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Minister  
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Frank Jackson  
Sexton & Housekeeper  
Linda & David Peck  
Secretary  
Lorraine Ahladas

The deadline for submitting information  
or announcements for the  
February Chronicle is January

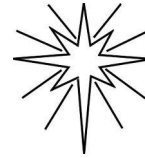


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## Foster Memorial Church

Volume 61, Issue 1

January, 2012



Dear friends,

As I write this, I am anticipating our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. What a special blessing it is to have Christmas celebrated on Sunday!

The season of Christmastide begins on Christmas Day and lasts for twelve days. Following this season is the Day of Epiphany, on January 6. This is the day when we remember the gospel story of the Magi (wise men) seeking the newborn King. They find Jesus, at about two years of age, and his mother, residing in a house in Bethlehem.

The season of Epiphany follows, with themes of new beginnings and light. Our gospel stories for the season include Jesus' baptism, his beginnings in earthly ministry and his transfiguration, on a mountaintop.

One of my favorite hymns for the season of Epiphany has words by Kathleen Thomerson:

*I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus  
God set the stars to give light to the world The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God; Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

May the light of God in Christ shine brightly in our hearts, so that we may shine for others!

In Christ,  
Barbara



In December, altar flowers were given:

- 12/4 - In loving memory of Donald Kenyon from his wife, Dorothy
- 12/11 - In loving memory of my son, Phillip, on his birthday from June Pike



Happy Birthday to all of our members and friends who were born in January:

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1/1 - Steven Selden          | 1/21 - Connie Gumlaw             |
| 1/4 - Marjorie Cummings      | 1/22 - Marjorie Lindstrom        |
| 1/6 - James Calkins          | 1/24 - Pam Corey                 |
| 1/7 - Mary Scott             | 1/25 - Ken Foss                  |
| 1/12 - Doreen Bessey-Robbins | 1/26 - Rebekah Crampton-Kamukala |
| 1/13 - Jenny Colby           | 1/30 - Dave McFadden             |
| 1/13 - Kate Michaels         | 1/31 - Gloria Driscoll           |
| 1/14 - Gail McFadden         |                                  |
| 1/17 - Eunice Clayton        |                                  |



Happy Anniversary to all our members and friends!

- 1/27 - Mary and Donald Scott

USHER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

- 1/1 - Norman Ethier, Judy Milano, Ben Smith, Claire Tatro
- 1/8 - Bev Aitken, Dot & Skip Koszalka, Louise Young
- 1/15 - Jean Lockwood, Dianne Marceau, Pat McDowell, Cathy Moran
- 1/22 - Jayne Hay, Bruce Moore, Nancy Picuch, Dave Staton
- 1/29 - Norman Ethier, Ben Smith, Claire Tatro, Kathy Thomas



We wish to thank our November *Chronicle* volunteers: Lise Hatcher, Dorothy Kenyon, Grace King, Ellie Rae and Dick Pond.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Our Church, Bruce Breuer, Lynda Kinney, Lester Leonard, Rob Marinello, Adell Kenyon, Linda Tetreault, Helen Aitken, Gail Baker, Marjorie Kenniston, Jon-Michael Leary, Ken Padden, Stewart & Karen MacLeod, Patty Meyers-Schultz, Bonnie Flynn, Becky Robinson, Deb Chase, Joseph Bevard and Robert DeRaleau*



Please help us to keep our printed prayer list as current as possible. If you have information about someone on the list whose name could be removed, or someone who needs to be added, please call Lorraine at the church office. Thank you for your help.

## Fosterians

**The Afternoon Fosterians** will meet on Wednesday, January 18, at 12:00 noon. Periodically, the Fosterians invite people to speak about their life as an autobiography. Vivian George will share stories about her life at this gathering.

**The Evening Fosterians** will meet on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. when they will hold a Tea Cup Auction. Hostesses are Dot Koszalka and Nancy Piecuch. Devotions will be led by Ellie Rae.

Save The Date - Saturday, February 11  
Comedy Improv!

Many of us know Biff Simpson from his comedic talents in Foster's Cabaret Shows through the years. Biff now lives in New Hampshire and is part of *Valley Improv*. Another member is Rick Peck (son of Dave and Linda) Small world!

