





## Growing a Garden of Faith

Although not much of a gardener myself, I did a sermon series on this topic many years ago and had such fun and such a favorable response that I thought it would make for a great summer series this year. Back then I hadn't wised up to the value of involving others in planning out worship services and series, but this time we are all benefiting from the involvement of Lauren Jodoin, Robbe MacKenzie, and Elliott Hancarik in creating this series. For example, Lauren learned about the book, *The Garden of the Soul: Cultivating Your Spiritual Life* by Keri Wyatt Kent. This is a gem and well worth anyone's reading, and it is guiding my sermon preparations each week.

Recently, we have been considering behaviors and practices that nurture the spirit's growth in our lives, and the gardening paradigm applies. Keri Kent writes, "Just as an apple matures into a fruit that is red, crunchy, sweet, and white on the inside..., a disciple of Christ will mature into someone who is increasingly loving, kind, gentle, good and self-controlled (Cf. Galatians 5:22-23)." So, come grow with us as we explore the garden of the Spirit that we are cultivating this summer! Except for July 4<sup>th</sup> — when the theme will be to celebrate our nation's independence, treasure religious freedom, and partake of Communion — summer Sundays will "dig into" the gardening theme. Topics for upcoming Sundays are:

July 11 - Watering (thirsty for faith in religious drought)

July 18 - Fertilizing your relation to God, Feeding Faith

July 25 - [Outdoor Chapel Worship] Fencing, Arbors, Staking, Support, Protecting your investment in the growing plants.

August 1 - [Communion] Stewards of God's Earth, God gave Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve to care take and tend to it.

Happy Gardening, Growth, and Summer Recreation,

## Introducing Kurt Walker Our Guest Preacher on July 18<sup>th</sup>



We are blessed to have Kurt join us to lead worship on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. He was born and raised in the UCC while attending Central Square Congregational Church in Bridgewater, MA. While attending

Andover Newton Theological School—from which he graduated in May—he has worked at the United Parish of Auburndale as their Director of Youth Ministries. While in seminary, Kurt was active in the Peace and Justice, Prison Ministry, and Interfaith movements both on campus and in the community. Kurt is presently in-discernment with the Pilgrim Association of the United Church of Christ. Prior to seminary, Kurt was a member of

the Tanglewood Festival Chorus for ten years; having sung with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Europe, New York, Boston and Tanglewood. His wife, Jennifer, works at Andover Newton as Administrative Assistant for Continuing and Contextual Education, and they have two children.



## Patriotic Hymn Sing on July 4<sup>th</sup>

In honor of Independence Day, we will have readings, testimonies, and a patriotic hymn sing along with our celebration of Holy Communion. See you there!

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS ...

#### WHAT IS YOUR PRIORITY?

No matter how much we may try to deny it, money defines who we are. Where our money comes from, what we do with it, and our attitude towards it shows the world who we are and what the priorities are in our lives. Fortunately, God explains to us in the Bible how to use our money to glorify Him.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon warns us not to look for satisfaction, significance, or security in wealth. As a way of gaining perspective, Ecclesiastes 5:15 says, **“As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came; and he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand.”** Here, Solomon is telling us not to spend our whole lives working to gain wealth for ourselves because in the end when we leave this world, none of it can come with us.

Later, in Ecclesiastes 7:14, Solomon reminds us that money is not only a gift from God, it is meant to be enjoyed. **“In the day of prosperity be joyful...but in the day of adversity consider: surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, so that man can find out nothing that will come after him.”** God wants us to be happy and enjoy our gift from Him, but to also remember that a time will come when we no longer have money and to not be destroyed by this. It is good to enjoy money as long as we remember that it is a gift from God. So how do we keep from taking our enjoyment of money too far? Simple: we tithe.

Tithing is our responsibility as receivers of God’s gift of wealth. If we simply take the gift that He has given us without giving back a specific portion (10%) of it, we are showing that His gift is not worthy of our thanks.

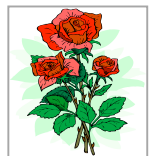
Tithing is also a way of stating our priorities. When we give God our FIRST fruits (not the leftovers), we are showing that He comes first in our lives.

So, if money is what defines us, what is the definition of **you**? Does your giving show that God is priority in your life?

### USHERS FOR JULY ...

- 4 Dave & Nancy Bibbins and Alan & Anna Gibbs
- 11 Eric & Judy Pearson and Luke & Cindy Bonenfant
- 18 Floyd & Dot Smith and Tom & Allison Hardy
- 25 Don & Laurie Hill, Helen Chapman and Dean Hopps

**If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.**



### SUNDAY FLOWERS ...

As always, donations of flowers are welcomed for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the Flower Sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee member know. Please contact Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (**July**), Robbe MacKenzie 485-7295 (**August**) and Doris Rowden 485-3664 (**September**).

