

# CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

December '13/January '14



## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

By the time that you receive this newsletter, November will be winding down. This means shorter days and longer nights. The weather changes, the skies change and our colors change. November also brings expectations of family gatherings, great food, bountiful harvests, and fireside nights. But November skies can be very fickle, and we are often left wondering what winter will bring. The farmers of yesteryear thought that they had it all figured out:

Onion skins very thin, mild winter coming in;  
Onion skins thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.

Well I don't know if that is true or not, but it's a great month for praising God. It begins with "All Saints Day," commemorating prior generations who have handed down their faith to us, and it ends with Thanksgiving, in honoring the Pilgrim forefathers who came to America in search of religious freedom for the advancement of the Christian faith, as the Mayflower Compact puts it. December soon arrives on the scene, and along with it comes Christmas, a holiday of moods including joy and gladness for sure, and thoughtfulness that sinks like a steel shaft to the bottom of our souls.

Some of our famous carols are written in these reflective moods, and none more than the one that says:

What child is this who laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Just think about this for a moment. Babies have been arriving nonstop ever since Cain, Abel, and Seth. But not like this child! Only one baby came as the Savoir of the world, and that's the difference. His name was called Jesus, because he came to save His people from their sins. But Jesus who was God Himself, became a man to communicate with us, to die for our liberation, and to rise for our salvation.

My wish for you this Christmas, is that you would ask God to show you fresh and meaningful ways to celebrate Jesus in your heart, in your family, and in your church. If a Babe in manger can be the world's Savoir, we can rise above our traditions and enjoy Christmas again this year, as though it was for the very first time. So this year, slow down, look up, breathe deeply, spend less, and simplify, simplify! This is the way of Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you all---Pastor Earl

### AT A GLANCE

#### DECEMBER

1	Fire Dept Breakfast
2	Angel Tree Up; Bible Study Begins
4	Wreath Making
8	Memory Tree
14	Ray Burton Memorial
15	Mclure's Concert
16	Angel Tree Gifts Due
19	MCS Holiday Concert & Potluck Dinner
21	Solstice Bonfire
23	MCS, SJA on Christmas Break
23	Cookies & Carols
25	Christmas Day
31	First Night St. J

#### JANUARY

6	MCS Back to School
13	SJA Back to School
17	NCC MADRIGAL
-19	DINNER
20	Martin Luther King Day (MCS closed)
21	Special "Ray Burton" Election

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## THREE WAYS TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED

We know, everyone gets hit for donations at this time of year. One good way to start is right here at home. There are three existing routes for helping local Monroe residents in need.

1. **EAT!** The Fire Department will hold their annual “Fill the Boot” charity breakfast on **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is a 100% ‘by donation’ breakfast – there is no set price. All of the money raised from this breakfast goes along with the overall Angel Tree Project, to help local families in need, so please be generous! Breakfast is always ‘all you can eat’, and runs from 7:30 – 10 AM.
2. **SHOP!** The second way is through the Angel Tree project. This year’s “Angel Tree” will be up in Town Hall on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Please stop by and take a tag, which will give you the age and gender of a person in need, along with a few ideas of what they might appreciate for Christmas. Gifts are due back to the NEW TOWN OFFICES by **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. **AND, new this year, you can nominate a person or a family in need anonymously** – they need never know you thought of them. Visit [monroetown.com/angel-tree-nominations](http://monroetown.com/angel-tree-nominations) to suggest someone.

*Note! As of press time, it is unclear about what hours the Town Hall will be open, now that Town Offices have moved down the road. Please call 638-2644 to make sure you’ll be able to get to the tree before you drive over, or to see if you can get a tag from Cindy or Marilyn.*

3. **CALL OR E-MAIL!** Pastor Earl has asked us to share his phone number (603-787-2218) & e-mail address ([earldianebrock@gmail.com](mailto:earldianebrock@gmail.com)). Here’s what he had to say: “It’s that time of year again that can become very stressful for some, for many different reasons. Heating bills, grocery bills, as well as providing our families with Christmas gifts are just a few of the reasons that come to mind. If you should need a hand, we are here to help you in any way, shape or form that we can. Confidentiality guaranteed.

## GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS WITH BIBLE STUDY!

Do you wish for a more peaceful Christmas? Here’s your chance to take some time out of the craziness and learn more about the Bible. This course is only 6 weeks long and uses Adam Hamilton’s book The Way. The book is about various parts of Jesus’ life, including a DVD of the Holy Land of all those places Jesus walked. The group will meet in the Library on **Mondays at 7 PM, starting Dec 2nd**. Remaining meetings are Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>; January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. For more info, call Sonia at 638-4191.

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

The Garden Club will be making wreaths for Town Buildings (i.e., Town Hall, Post Office, Library) on **December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in Town Hall. All help is appreciated, and you do not need to be an expert in wreath-making! Call Barb for more info, 638-2612.