Biff, Rick and the Director of *Valley Improv*, Becky Byars, have offered to come and perform a comedy show for at Foster to benefit our church. We talked it over at our December Exec Board and agreed that this would be the perfect fund raiser for our kitchen renovation.

The date for this show will be Saturday, February 11. Connie Gumlaw will be heading up the kitchen/serving team. I'll be helping with a PR/hosting/show logistics team.

If you can help, please speak to one of us. We also need a few people willing to host our guests in your home.

Many more details will be coming our way soon about this fun event!  
--Pastor Barbara



## Summary Financial Report

In an effort to keep everyone informed as the year progresses, the Executive Board voted to publish a summary financial report in each edition of the Chronicle based on the Treasurer's most recent report. The summary report of Income and Expenses as of November 30, 2011 is as follows:

	11/30/2011	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
INCOME:				
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$20,265.73	\$151,147.47	\$179,165.00	84.36%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$14,227.39	\$150,358.33	\$183,150.00	82.10%
YTD DEFICIT/SURPLUS		\$789.14	-\$3,985.00	N/A

*Dear Foster Memorial Church*

*On behalf of The First Church of Monson, the Town of Monson, and the survivors of the June 1, 2011 tornado, please accept our heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness for your generous contribution of \$250 to the Monson Tornado Relief Fund. Donations such as yours have allowed us to help the many victims of the tornado.*

*You are, and continue to be, a light of hope.*

In December, the Church was beautifully decorated with poinsettias given:

*In memory of Charles & Dorothy Corris from Charlene Corris*  
*In appreciation for all my mother does for us from Eneida Gonzalez*  
*In memory of loved ones from Joseph Rosati*  
*In memory of loved ones from Pamela and Bruce Corey*  
*In memory of loved ones from Sandy and Bob Moore*  
*In memory of loved ones from Becky and George Kamukala*  
*In memory of Donnie and Donald Kenyon from Dorothy Kenyon*  
*In memory of loved ones from Marge Cummings*  
*In memory of John B. Marceau and Edwin Aldrich from*  
*Dianne Marceau*  
*In memory of loved ones from Norman Ethier*  
*In memory of loved ones from Carol and Charlie Shultz*  
*In memory of Ken Nicholson from Ruth Nicholson*  
*In memory of Poppa from Kristen and Mike Naglieri*  
*In memory of our grandparents from Kristen and Mike Naglieri*  
*In memory of loved ones from Grace King*  
*In memory of Mary Anne Hastings from Donald, Mary Lynn*  
*and Sadie Hunter*  
*In memory of Jackie Cummings from Pat English*  
*In memory of Jason Johnson from Liz and Jim Cummings*  
*In memory of Bobby Cummings from Liz and Jim Cummings*  
*In memory of loved ones from Anne and Ed Smith*  
*In memory of Curtis and Charles from Phyllis Wilkes*  
*In memory of loved ones from Nancy Piecuch*  
*In memory of loved ones from Agnes Puricelli*  
*In memory of loved ones from Becky and Terry Flemming*

*In gratitude to Jean Lockwood for being such a good shepherd*  
*From Judy and Charlie Rososky*  
*In memory of our parents from Dave and Linda Peck*  
*In memory of Fred Hawley from the Pecks, Rososkys an Coreys*  
*In memory of Gary Lockwood from Jean Lockwood*  
*In memory of loved ones from Pat and Dick Pond*  
*In memory of my friend, Connie Carmine, from Connie Gumlaw*  
*In memory of our parents from Gail and Dave McFadden*  
*In memory of Mark Tatro and Melissa Sutter from Claire Tatro*  
*In memory of loved ones from Kaaren and Chuck Trask*  
*In memory of loved ones from Louise Young*  
*In memory of loved ones from Lynne Delusa*  
*In memory of Dot and Russell Weinhold from Bev Weinhold*  
*In memory of our parents from Lori and John LaTalle*



Dear Foster Family and Friends,

A New Year is here! And I can hardly believe that I'm beginning my last semester at Bangor Theological Seminary. Depending on the moment, I am overcome with anticipation and humbleness. Anticipation that this chapter of my studies for ordained ministry is coming to a close and humbleness for the very same reason.