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jodi Ehler – 4          | Adam Driscoll - 20   |
| Madeline Soriano – 6    | John Saturley - 21   |
| Rose Marie Thibault – 9 | Debby Schulte - 22   |
| Roland Boulet – 14      | Alexandra Daley - 29 |
| Judy Pearson – 14       |                      |

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Roland & Viola Boulet – 14

Marc & Amanda Hall – 15

Alan & Anna Gibbs – 26

Luke & Cindy Bonenfant - 27



## THE YOUTH GROUP ...

Red Sox great, **Bernie Carbo** comes to worship with us in the Sanctuary on Thursday, July 22, at 7pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm. There will be worship band, games and Bernie as keynote speaker.

The **Annual Ice Cream Social** will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, July 25 at 6pm. Work camp missionaries will share their experiences with the congregation. This year should be especially exciting because we have a whole new crew of campers!



## WORLD SERVICE ...

*Our Family's Table* serves a free meal on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. The **Interfaith Food Pantry** is open on **Wednesdays** from **1-3pm** and **5:30-6:30pm**. Donations are received on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of the month.

**SAVE THE DATE - 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CROP Walk For Hunger**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 (sign-in/rally at noon, walk @1pm); **Place:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 90 Clinton St., Concord, NH; **Sponsored by:** The Greater Concord Interfaith Council. Help fight hunger by walking yourself or sponsoring someone else to raise money for global hunger/disaster relief, supports food pantries and meal programs in greater Concord.

Hunger has a face and it could be that of your friend, neighbor or someone affected by famine or disaster. Many people have been left jobless due to the economy, or who struggle to get along on fixed incomes. You can help make a difference! Last

year participants in Concord raised nearly \$19,000 – let's all pitch in and make it even more this year! **For more information on how you can participate in this year's walk, please contact Pat Hill 485-4740.**

**Save the Date!**  
**August 15, 2010**



The Joyful Blend vocal ensemble will perform "A Tribute to Broadway" in the church **sanctuary at 4pm on August 15, 2010.** The show features many of your favorite Broadway tunes and some Broadway trivia too!

The show is about an hour long and **proceeds will benefit the Work Camp mission trip.**

Tickets will be available from work campers and at the church office by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and will cost \$10 each. We hope to sell at least 100 tickets to help defray the cost of the work camp this year, so make sure that you, your family and friends plan to join us for this fun afternoon of music!

*Trust me – this will be the most effortless and most enjoyable fund raiser you've participated in yet! Free child care will be available for your convenience. Refreshments will follow.*

(The Joyful Blend is also providing music for our Worship Service on the same day, August 15<sup>th</sup>.)

The Joyful Blend is an eight person vocal ensemble directed by Rebecca Smith, former choir director of our church. One of your youth leaders and work campers is a member of this group as well. Check it out!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Brendan Nathaniel Newcott, son of Dr. & Mrs. Edward Newcott, who recently advanced to the rank of an Eagle Scout.

We will not meet on July 4<sup>th</sup> or September 5<sup>th</sup>, but other than those dates, we'll be here every Sunday!

## PLEASE NOTE ...

The Church office will be closed on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.

## CRAFT FAIR!

Yes, it's happening again! We will be holding another craft fair on **October 16, 2010!** If you are interested in renting a table/space, please **contact Judy Pearson**. If you are not crafty but are able to help that day, please let Judy know that, also.

## CALLING ALL WOMEN!

Do you ever feel like your life is just constant running around, waiting on other people? Do you hardly feel like you have time to breathe? The Camp Berea Women's Retreat is being held on September 17-19 and 24-26 and Judy and Jodi will be attending again this year and would love to bring a bunch of people with them. Based on the responses we have had so far, **we will be attending on September 24-26**. This is not a "we are women, hear us roar!" kind of weekend. It is a quiet, peaceful weekend with no one asking for a ride to or from practice or a friend's house, no one asking what's for dinner or have you washed their favorite shirt yet. It is a time to relax, breathe and connect with God in an absolutely beautiful place, and we would love to have you join us. Please see Judy Pearson (210-1687) if you are interested in attending so we can plan accordingly.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ...

Summer is here, and so is summer Sunday School! We encourage all kids from pre-k through eighth grade to join us. Our focus for the summer is mission work. What is mission? How can we be a part of a mission for God? We had planned to take the kids to Malawi to paint a hospital, but that plan fell through at the last minute, so we'll do something that the kids can take part in right from church on Sunday morning. We'll also have water balloon fights and snacks!



## Join Us For Worship

at the

Outside Chapel

Weather permitting

July 25<sup>th</sup>

