

Church & Community News

December 2014 – January 2015



It was in the year 1621 that the Pilgrims held their first Thanksgiving feast at Plymouth following a very difficult first year in America that saw this courageous group of people lose about half of their population to death. These were devout Christians who had fled England seeking freedom to practice their religion. Through all their trials and losses, they remained thankful, loyal servants of the living Christ.

Fast forward to Thanksgiving in 2014, and how dramatically has our world changed in four centuries! ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is terrorizing the Middle East, forcing Christians to convert to Islam, face death or exile to another country. Here in America, we are shocked at the barbarism that is taking place by these Islamic extremists.

It is important to remember that Christians have been targeted in many nations. They worship secretly in small house churches or in private homes, often having to hide their Bibles and study materials because merely possessing them may mean imprisonment or even death! I am often amazed at how these faithful brothers and sisters in Christ are able to still praise God in the most awful of circumstances.

So this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to spend some time thanking God that we continue to live in a land where we have the freedom to worship Him, a land that was founded in truth, and a land where we are still free to continue to preach the Good News of the Risen Savior. As you get ready to enjoy your Thanksgiving Day meal, please pray for the Christians who are suffering worldwide, and ask God to strengthen them. Ask God to allow them to claim the words of Psalm 56:3-4 and Psalm 7:1 ("O Lord my God, In you I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me.")

We have so much to be thankful for, my friends. But most of all we can be eternally thankful that we serve the Living Christ, and that He continues to use people like you and me in service to Him. Happy Thanksgiving to you all, and may you all have a Merry Christmas. God Bless.

Pastor Earl

Important Church Dates:

Memory Tree Lighting	December 7 th , 4:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service (No Christmas Day services)	December 24 th , 7 pm

November

27	Thanksgiving
28	Angel Tree Up

December

3	Wreath-Making
5, 6, 7	NCC Handel's Messiah
7	Fire Dept B'fast Memory Tree
13	Christmas Party
17	MCS Concert
18	Chris Poulos
21	Solstice Bonfire
23	Cookie Decorating
25	Christmas
31	First Night St. J

January

17	Scrapbooking
21	First Day to File for Town Office
23, 24, 25	Madrigal Dinner at Town Hall
30	Last Day to File for Town Office

**ANNUAL SOLSTICE BONFIRE,
SUNDAY, DEC. 21ST, 7 PM. At
the corner of Winchester Drive
and Hammond Road. Cocoa
and hot cider provided; feel
free to bring a holiday treat to
share.**





WIN THIS BEAUTIFUL QUILT!

The Snowmobile Club is holding a quilt raffle to raise money for their new groomer and for trail maintenance. The queen size quilt is in beautiful shades of blue and green, and can be seen at the Town Offices. Tickets are \$5 each; only 500 are being sold. You can get tickets right at the Town Offices or by calling Donna Mitton at 638-2639. The drawing will be on December 10th at 7 pm.

ENJOY THIS "SING-ALONG"

The North Country Chorus will bring their Christmas concert, featuring Handel's Messiah, to Littleton on Dec. 5th at 7:30, to Wells River on Dec. 6th, also 7:30, and to St. Johnsbury on Dec. 7th at 2:30 pm. For more info, visit northcountrychorus.org. You can buy tickets on-line from Catamount Arts, or get them at the door. Advance tickets are \$10; at the door, \$12.

LIBRARY NEWS

We will be celebrating the holiday season throughout December. Come in between Thanksgiving and Dec. 18th and enter to win prizes. The more you come and the more you use the library resources, the better your chances are. Winners will be announced on Saturday the 20th. Prizes for all ages!

We will be at the PTF's Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 13th honoring old time favorite Rudolph with a reading of the 75th anniversary book and a related craft, snack and game.

Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, come in to the library between 3-6 pm to decorate cookies, have a mug of cocoa and make a simple upcycled book ornament.

Remember to check out our selection of holiday reads as well. And after the holidays, we can help you set up that new tablet with free e-books!

HUNT MOUNTAIN 4H IS BUSY AND GROWING!

Our club has doubled in size this year and we are participating in a wide variety of projects. In addition to club meetings, project members meet monthly to work on crafts, scrapbooking, sewing, forestry, cooking and gardening. They have made holiday decorations, started scrapbook albums, sewn an apron, learned how to age a tree, made delicious applesauce and planted bulbs indoors and out. They are looking forward to woodworking and shooting sports which will start after New Year's.

