[**Maren**](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fgiftsinopenhands.wordpress.com%2Fauthor%2Fmarenchristy%2F&sr=1&signature=124310f3b8db7352eabeb14e21f673a3&user=65238d4ee790e3bbb661f7f75dfe19b0&_e=&_z=z) | April 6, 2019

The community of God  
is like a Greyhound bus.  
We get on and off at different places,  
watch the country  
or the urbanscape pass by.  
Sometimes when I am tired,  
I can lay my head  
on a stranger’s shoulder.

The community of God  
is like a canoe,  
which, when it is true  
to its history --  
Aboriginal, Amazon, Abenaki,  
in dugout wood or bark frame --  
travels in balance  
and faces always forward.

The community of God  
is like a thumb  
waiting in the road for a lift  
from the Holy Spirit,  
but always in danger  
of hitching a ride  
in a pickup truck to nowhere.

The community of God is like  
a subway platform,  
offering those who need it -- the local,  
and others -- the express.

Those who have listening, listen.

People on the platform jostle  
with other travelers, hoping to connect  
to their many destinations  
in all the faiths of the world,

but for a moment sharing  
a newsstand of prayers,  
eucharist in donut and coffee,  
busker anthems,  
many chances for offering,  
and sermons  
that preach again and again   
mostly --

the train is coming,  
mind the gap, mind the gap.

(Maren says: there’s a reason “parable” rhymes with “terrible”!!)

**Upcoming Events**  ****

* **Save the Date September 12 @ 7:15 pm Button Up Workshop** is a 1 ½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of your home. It covers energy saving tips and NHSaves energy efficiency programs. Learn about saving electricity, insulation and air sealing, energy audit and weatherization programs, rebates on electric and gas appliances, and other incentives from NH’s energy utilities. NH residents that want to use energy wisely and save money will find this workshop invaluable! The workshop will take place in downtown Mason—no parking fees!
* **Earth Day, Earth Year, Every Day, Every Year What does the Lord require of you?**  There is still plenty of roadside trash to pick up. Did you do your road, want to do more? Blue bags are at church and at Charlie Lanni’s garage 575 Jackson

Road. Fill the blue bag and leave it on the side of the road for a Mason Town Truck to pick up, or dispose of it yourself. Be sure to wash glass and cans for recycling at the Wilton Recycling Center.

* + - * 1. What about an energy audit for your home? <https://www.energy.gov/articles/home-energy-audits-making-homes-more-energy-efficient-and-comfortable>
        2. Mason has an Energy Commission RSA 38 D-5 authorization, since July 2018, and they have been active, on your behalf, to reduce energy costs to our town! Check out the 2018 report, and support our local efforts to save tax money, and reduce pollution. <http://masonnh.us/wp-content/uploads/EnergyComm_YearEndRpt-2018.pdf>
        3. And, there is a Kill a Watt device at the Mason Library. You can borrow this for free! Plug it into the wall, plug your appliance into it, and measure the energy used. See how efficient an old appliance is before you upgrade!
        4. Reduce your plastic use. Only 9% of plastic is recycled, so first reduce your use, second recycle what you can—usually on those plastics with a 1 or 2 in the little triangle on the bottom of the plastic item. **Don’t use bottled water. Studies show is not safer than the water from your well here in Mason**
        5. **Refuse** all Styrofoam containers. It never degrades, but becomes tiny balls that birds, insects, and sea animals mistakenly take for food, and often die due to clogging of their intestine. Ask your favorite restaurant to use paper, or better yet bring your own container when you go out.
        6. Straws and plastic grocery bags—Refuse straws, just drink from the cup like a normal adult/child, and bring your own bags to the grocery store, as well as other shopping.
* **May 9th Thursday 5:30 to 7 pm Community Supper** Join us for a meal of lasagna, salad, and desserts. Bring friends and neighbors to share the meal. As always, you are welcome to bring an item for the Greenville Food Pantry. Deposit it in the box as you come in. Don’t let food sensitivities keep you home – Each community supper has a gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut-free entrée for our special guests.
* **May 11th Nashua Soup Kitchen** Meet in the church parking lot at 3:30 for carpooling to Nashua. We are usually back by 6:30 or 7pm. Share your love and energy in this outreach mission of our community. Contact Michelle Scott if you plan to go or need information 603-878-1680 or email miscott39@gmail.com We welcome members of the community in this service mission.
* **May 18th**  6:30 pm. Living Room Coffee House The feature performer this month is Paul Driscoll. He was born in Boston and raised in Denver. He blends different styles of Folk Music, Americana, and Bluegrass into a soulful and authentic experience that you won’t soon forget. Influenced by artists such as Paul Simon, Dave Van Ronk, and Sam Cooke, his music will both sooth and energize with powerful words and vocals. As always open mic performers will be there treating us to music/story/poetry. Wonderful evening of entertainment of live and lively music, AND there’s good food too. See website [www.livingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com](http://www.livingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com)
* **Curt Dunn** Curt is back at the rehab center Courville in Manchester Although he has trouble reading, he still loves cards, but of course, enjoys calls and visits even more. He is over the pneumonia, and lost strength while recovering, so don’t bring any germs with you!
* **Gwen Whitbeck** had surgery last month to amputate her leg. This is a huge adjustment as anyone can imagine. Check with Doug if you want to visit or call her. Doug is at [dwhitbeck@hotmail.com](mailto:dwhitbeck@hotmail.com) The Whitbecks have given so much to NH and the community is service---many thanks! Now let us help you.
* **Laila Washburn March 3—Laila is 100 years old!** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company and cards. At 100, every day is treasured. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 603-924-6238
* **Karin Eisenhaure** is driving, and getting stronger every day, but recovery is always slower than we want or expect! She, like the rest of us, enjoys seeing friends, and sharing a meal. So give her a call 878-2675
* **Don Smith**  Don died on Monday April 29. The celebration of life service was held on Saturday, May 4. There were as many laughs as tears, as Don’s life was full, humorous, and loving. Find his full obituary on line at <https://www.michaudfuneralhomeandcrematorium.com/obituaries/obituary-listings#1>

Find Deborah at: 41 Sauna Row Rd, West Townsend, MA 01474 Phone 978-597-2204

* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** Always in need of a little cheer, and Gretchen needs contact with the outside world, so stop by with a smile, a meal, or just to pick up syrup and say hello!

Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

Join in the missions of Mason Church: Nashua Soup Kitchen, Greenville Food Pantry, Community Supper, Prayer Shawl knitting and distribution, and United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket Sunday, and more. All are welcome to join in these missions!

***"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.  You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." anonymous***

**Community Volunteer Transportation Company** (CVTC) is a driving service for those in Mason and west toward Keene, who are without a car or who need a ride to medical appointments, the grocery store, or pharmacy.

Consider joining the team! 13 out of 34 Towns are without Volunteer Drivers: Gilsum, Greenville,

Hinsdale, Marlborough, Marlow, Roxbury, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry,

Temple, Troy, Westmoreland, and Winchester.

**Call for a ride or to volunteer!**  **1-877-428-2882**, ext. 5 or by email volunteertransportationprogram@cvtc-nh.org