

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

February/March 2015



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

As I'm writing this article for the February/March newsletter, the snow is gently falling from the sky. February is the shortest month on our calendar, but it has also been known to have delivered some snow storms that have packed quite a punch! It's also traditionally known for President's Day, where we honor the legacy of our past presidents, primarily George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. February is also known for St. Valentine's Day, named after a Christian martyr that dates back to the 5th century, and a day in which we shower the one we love with cards, candy, gifts or flowers.

Of all the feelings we experience, love is supreme. It definitely makes life worth living here on earth and will one day be fully enjoyed in heaven. The apostle Paul wrote about love in 1 Corinthians 13. He didn't write a definition but instead described how it acts: unselfish, unconditional, and always looking out for the other person's best interest. And because love speaks the truth, it can sometimes feel as soft as velvet or as rough as sandpaper depending on what is needed. For those of you who have ever had to render tough love, you know how hard that can be.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, He said, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." He then added that the second greatest commandment is just like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37,39) This is God's standard, and a standard that none of us can live up to. It's hard at times to love the Lord that fully or to be concerned that much for our neighbor. And sometimes people can just rub us the wrong way and seem so unlovable.

But when you get right down to it, life is really about one thing, **love**. Television, movies, books and magazines all seem to agree that people are looking for a lasting and fulfilling love. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:8 "God is love." The Lord our God does not cease to love, because in order to do so He would have to cease being Himself. Love hugs the lonely, feeds the hungry, tends to the sick, comforts those who mourn, and puts up with the insufferable. Love is kind and longsuffering, pure and perceptive, and positive in its outlook. Love is the greatest thing in the world!

The apostle John's favorite subject was love, and just before he died he said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." So as we endure the rest of winter and the cold that it brings, may your hearts and minds be warm and open to learn some new lessons on an old subject, **love**. Our church service here in Monroe is now at 9:30 am on Sundays. Join us please if you would, for we would **love** to have you!

Pastor Earl

KEY DATES

February

- 8 Summertime Band Practice
- 10 Budget Hearing
- 12 Men's Club BB Tourn.
- 13 Men's Club Tourn.
- 14 Men's Club Tourn.
- 15 Casino Bus Trip \$ Due
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 19 SJA Winter Break Begins
- 23 MCS Winter Break Begins
- 28 Crazy Jake in Woodsville

March

- 1 Summertime Band Practice
- 2 MCS/SJA Restart
- 8 Clocks go forward!
- 9 Smarter Balance Info Night
- 10 Voting Day & Town Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

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FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED BY LAW

In New Hampshire RSA 227-L:17 requires that a fire permit be obtained by the person conducting and responsible for the open burning whenever the ground is not covered with snow within a 100 foot radius of the burn site. For additional information and a brochure on open burning laws and applicable administrative rules, please visit <http://www.nhdfi.org> or contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department. Please be advised that some communities may also have additional restrictions regarding open burning and specific local permitting requirements.

Options for obtaining a required State of NH Fire Permit:

- Contact your local Forest Fire Warden, Deputy Warden or a fire department official to obtain a written fire permit.
- Utilize the convenience of the [Online Fire Permit System](https://nhdfiweb.sovsportsnet.net) in participating communities. Follow the link: <https://nhdfiweb.sovsportsnet.net>
- Simply scan the QR code below to visit the [Online Permit](https://nhdfiweb.sovsportsnet.net) website.

Help Prevent Wildfires!



NH Division of Forests and Lands
Forest Protection Bureau
PO Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856
603-271-2214
www.nhdfi.org



THE SUMMER TIME MARCHING BAND WANTS YOU!

The Monroe-based Summer Time Marching Band is still accepting members – **AND we are looking for someone willing to loan a tenor or alto sax, which a “want-to-be” member could play.** We have had a few practices and are having a blast. We practice one Sunday a month at Monroe Town Hall, from 6-7:30 pm. Our upcoming practices are February 8th and March 1st. Haven’t played in a while? No problem! Many of the players are in the same boat and are doing great. The songs are easy ones and fun to play. E-mail marychoate@roadrunner.com or call Mary at 638-4903. We also have a Facebook page – look for us under The Summertime Marching Band.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

The Town of Monroe Emergency Management plan was written in 1994 – that’s over 20 years ago!

This plan is in need of being updated and I am looking for people to help with this process. The planning team should include, but not be limited to, such community members as the fire chief, EMS representatives from the relative Federal and State organizations (ie: State Police, Fish & Game, Forest & Lands, Dam operators, Public Utilities, DOT) highway dept., water dept., selectmen, health officers, property owners and relevant businesses or organizations. If you would like to serve on the team to update the Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Monroe, please contact me.

Maynard Farr, Emergency Management Director
Tel. # 603-638-2612

FEELING LUCKY?

Then take the comfy, cushy casino bus with friends to Foxwoods on Saturday, May 9th. The bus departs the Barnet Park & Ride at 5:10 am, and P&H at 5:25 am. You get 9 hours at Foxwoods, free water & snacks on the bus, and a free buffet at the casino, and many other freebies. There’ll also be a movie on the ride home. Tickets are \$59 per person, 21+ only. Checks or money orders can be made payable to the Monroe PTF, and money is due by March 15th. Please send your payment to the Monroe PTF, 77 Woodsville Road, Monroe. For questions, please call Deb Fiske, 603-616-2690. Even if you do not gamble, Foxwoods is a fun place to spend the day – lots of premium retail shops, restaurants, and a great spa.

