

Mason Congregational Church May 2018

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

Transplants

May 01, 2018 Written by Vince Amlin

"You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land." - Psalm 80:8-9

Watching Erick work, I'm in awe. This master arborist is transplanting a tree in the church's courtyard. He knows the precise dimensions of the space it needs. Just so wide, just so deep. When he takes the sapling out of its plastic tub, the roots are swirling around the edge in a circle. He makes strategic cuts with his pruning scissors. Without them, the tree will keep growing in the shape of its old container instead of spreading out into the ground.

When we've filled in the hole, Erick has a prescription for watering, a daily dose which is not too much and not too little.

I think of the community that he and I share, the place where we and many others are hoping to grow and thrive. Some need more support, others more space. Some are drought-hardy; others require more water. Some are ready to put down roots. Others are still breaking out of containers that no longer fit.

If we do our work, the whole garden can grow. But I wish we had Erick's expertise, his certainty about what each one needs.

At least I can show his care. The thoughtful way he approaches each shrub and tree. The psalmist says it's like God's care for God's people. God smuggles a clipping out of captivity. Makes space for it and gives it what it needs to take root and branch out. More than that, God loves it enough to do the work. And plants and people can feel that.

Prayer Give us what we need to grow and thrive.

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper May 10th 5:30 to 7pm** Our best cooks bringing the community warmth to body and spirit. Bar-B-Q chicken is on the menu this month. Bring a friend, or reach out to a new neighbor.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, May 12th at 3:15 meet at Church.** Join in this effort to share our caring for neighbors who need a smile, and the Soup Kitchen staff that needs extra hands. Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3:15 pm for carpooling. This is a mission open to all. Invite a friend or neighbor, and you may open an opportunity for another caring person. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com.
- **CVTC Community Volunteer Transportation Company** If you know someone who needs a ride, to doctor appointments and more, call (877) 428-2882. Meanwhile if you would like to be a volunteer driver, call 1-877-428-2882 ext 5 for information on mileage reimbursement, insurance, and more. You can be a driver once or twice a week, or once a month, you decide on what your schedule allows! Call for more info. Check out the article CVTC sent us from one of their volunteers at the end of the newsletter.

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- **Conversations with Women “on hold” until September.** Resuming in the fall, we will begin by sharing a book Active Hope by Joann Macy and Chris Johnstone. Request it on Library Loan, or purchase a copy at Toadstool. (Can you really imagine that anyone’s conversation can be on hold??)
- **Bystander CPR** In April we had 11 people sign up for Bystander CPR, and they also received the critical instructions on how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) Simple instructions, and practice in a 2 hour class. If you are interested, we will be glad to host another class. Please contact Kathy Chapman, chapman.kathy@gmail.com
- **NEW “Bystander First Aid”** Our instructor for the Bystander CPR has agreed to teach a “more than bandaids” first aid class if there is interest. What can you do to stop bleeding? Stabilize a person til the ambulance gets there, and more. If you have an interest in this class, contact Kathy Chapman Chapman.kathy@gmail.com for more information
- **Living Room Coffee House May 19th 6:30 to 9 or so. Live Music in Mason!** Doors open at 6:30, there is a signup for open mic, and snacks are available. This month’s featured performers are Dan and Jeni Klardie who are a N.H. based acoustic duo that strive to stir the soul with their music! Passionate singer/songwriter, Jeni, blends harmoniously with husband Dan’s vocals and edgy guitar interpretations. Their sound is a fusion of Blues, Folk-Rock and Gospel. Their repertoire engages listeners with tight harmonies and often dramatic renditions of popular music as well as originals. Dan and Jeni have been performing at local Open Stages, Festivals, Coffee Houses, Special Celebrations and Private Parties for several decades. Accolades from past performances: “Definitely a polished collaboration.” (Meredith Allen – The Muse) “Powerfully good harmonies and delivery.” (John Schindler – Singer/Songwriter)
- **Lending Library Books and Music, a Blessing.** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time. Enjoy this mission/blessing.
- **Prayer shawls always needed, free yarn available.** Spend some time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know of someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680

Attention knitters: Go to <http://twillnh.com/calendar-4/> and check out Sandy’s website, and the schedule for activities there. It may be one of our Conversations with Women outings!