The club participated in National 4-H Week and won first place in Grafton County's Window Display Contest. If you didn't see their recycled display at the Town Offices, check out their Facebook page for pictures. The annual Monroe Arts & Crafts Jamboree in November was a success, as well. We had about 15 crafters doing workshops for 4-H'ers and their friends, and parents prepared lunch as a fundraiser. Thank you, everyone!

Did you know 4-H has been active in Monroe since 1923? Did you participate as a leader or member? We'd love to hear from you so we can work on a history of 4-H in Monroe. There are some scrapbooks in the 4-H room but we're guessing there are gaps. Please contact leader Jessica Sherman at 638-4096.

COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOKING

Make It a New Year's resolution to print all those digital photos and record those memories for the future! It happens on Saturday, Jan. 17th at Town Hall. We will start at noon: come when you can and scrap until you run out of steam. We will have a swap table set up and possibly a few workshops.

Never scrapbooked, but want to learn? Come on down and check out what everyone is doing. We will have a potluck buffet in the kitchen for snacks and dinner, so please bring something to share. We provide coffee, cocoa and bottled water.

SCHOOL GETS AN "A+" ON AUDIT REPORT; RETURNS MONEY TO TAXPAYERS

The District Auditor has reviewed the financial school year 2013-2014. Roberts and Greene, PLLC has provided a very favorable of the District.

Calculations show that the District received an unanticipated revenue amount of \$63,848 during the school year. This amount was due in large part to the law suit agreement completed with LGC Healthtrust for an over charge of health costs in previous years. School Districts in NH received a return amount based on this previous incorrect overcharge. The School Board decided that this amount should go back to the taxpayer as credit

toward this year's property tax bill. The amount of \$63,848 will now be used to lessen the school tax rate.

Calculations also show that the District managed the budget well. The District underspent the approved budget by \$16,252. This amount will also now be returned to the taxpayer to lower property taxes that support the school.

The full Auditor's Report is on file at the SAU office. If you would like to review it, please contact Dr. Jeannie Richards, Superintendent or Gloria Tillotson, Finance Manager, for an appointment at (603) 638-2800, extension 46 or extension 14.

The School Board is very pleased to say that the Auditor Tamar Roberts, CPA, commended the District for its financial management. The firm found no budget exceptions or errors to be corrected.

MADRIGAL SAYS HELLO, COLUMBUS!

The 2015 Madrigal Dinner will feature a new production, "Hello, Columbus!". The dinner is held at Town Hall on January 23rd and 24th at 6:30 pm, and January 25th at 4:30. New this year, you may purchase 10 tickets for the price of 8 for ANY date. Tickets are available from catamountarts.org or in person at Catamount in St. J. Full details are at northcountrychorus.org.

A FUN DECEMBER THANKS TO MCS & THE PTF

Looks like our friends at the PTF have been very busy planning December! First, they are throwing a Christmas party for children and their families on Saturday, December 13th, from 1 pm – 5 pm at Town Hall. The kids will enjoy crafts, snacks, games, and a special showing of Rudolph. Jessica Sherman will also be there to read the story of Rudolph – he turns 75 this year and still shines as brightly as ever.

Next, the PTF will throw a pot-luck holiday supper at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 17th at Town Hall. The PTF supplies paper goods, drinks and importantly, dessert.

This pot-luck is followed by the Monroe School's annual "Celebration of Light" at 6:30 pm. We love hearing the children sing both traditional and new carols and songs.

Finally, the PTF is sponsoring world-famous speaker and stunt bike rider Chris Poulos at Town Hall on Thursday, Dec. 18th at 6:30 pm. This show is open to everyone, and is great for adults and teens as well as younger children. Chris is a former world champion stunt bicycle rider, and combines this with motivation and kindness messages. He will give workshops for students at Monroe School the following day. For more info, visit chrispoulos.com.



HELP US DECORATE!

The Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, December 3rd, at 6:30 pm at Town Hall to make wreaths for decorating in the town (Town Hall, Offices, etc.) Everyone is welcome – extra hands are a good thing. You do not need to be an expert gardener to join us – we train! Questions? Call Barb Farr at 638-2612.