With the beginning of this semester, I will be starting my field education (or mentored practice) with the UCC Church in Westhampton. This is an important piece of my educational process. I will be mentoring with a UCC pastor and learning the practical use of the things I have been learning in Seminary. However, it also means that you will not see me at Foster for most of the next few months.

As I have traveled back and forth to Maine, your prayers have been my constant joy, giving me the strength for each challenge and reminding me of my life and family in Christ. Prayers to me are like the GPS in my car that has been my close buddy making sure my car stays on the right roads no matter what the weather or if it's night or day. During the time that I am absent from all of you, I ask that you will each continue to remember me in prayer as I do you.

Let's all go into this New Year with the guiding of God's GPS:  
the **G**race of our Creator God  
the **P**eace of our Lord and friend, Jesus and  
the **S**pirit of the Comforter.

Joy always,  
Carol

Save the Date: Women's Worship and Fellowship  
Sunday, February 5

All women of the church are invited to a special gathering to celebrate the annual UCC Women's Week on Sunday, February 5 at the church house from 7-8:30 PM. Included will be a worship service, sharing around the theme of the service, refreshments and fellowship. Please join us and bring a friend (or two!)

Church Sign and Carillon

Our grateful thanks to Dave Peck and Ed Smith, who are so faithful about making sure our Church Sign reflects current activities and observances. We are especially grateful for their efforts in the cold, snowy weather!

And thanks to Dave, who is in charge of our carillon, which rings out beautiful hymns throughout the year!

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

We are always looking for more people to read scripture on Sunday morning and to act as liturgist when I am away. Please contact me if you would like to be a reader. For those already on the list, please let me know from time to time when you will be available. It's a daunting task to try to find someone for each worship service all year long!

--Pastor Barbara

Weather Cancellations

If we have to cancel a service because of extreme wintry weather, Pastor Barbara puts the announcements on local TV stations, including channel 40 and 22.

If the Springfield public schools close, we cancel Tuesday morning Bible Study.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
BLANKETS+**

Blankets+ Special Offering  
January 29, 2011

Once again this year, we invite people to participate in our special "*Blankets + Special Offering*."

Approximately 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events each year, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S. This special offering was started by Church World Service over 60 years ago.

In recent years, it has expanded beyond just blankets to include emergency supplies, tools and seeds, wells, literacy training and microcredit programs.

*Our Blankets + Special Offering* will be collected on January 29 during our worship service. An offering envelope is included in this edition of *The Chronicle*.

You are welcome to mail the offering to the church office or to bring it with you on Sunday morning. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

--Board of World Service

Youth Groups

We had seven youth members baking and decorating cookies on December 12. And then, we went caroling with other church members! Thanks to Robin Withers for taking the lead with cookie preparation. Pastor Barbara and Charlene Corris delivered cookie (and milk!) to Mrs. Joanne Wells' kindergarten class at Rebecca Johnson the next day. The children were surprised and thrilled! The whole church enjoyed the cookies prepared at our coffee hour on December 18. Thanks to our youth and youth group leaders!

Our January event will be bowling on Sunday, January 22. All youth from grades 5-12 are invited. A post card will be sent out with details. If you do not receive one, please call the church office.

Save the Date: Super Saturday  
March 3, 2012 - 8 AM-3 PM  
Ludlow High School

Our Mass. UCC Conference is offering this special day again this year, with 33 workshops covering a variety of useful topics. Lunch is included. For a full description of workshops, you can go online to:

[http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/DAA2A31CAE20488AB5A7628EF84690FA\\_Super-Sat-spring-2012-WEB.pdf](http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/DAA2A31CAE20488AB5A7628EF84690FA_Super-Sat-spring-2012-WEB.pdf)

We also have brochures in the office. Last year, about a dozen of us attended! Lunch is provided.

Please speak to Pastor Barbara for more information and if you are planning to attend! We must register by February 22 – the sooner the better to get your first choice of workshops.