Are you listening, caring, sharing?

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Gretchen fell recently and broke her hip. Send cards to Crestwood Center, 40 Crosby Street, Milford, NH 03055. Call Wally (878-1481) if you want an update on how she’s doing, or better yet, stop by and see Gretchen. This is a time when she needs her friends more than ever!

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- ♥ **Jen Schongar** Our neighbor and friend Jen was recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Her husband, Bill and the children are stepping up to cover for the many things mothers do. If you want to help out with a meal or with barn care, sign up at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/00n0y9>. We will raise them in prayer and into the light, in this challenging time. She started chemo on 4/30/2018. You can send cards to 923 Wilton Rd, Mason.
- ♥ **Amber and Marcus and toddler Luke welcomed Noah to Mason on May 18th**. He was over 8 pounds, and is doing well. Parents are probably tired, but everyone appears to be adjusting well.
- ♥ **David Ahern died unexpectedly on April 16, 2018**. He is remembered as a long time active member of our community. He was always so very helpful to his wife Peggy who suffered a stroke some years ago. Please send condolences to : Margaret Ahern (Peg/Peggy) at 61 Townsend Rd, Mason, NH
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company, and cards. At 99, everyday is treasured. She just had a birthday, and it is not too late to seen birthday wishes. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 924-6238
- ♥ **Curt Dunn** and his attentive Karin, enjoy company, and occasional assistance, but check with them first. 878-2675 or eisenhau@aol.com Karin's sister, Judy, is surprising all with her strength but is still fragile so keep her in prayer.
- ♥ **Do you have new neighbors?** We have baskets we can put together with some special items made in Mason, and some info on Town activities and church info. Let me know: Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
- ♥ If you have news, questions, or corrections to the newsletter, please contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com

WORDS FROM A CVTC DRIVER

CVTC's Volunteer Drivers provide "no fee" transportation for people who do not have access to transportation because of age or other limiting circumstances. Our trip purposes include non-emergency medical, social service appointments and trips to the grocery store and pharmacy. Our CVTC Volunteer Driver, Terry, says:

"About two years ago our small town newsletter ran an ad looking for Volunteer Drivers. Since then, my husband and I have been active participants in the CVTC program. Being retired and having the freedom to "go & do" on our own schedules, we were initially hesitant to sign up, fearful of getting locked into a schedule of some kind. We did our "due diligence," learning that the selection of days and times were at our discretion. The fear of commitment evaporated. There's an impressive computer system allowing volunteers to easily search and assign themselves for riders in need. After the trip has been concluded, it's simple to record time spent and mileage for reimbursement.

This program not only helps our riders in getting to appointments but it has enhanced our retirement existentially. We feel needed, appreciated and there's a reason for being here. In some instances we've encountered riders who have little social interaction outside of their trips to hospitals and doctors. Our trips in these cases have reflected rejuvenation for both rider and driver. Our riders have been diverse, fascinating and

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most appreciative of CVTC's services. We cheerfully look forward to continuing assisting those we've met to date and anticipate meeting new riders as our schedules allow.

Try putting yourself into the positions our riders are experiencing: losing their independence and ability to drive; dependency on others. You'll find as a driver that you'll get more out of the ride than your rider will."

Thank you CVTC Drivers, for donating your time and taking your neighbors where they need to go. For those drivers who do not use a computer, CVTC's staff is happy to assist in choosing trips as well as mileage reimbursement. Talk with us if you have questions or would like to take part!

CVTC is a Monadnock Way Partner Agency

Community Volunteer Transportation Company 877-428-2882, ext. 5