*The Monroe Community Church 19th
Annual Lighting of Our
MEMORY TREE*

Dedicated in Memory of:

Betty J. Ward

John Holstead Mead

John Ashford

Marguerite Meserve Chamberlin

L. Alton Munson

Lothar Fredrick Riba

Marjorie I. Burrill

Doris H. Bedell

Ruth Emmons

You may have a bulb shine in memory of a loved one throughout the holiday season. Bulbs may be purchased at \$5.00 per person to be remembered. The ceremony will take place on

Sunday, December 7th, 2014

**At The Monroe Community Church,
Monroe Village, 4:30 PM**

Refreshments will be served in the church basement following the lighting.

Please send donations to:

Marguerite Currier, 98 Harleyview Drive, Monroe, NH 03771

In Memory of:

By Whom:

Checks made payable to: Monroe Community Church

76 TROMBONES . . .



Yes, we are now firmly stuck in winter, but it's not too late to be dreaming about a sunny 4th of July. You are seated comfortably along Central Street in Woodsville, enjoying the parade. Who do you see? A marching band, filled with friends and people you know! They are the "Summertime Marching

Band", and they started practicing in Monroe Town Hall on January 4th at 6 pm, just so they would be ready for the parade! At this writing, the band is already at 13 members, but would like more! Anyone who can play an instrument is welcome. Call Mary Choate at 638-4903, marychoate@roadrunner.com or on Facebook: The Summertime Marching Band.

DATE AND HOURS INFO

These date changes from Marilyn Bedell, Town Clerk – as well as a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Bedell's.

Nov. 28 Monroe TC has regular hours; NO STATE hours.

This means NO Twin Mtn or other Motor Vehicle services

Dec. 8th 8:30–11:30 open closed afternoon.

w/o 12/22 TC open only on Monday, 12/22; No Selectmen's Meeting.

w/o 12/29 TC open only on 12/29 (normal hrs) 12/30 8:30-Noon 12/31 Closed 1/2 Normal hrs No Selectmen's Meeting.

Whew. Don't know about you, but we'll just call first. ☺

RUNNING FOR OFFICE

Marilyn advises the following Town Offices will be up for election in 2015:

Moderator: 2 Year Term
 Town Treasurer: 1 Year Term
 Selectman: 3 Year Term
 Trustee of the Trust Funds: 3 Year Term
 Library Trustee: 3 Year Term
 Sexton, Village Cemetery: 1 Year Term
 Sexton, North Monroe Cemetery: 1 Year Term
 Planning Board: 3 Year Term
 Board of Adjustment: 5 Year Term
 Budget Committee: 3-Year Term (need 4)

You are eligible to run if you are a registered voter in Monroe. And even if you do not run, your neighbors may write you in anyway!

To file for election, see the Town Clerk between Wednesday, Jan. 21st and Friday, January 30th. The office will be open from 3 pm -5 pm on January 30th for last minute sign-ups.

Other election-related dates:

- Supervisors of the Checklist in session for corrections or changes to party affiliation Jan. 21, 7-7:30 pm
- Last day for 25 voters or 2%, whichever is less, to apply to Selectmen to include a warrant article. Feb. 4th
- Monroe Town & School Budget Hearing Feb. 10th
- Town Meeting (Town first this year, then school) Mar. 11th



BE AN ANGEL!

The Angel Tree will be going up at the Monroe Town Offices on November 28th. This tree is decorated with tags listing people in need. Usually, the tags have the approximate age, gender, and some gift ideas (i.e., 70 year old female, could use an electric blanket.) If you know of a Monroe family in need this Christmas, please call Barb Farr at 638-2612 or Cindy Frazer at 638-2644 or 4446. Ideally, we would like names and ages. All information is kept confidential. You can stop by Town Offices after the 28th to choose a tag – and if you can't get there during business hours, you may call Cindy and she can "give" you a tag over the phone. Gifts should be wrapped with the recipient's tag attached and brought to the Town Offices by December 15th.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHARITY BREAKFAST IS ANOTHER GREAT WAY TO HELP

The Monroe Fire Department will hold their annual "Fill the Boot" breakfast on Sunday, **December 7th**, from **8 am – 10 am** at Town Hall. This breakfast is by donation, and all proceeds go to help Monroe families in need. Thank you to all the men and women of the Fire Department for all that you do!

You can sign up for bi-monthly e-mail newsletters that come in-between the issues of this church-sponsored newsletter by going to www.monroetown.com. The sign-up is right on the home page, and we do not use your e-mail for anything else.

Your Community News, thanks to
The Monroe Community Church
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