

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

June/July 2013



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

As I write this for the newsletter, I am very aware that this will be our last "pastor's corner." At the end of June Mary Elise and I are moving to a retirement community in Wells, Maine. This marks the end of 16 years of living in Monroe, and the end of a continued connection with many people whom we have come to know and cherish.

In our years here for summer holidays, and then for these 16 as residents, we have come to appreciate many of the qualities of our community life: the concern of neighbors for each other, the life of the Monroe Church, and the other groups and organizations that have enriched our living here.

All of us have noticed changes: the decline of dairy farming, and the new opportunities brought by the egg production; the close of the Grange and the village store, the merger of the churches, the loss of long-time residents, and the arrival of new families.

Through it all I have sensed a decline in the feeling of "community," of being joined in a common and shared responsibility for our town and school, and in our networks of caring for one another.

Good community life isn't an accident. It happens when residents invest in the community, and support those efforts and institutions—select board, school, church, 4-H, scouting, sports teams, and community events—so that we grow those ties between us, which expand our sensitivity to needs, and enlist our support to make life better.

Our hope for Monroe is simple: that we might renew among us a sense of being joined in a shared enterprise, and a commitment to strengthen the connections which can meet the needs and hopes of all our residents. And we would ask all of us who live in Monroe one question of ourselves: "What might I take on, or do differently, that would enrich our life as a community?"

With gratitude for all we have shared together,

Pastors Don and Mary Elise Thomas

KEY DATES

JUNE

1	Plant & Food Sale Yard Sales Car Wash
8	Mclure's Concert & Chicken BBQ
13	MCS 8 th Grade Graduation
14	Last Day of School for MCS (watch for children!)
16	Father's Day
17	First week of Swim Lessons, 6/17 - 6/20
24	Second week of Swim Lessons, 6/24-6/27

JULY

4	Happy Birthday, USA!
15	Vacation Bible School (thru 7/19)
20	Big Trash Day
24	N. Haverhill Fair (thru 7/28)
27	Summer Movie Night @ MCS

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June 1st: An Action-Packed Day!

What do a Plant Sale, Bake Sale, Car Wash and Yard Sales have in common? They're all happening on Saturday, June 1st, all over town! The Church will hold their annual Plant Sale in the Town Park starting at 8:30 AM (come before noon for the best selection). A Pie & Bake Sale will be held at the Village Church, and over at the School, the Monroe PTF will be dishing up burgers and dogs, while the 7th Grade will hold a by-donation car wash. Are YOU in on the action? Yard Sales will be advertised as being from 9-3 – call the Library at 638-4736 to get yourself (and your "stuff") on the list. Ad donations gratefully accepted.

Mclure's Alumni Band Concert & Chicken BBQ!



Come enjoy the 'sounds of summer' with Mclure's Alumni Band at 7 pm on **Saturday, June 8th**, at Town Hall. The concert is preceded by a chicken BBQ. Take-outs are from 4:30-5 PM, dinner from 5-6:30 PM. Great food + great music = a great time!



Please come out on **Sunday, June 30th**, from **1 – 4 PM** at **Town Hall** to say goodbye to Don & Mary Elise Thomas. They've been a part of Monroe life for many years, and we want them to know how much they are loved as they head out to Maine to enjoy their (second and final) retirement! Please post your remembrances on the Monroe, NH Facebook page so we can share them that day with the guests of honor. The party is a pot-luck, with beverages, cake, and serving ware provided. Live music, a 'signature quilt', hugs and some tears are planned.



Local faves The Back Shed String Band will play at Groton State Park on **July 20th at 2 pm** as part of the park's Summer Rec series. Of course, we're lucky enough to find at least some of the band in town most Friday nights on Plains Road.



North Country Chorus, which counts many talented Monroe singers as members, will present two concerts of American music in honor of Newbury & Haverhill's 250th Anniversaries:

Sat Aug. 3rd, 7:30 PM, Wells River Congreg Church
Sun Aug. 4th, 7:30 PM, Haverhill Congreg Church

For more info, visit northcountrychorus.org

TOWN INFO

✓Town Offices and the Library will be closed on July 4th.

✓The last two "Big Trash Days" remaining are Saturday, July 20th and Saturday, Sept. 21st, at the Municipal Garage from 9 AM – 3 PM. Details on monroenh.org.

✓Remember, recycling is always accessible at the Municipal Garage, and no sorting is needed – just no plastic bags, please. If you choose to separate your aluminum cans for the 'can trailer', please taken them OUT of plastic bags.

SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE



Summer Reading Fun is coming your way. The Library will have all the details ready before the end of school, so stop by or call 638-4736 for more info.



Free Swimming Lessons

for children ages 3-8th grade are June 17th-20th and 24th-27th, at St. Johnsbury Academy. Children must be aged 3 by June 15th. Please note children 6 and under **MUST** have a parent or guardian with them **EVERY DAY**. Bus pick-ups are as follows:

Location	Pick-Up	Drop-Off
North Church	8:00	1:10
Town Hall	8:15	12:50
Winchester	8:25	12:55
Joan's Daycare	8:30	1:00

Permission forms were sent home from school, or you can print one from monroetown.com on the "Play" page. Volunteers are needed, especially fathers to help supervise the boys' locker room. Also, please make sure to write your child's name on everything they bring, and **SEND GOGGLES**. Questions? Call Judy Martin, 991-9948.

PTF Summer Movie Nights: June 27, July 19, August 9. Pot Luck BBQ @ 6:30 pm, Movies start around 8:30 on the School Field. Bring lawn chairs/blankets and bug spray!



Vacation Bible School will

be July 15th – 19th at the North Church, 8:30-11:30 AM. This year's theme is "Everywhere Fun Fair", where we learn about fairs around the world – perfect for the week before the local North Haverhill Fair kicks off. Cost is \$5 per child with a maximum of \$10 per family, **if registration and payment are received by July 1st**. After that, registration will be \$10 per child. (We need that time to buy final supplies and snacks for registered children!) *You do not need to be a member of the Monroe Church to attend VBS – the only requirement is a desire to have fun!* You can get a sign-up form at the Village Church, or sign-up on-line at www.monroetown.com/vbs. For more info, call Sonia Zuk, 638-4191.



Over 21's Foxwoods Trip

Sponsored by the Monroe PTF, this trip is on Sunday, July 21st. \$65 per seat includes round trip luxury coach transportation, approximately 8 hours at Foxwoods Casino, a \$10 voucher for food and \$10 of free play. A movie will be shown on the return trip. Bus departs Monroe School at 5 am, arrives Foxwoods 9 am. Departs Foxwoods 5 pm, arrives back in Monroe around 9 pm. You **MUST** be 21 to ride! Tickets are first-come, first-served and may be ordered by mailing your name, address, phone number plus a check (payable to Monroe PTF) to Monroe PTF, P.O. Box 147, Monroe, NH.



The Library is looking for hard cover books in good condition by the following authors:

Louisa May Alcott	Jane Austin
Pearl S. Buck	Truman Capote
Charles Dickens	Ernest Hemingway
Mark Twain	

Donations of these “classics” will help the Library stretch their budget – and we all know what that’s like!

SAVE THESE DATES! This year’s Harvest Festival dates are:



AND WELCOME PASTOR EARL!

New Monroe Community Church Pastor Earl Brock has an “official” start date of July 1st. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be on **July 7th**, so please come out to welcome him. If you need to reach him, home is **787-2218** and e-mail is earldianebrock@gmail.com.

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