## MEMORY TREE IN 18<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

This year’s tree is dedicated to Harry Call, James DeWitt, Kathy McClintock, Kenneth Paye Sr., and Eunice Creola Rowe. You may have a light shine for a loved one throughout the holiday season. Bulbs are \$5 each and can be ordered by sending a check made payable to the Monroe Community Church, c/o Marguerite Currier, 98 Harleyview Drive, Monroe. The lighting takes place on **Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4 PM**, (Village Church) with refreshments following. *Be sure to tell Marguerite WHO your light is in memory of, and how you want your name to be read!*

## NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The North Country Chorus will present their Christmas program, including an audience carol sing-along, on **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** in Littleton (7:30 PM), **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** in Wells River (7:30 PM), and **Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** in Peacham (3 PM). Tickets are \$10 at the door, or you can purchase on-line from [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org). More program details at [northcountrychorus.org](http://northcountrychorus.org).

## SCHOOL NEWS

- ✓ **New Principal** For those who missed the announcement, Leah Holz is now the acting principal of Monroe School (Tom McGuire is on leave). Leah has taught at Monroe School for 15 years, and has completed her Principal training at New England College.
- ✓ **HONOR!** On Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Monroe School celebrated our nation's veterans in honor of Veteran's Day. Young musicians started the program with the Star Spangled Banner, followed by several student readings. Guest speaker John Neylon, a Navy Veteran from Twin Mountain, spoke to the audience about his military career. The Veteran's Day program concluded with a rousing rendition of the Armed Forces Medley sung by children and adults alike.
- ✓ **ROAR!** On December 11th, Monroe School will welcome the TIGER program (Theatre Integrating Guidance Education and Responsibility) from Plymouth State University. TIGER will present "Bully Free You and Me" - an interactive theater production based on writings and thoughts of New Hampshire school children about bullying. The production will incorporate actor, puppets, theater, movement and music. TIGER will perform for grades K-2 at 10:30am and for grades 5-8 at 1:30pm.

The staff and students of MCS would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Monroe PTF and to Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs for their generous support of the TIGER program.

- ✓ **CELEBRATE!** Join us for Monroe Consolidated School's Holiday Program: A Celebration of Light. The program will be on Thursday, **December 19th at 6:30pm** at Town Hall. Students and staff will honor celebrations that take place throughout the world.

## POT LUCK DINNER

The PTF will host a pot luck dinner at **5:30 on December 19<sup>th</sup>**, just before the school's Christmas program. PTF will supply paper goods, drinks and dessert, and would like to extend a special invitation to those who may not have children in the school to join us for a meal and the children's program.

The PTF and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class would also like to thank everyone for their support at this year's Craft Fair & Silent Auction, and during their Yankee Candle fundraiser.

## UPCOMING MEMORIAL FOR RAY BURTON NEEDS A BIG SPACE

Ray Burton probably touched the lives of just about everyone in the North Country at one time or another. That's just one reason his memorial service promises to need a lot of space. You can pay your respects on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM**, at Plymouth State University in the Student Union Building. Details at [Plymouth.edu](http://Plymouth.edu).

## MCLURE'S CONCERT IS A GREAT CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Once again, we are treated to Mclure's Alumni Band in their annual Christmas Concert, which usually includes a . . . shh . . surprise visit from Santa. This year's concert is on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3 PM**, in Town Hall.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for a way out of all the holiday craziness? Come to the Library on Monday, **December 23<sup>rd</sup> between 9 AM and Noon** for Cookies and Carols! Decorate a Christmas cookie and enjoy some holiday music.

The Library will be closed for the holidays on Tuesday 12/24, Thursday 12/26 and Tuesday 12/31. The Library will also be closed on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

## HOLIDAY TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed January 20th and February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen will not be meeting on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE TRADITION CONTINUES

Continuing Tom Guganig's tradition, the solstice bonfire will be Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 PM, at the Sherman's (corner of Hammond & Winchester). Join us for crisp air, friends, and refreshments!

## RAY BURTON SPECIAL ELECTION SCHEDULED

A special primary to fill Ray Burton's Executive Council Seat has been scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>. (Stay tuned for voting hours – early indications are polls will be open from 8 am - 7pm.) If needed, the General Election will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, Town Meeting Day.

**Monroe Community Church Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM. Christmas morning, 9 AM.**

## MADRIGAL TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE!

Performances are: **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 PM); **Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 PM), and **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** (4:30 PM). More info including prices and discounts at [northcountrychorus.org](http://northcountrychorus.org), and now you can buy your tickets from [Catamountarts.org](http://Catamountarts.org)! Questions? Call Claire Mead at 603-989-5523.

**NO, THIS ISN'T JUNK MAIL!**  
Monroe Community Church  
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& **JANUARY**  
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