TOWN BUDGET HEARING FEBRUARY 10TH - TOWN MEETING MARCH 10TH

SCHOOL BUDGET PREVIEW FROM DR. RICHARDS

The Town and School District Public Hearing on Budgets will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 10th, at 7 pm. The Board of Selectmen and the School Board will present their respective budgets for the next fiscal year.

The School Board has approved an operating budget for the 2015-16 school year with an increase of 3%. This budget figure represents all the district's contractual obligations along with the goal of sustaining current programming for a generally steady enrollment for students Pre-K through Grade 12. No new programs are being introduced. The School Board does continue its efforts to address the needs of the school facility here in Monroe. Following the approved Capital Improvement Plan, building needs continue to be addressed through the operating budget as well as Trust Funds used to save additional funds for items needing to be addressed a few years out. Many school building needs will be addressed including both energy and safety projects. Warrant articles also being presented by the School Board include establishing a trust fund to begin to save funds for the purchase and installation of playground equipment. Another warrant article addresses the funding required to meet the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the school's support staff.

Lastly, the town's Boards have worked together with the Monroe's Emergency Management Director, Maynard Farr, to present a warrant article to the voters for the purchase and installation of a generator for the school building. The school building becomes the town's primary emergency shelter if a town emergency exists. A generator would allow for electricity, heat, communications, rest/sleeping areas, and cafeteria to be services used by the town folk in an emergency. This generator would only be purchased if the District receives a grant from NH Emergency Management to pay for half of the cost.

See you on February 10, with a snow date of February 11.

Jeannie Richards, Superintendent of Schools

TOWN MEETING 2015

Voting hours are NOON – 6 PM on Tuesday, March 10th, at Town Hall. Please remember to bring ID with you (which can include, but is not limited to, a driver's license, passport, armed services ID card, non-driver ID card, or a NH student ID card.) New this year, we start with Town Meeting at 7 PM, followed by the School Meeting.

Supervisors of the checklist will be in session on February 28th from 11 – 11:30 am for corrections or to accept applications for voter registration. If you miss this date, you can still register to vote on Town Meeting Day, at the polls.

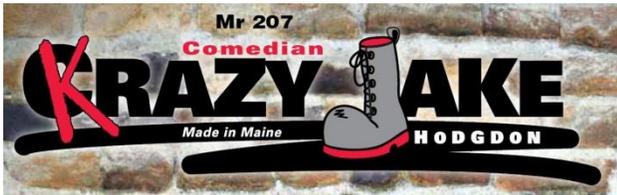
DOG LICENSES

Please contact Marilyn Bedell (638-2644) to get your dog(s) licensed. You'll need proof of rabies vaccine. Ryegate Small Animal Hospital is planning a rabies clinic on Thursday, March 26th, 6-7 PM, and Marilyn will be there to process the paperwork - but call first just to check: 802-633-3660!



THANK YOU FROM MCS AND THE RED CROSS!

The Monroe School hosted a blood drive on Friday, January 23rd, and collected a whopping 38 pints of blood! That's more blood than a January drive at Androscoggin Hospital in Berlin managed! Thank you to the students, teachers and donors!



Join Woodsville Fire & Rescue for their annual fundraiser, "Krazy Jake Comes to Woodsville". This extremely popular show will be on Saturday, February 28th, at 8 pm, in the Clifford Memorial Building. You can check out some of Krazy Jake's videos on his website, www.krazyjakecomedy.com. Tickets are \$17.50 in advance or \$20 at the door, and are available at the "Comida Mexicana", Little Grill's newest venture, by Subway in Woodsville, or by calling 603-991-8567. This is a 21+, BYOB event, and a great way to support Woodsville Fire Rescue – they are Monroe's transporting ambulance service. .

MEN'S CLUB BASKETBALL CVL TOURNAMENT

The 64th Monroe Men's Club CVL Basketball Tournament will be held on Feb. 12th, 13th and 14th at Town Hall. Preliminary games are at 6 and 7:15 pm Thursday and Friday nights, then on Saturday, consolation games are at 1 and 2:15. Championship games are at 4 and 5:15 pm.

The monies raised from this tournament are used toward the Men's Club Educational Grant, which is awarded each year to a student who is attending their first year of any type of post-secondary school. In the past few years, we have awarded two (2) \$1,500 grants.

Please come out and support everyone involved in this event – the players, coaches, officials, parents, program sponsors, and the Men's Club. Come enjoy the games and the GOOD FOOD!

Did you know? Past editions of the newsletter are on-line at monroetown.com/newsletter. You can also sign up for bi-monthly e-mail news on the home page of monroetown.com. This would be the "fill-in" stuff that was added AFTER this newsletter gets printed!

PLEASE DON'T THROW ME AWAY!
 Monroe Community Church
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 Monroe, NH 03771-0125

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Your February
 & March News!

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