"Do you ever wonder what Robert, our interim minister, is thinking about when he is not at church?  Do you wonder what his opinion is on different issues that may not come up in a sermon?  Do you want something else to think about during your week?

We are in luck, Robert has started a blog!  In order to read it, all you need is a computer with an internet connection.  Just type [robertvodra.blogspot.com](http://robertvodra.blogspot.com/) into your browser address field, no www, no htpp:// just [robertvodra.blogspot.org](http://robertvodra.blogspot.org/) and you will see "Robert's random stuff" and his picture.  The posts are listed as most recent first, so go to the bottom to read the first post.  You don't need a Facebook account, or even an e-mail address to read.

This is a new endeavor for Robert, no promises about how often things will be posted, or what topic may come up.  Might be church related, maybe camp for emergency services related, might be funny, might be serious, may or may not be of interest to you.  But if you have time, check it out, and then let Robert know what you think."

**March 5 Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm, Mason Church. Take time** out in your week to come to this Ash Wednesday service. It is a special service to begin this season of our church calendar.

**March 13th Community Supper** 5:30 to 7 pm and still free!

Enjoy a meal with your friends, and neighbors—and meet new friends and neighbors.

Coffee House, March 15 The featured performer is Dean Stevens with a variety of folk music, stories and skillful instrumentation. Don’t miss him! To hear a sample go to: <http://www.reverbnation.com/deanstevens> or at [www.deanstevens.com](http://www.deanstevens.com) . As always, there are open mike spots for local performers who share a few songs and show us that talent is all around us. Come at 6:45 to get on the open mike list, or just enjoy some coffee and snacks before the music starts at 7:30pm til about 9:30. See: <http://thelivingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com/>

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**Plans for more Adult Study groups—Beginning March 11, Tuesdays, for 5 weeks:**

Reverend Robert will be leading a Tuesday morning study group for 5 weeks starting March 11th. The book we plan to use is Saving Jesus from the Church: How to stop worshiping Christ and start following Jesus by Robin R. Meyers. It is available from the Milford Toadstool for $14.99. If we order 6 books together we get a discount, so let Michelle know if you would like to order this book. You can also get it thru Amazon, but if you want to support the local economy, try the Toadstool! Click on: <http://www.toadbooks.com/book/9780061568220> for a review of the book.

**Your Christian Education Committee** is still working on finding out what our needs are, how to schedule in more events, and would love to hear from you! Contact Marlene Damery [mrsdamery@aol.com](mailto:mrsdamery@aol.com) or Tina Atkinson [tina185@aol.com](mailto:tina185@aol.com) The survey that was sent out did not generate huge responses, so they will be working on a ‘new improved’ survey, and would just love to hear from you. Did you read a book, or hear of a program of study that especially interests you? Or is there a longing in your spiritual life that a study group could help with.

**Did you miss the Annual Meeting?** Contact Dotsie if you would like a digital copy of the Annual Report. It gives an update on what happened over the year, our budget figures, and more. Email Dotsie at: [dotsie24@gmail.com](mailto:dotsie24@gmail.com)

HELP WANTED…Church School Teachers still needed for April and May. Thank you to all who volunteer. If you want to assist, email Jennie [Jwalsh131@comcast.net](mailto:Jwalsh131@comcast.net) or call at 603-291-0097.

News from UCC: March 28-30, 2014 Celebration IX “Together we can…” A women’s celebration. This is an event for clergy and lay women. Registration info is available from Jan Bittner at [jabittner@charter.net](mailto:jabittner@charter.net) or 860-429-3134. Contact Michelle at [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com) or 878-1680. (Note: Michelle plans to attend, and welcomes company.)

PREPARE TO SERVE Thank you for our party of 7 who attended the conference this year. They will be sharing the information to all who will listen! It is a wonderful infusion of energy to be with our fellow worshipers from all over NH. There is great music to start, and then workshops of your choice. The conference committee goes to great lengths to find workshop leaders with a wonderful variety of talents.

TD Bank Offers community funds. Wow, the bank is offering to participate in our community by giving funds to Mason Church based on what you have in your accounts with them. Their recently revamped Affinity program is a good deal!   In the past we did not have enough people in the program to reach their minimum quota. TD Bank has eliminated the quota.  The Mason Congregational Church Affinity program Code number is A3745.

. Anyone with existing accounts with TD Bank only needs to call or visit any branch and have them add this code number to your accounts.  To qualify for the $25 rebate for opening a new checking account, you may have to do this at the Brookline branch. . Mason church will get $10 yearly for every checking account signed up and $1 for every $1000 in savings or CDs signed up. The starting date will be shortly after the TD Bank visit, and the first payment will be on that date in 2015, for all accounts signed up prior to the start date

**Calling all knitters**: Our prayer shawl supply is low. There is yarn at church for the knitting, and the pattern for nice shawls to wrap around with love is at: <http://www.shawlministry.com/instructions.html> Prayer Shawls are not only a gift of love, the power comes in the knitting, see below from the website:.

“The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as prayer, for prayer, the shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart…”

Blessings, *Janet and Vicky*

Email or call Susan Suokko if you have any questions. [Usercat2@comcast.net](mailto:Usercat2@comcast.net) or 941-920-0270 If you know of someone needing a prayer shawl, call Linda Lannin at 878-2470.

**Make a note:**

* We look forward to the birds and the Suokkos migrating north in April or May.
* Prayers for the Milkovits family as they continue healing. Prayers for Cindy Tibbitts as she continues with testing and treatment. Prayers for Kathy Gregg for a continued healing/rehab from her hand surgery. Prayers for Curt Dunn from his recent fall, and recuperation. Prayers for Christine’s friend Phoebe in NJ. Prayers for Gretchen Brown who fell recently, nothing broken but in considerable pain.
* Do you know someone who needs a prayer shawl? Contact one of the Deacons, (Dotsie, Cynthia Korsman, Nancy Richards, or Michelle) or call Linda Lannin at 603-878-2470.
* The Food Bank is always in need. As you shop, think of what a person might want to see at the food bank—paper products, coffee, canned fruit, raisins, nuts, are some items that might be special.
* Do you enjoy coffee hour? We use fair trade coffee, and support our coffee hour by selling coffee to you for your home use. Mason Church RUNS on FAIR TRADE coffee! Please contact Mark Stroms, 603 305-0023.
* Remember Laila. Send mail to Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Visitors are welcome, it would be good to call first. 878-3065
* Do you know someone who needs spiritual support, or other support, of the pastor and deacons? Please call, your church family may be able to help. Leave a confidential message at 603-878-1684