****PLEASE WEAR A FESTIVE HAT!****

**New Location at the Sherman's
On the corner of Hammond Road and
Winchester Drive**

SPECIAL HOURS/CHANGES

- **Town Clerk** hours for Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve are 8:30 am - 2 pm.
- **No UFO Club Meeting in December!** Monthly meetings restart on 1/18.
- **Trash Collection** for Christmas is Wed, 12/26.
- **Trash Collection** for New Years is Wed, 1/2.

IT'S MADRIGAL DINNER(TIME)

Tickets are now on sale for the 32nd annual **Madrigal Dinner ~ The Queen's Gift**, to be held in Monroe, NH, on January 18, 19, and 20. Tickets are \$25 per person, or for Friday only, a table of 10 may be purchased for \$200. Friday and Saturday night's dinners are at 6:30; Sunday's dinner is at 4:30. More details are on the NCC site, at www.northcountrychorus.org, or you may call Marcia Bridge at 802-584-4194.

And, if you'd like to be informed of upcoming North Country Chorus performances (like the great holiday concerts taking place Nov 30, Dec 1 and 2nd in nearby Littleton, Wells River, and Peacham, visit their website. You can sign up on their home page for an e-newsletter.

LIBRARY NEWS

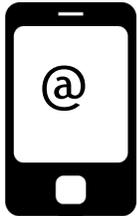
Christmas Eve Fun!

T'will be the day before Christmas and at your Library, You're invited to drop in to decorate cookies and be merry!
Our doors will be open from 9 until noon and the stacks will be filled with a holiday tune.

Parent-led Preschool Story Hour on Monday mornings at 9:30: Music, Stories, Crafts and Play. Come join us; it's fun! For info, call Belinda Smith at 638-4956, or Jessica Sherman, 638-4736.

Special Hours

The Library is closed on December 25th, January 1st and January 21st.



STAYING IN TOUCH . . .

Did You Know? The Town of Monroe has introduced a NEW Government website, at monroenh.org. This adds to a growing number of ways for all of us to stay connected. Here are just a few:

	Website	Facebook	Twitter	e-News?
Church	monroetown.com/church	Monroecommunitychurch	--	--
Monroe Public Library	Monroetown.com/library Monroenh.org/library.php	Monroe-Public-Library	--	--
Official Town Website	Monroenh.org	--	-	Selectmen minutes by e-mail
Original Town Website*	Monroetown.com	Monroetown	@MonroeNH	Yes, sign up at main website
PTF	Monroeptf.org	Monroe PTF	--	--
School	Monroeschool77.com	--	--	School Board minutes by e-mail

* Note, many businesses in town have stand-alone sites, their own Facebook pages, or "micro-sites". You can browse these on the "Work" or Businesses page of monroetown.com.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Beginning in January, the recycling drop-off will no longer be staffed on Saturday mornings. Typically, there are about 3 - 6 people who come down on Saturdays, none of whom have actually needed the help of an attendant. (Of course, that's different than wanting to have a chat!) Because most people are now recycling whenever it is convenient for them, and because it is increasingly difficult to find volunteers to commit on Saturdays, the operation will change to completely self-serve (or self-dump!).

If you do need assistance, feel free to phone Bryan or Eileen at 638-3002, and we will arrange a time to meet you. Also, **PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED!** In particular, PLEASE do not recycle plastic bags, styrofoam, or large plastics like shells from old television sets or computers! It's great to see people zealously recycling lots of things, but recently, Eileen almost fell into the dumpster trying to fish some of these 'no-no' items out!



No Thanks!

- Plastic Bags of any kind**
- Pellet Bags
- Dog Food Bags (lined in plastic)
- Large plastics like toys/sleds**
- Styrofoam**
- Glass like drinking glass/plates
- Lightbulbs
- Milk Cartons/Juice Boxes
- Motor Oil Containers
- Scrap Metal



Yes Please!

- Plastics #1 - #7
- Metal Cans
- Aerosol Cans
- Tin Foil; Pie Plates
- Glass Bottles, Jars
- Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail
- Phone Books, Paperbacks
- Paper Bags
- Newspaper
- Cardboard

Countdown to Town Meeting (March 13th)

- ✓ January 24th, 7:00 - 7:30 pm, Supervisors of the Checklist in session at Town Hall for any corrections/changes.
- ✓ January 25 - First Day to file to run for any town offices. See Marilyn for info.

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

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