## 2012 Budget Presentation

There will be brief meeting on January 22, 2012 in the Sanctuary to present the proposed 2012 budget. We would like to start the meeting immediately following the worship service in order to allow enough time for the presentation and not interfere with Grace Baptist's worship service. Please plan on attending as this is a very important meeting in preparation for the annual meeting and voting on the 2012 budget.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Your Finance Board*

## Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of Foster Memorial Church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in Fellowship Hall at the church. There will be a luncheon after the regular Sunday Worship Service on that day and the Annual Meeting will begin (at about 12:30 pm) after the luncheon. All members are encouraged to attend. A quorum of 50 members is needed to transact business. Only current active members of the congregation may vote at the Annual Meeting. (Contact Pastor Barbara Schenk if you wish to become a member.) The agenda includes the acceptance of annual reports, the election of officers and board and committee members, discussion and voting on the 2011 budget, and all other business that may be brought before the meeting.

A packet of reports and other material pertinent to the Annual Meeting will be available for pick up at the church after the regular Sunday Worship Service beginning about January 22, 2012. If you wish to receive a copy by mail, please send your request along with a stamped (approximately \$1.50), self-addressed, 9" x 12" envelope to the office. There will also be a brief presentation of the proposed budget after the Worship Service on Sunday, January 23, 2011.  
--Jeanie Marsh

## God Time Theme

On Sunday, January 15th until February 19th, the God Time theme is entitled "Encountering the Holy." Throughout Unit IV, people of different ages and backgrounds "encounter" God (Holy) in unusual settings and circumstances. God encounters and calls people in many ways, often when they least expect it. Each of us, no matter what our age, can experience and answer God's call. God's call to us is not usually something we hear with our ear, but a nudge that we feel with our hearts. At the time, we may not even recognize it as a call from God. Like the people of the Bible, it is often in looking back over some of our life experiences that we are able to recognize God at work, calling us. In God Time we will be trying to help the children and youth to explore what prayer is, and discover the ways that God speaks to us.

## Nursery Child Care

Our youngest friends hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and that we will all have a wonderful New Year. They particularly want to thank Dianne Marceau and Gail McFadden for being there with them this month helping Eneida do the wonderful work that she does. *Happy New Year!!*

## New Year's Wish

*Wish simply this:  
To have the smarts  
To save a part  
Of Christmas  
In your heart.  
-- Cheryl Willis Hudson*

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who helped with Advent/Christmas events and services.

Thanks to our Chancel Choir and our Choir Director/Organist, Frank Jackson for all of your beautiful music.

Thanks to CE Board and everyone who led crafts and carols and helped with the Potluck Supper for our Advent Workshop.

Thanks to our Deacons, ushers and lay readers.

Thanks to our God Time Guides, children and youth for a very meaningful Pageant.

Thanks to the Trustees who cleaned the chandeliers in our sanctuary.

Thanks to Donna Griffith and Evelyn Sambolin for coordinating our poinsettias donations and to those who helped to set them up on the altar.

Thanks to everyone who donated poinsettias.

Thanks to Gail and Dave McFadden for our beautiful Advent banners.

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts for Gray House and items for our Mitten Tree.

Thanks to our church staff for all of your work!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our worship services, including Christmas morning!



## Church Accessibility Committee

Though you may not have heard much from us in the last two or three months, the Church Accessibility Committee is still at work behind the scenes, and we are hoping to make substantial progress toward our goal of complete accessibility to all areas of the church for all members in the year 2012.

The Committee was all set to meet on October 30, 2011 - and we all know what happened then - the Halloween Freak Snowstorm. After that between absences and the holidays, we weren't able to reconvene immediately, but will be meeting again on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Meanwhile, a sub-committee which includes Brian Coombs, Dave Staton and Joe Rosati, issued a "Request for Quotation," for a "Floor Lift Installation and Bathroom Renovation." There has been some expressed interest in bidding on this project. More will be known in January, with a fuller report to be made at our Annual Meeting.

Please contact any of us on the committee with your questions or comments. Committee Members:

Greg Sutter, Ben Smith, Jean Lockwood, Mary Caron, Joe Rosati, Dave Staton, Dave Peck, Brian Coombs, Kaaren Trask, Enid Miller, Kevin Withers, Jeanie Marsh, Becky Crampton Kamukala and Mike Naglieri from the Board of Trustees and Pastor Barbara. In addition, Cathy Lange-Mazanec will be joining the committee in January.

--Rebekah Crampton-Kamukala

