**PASTOR'S REPORT** on the NHCUCC Annual Meeting at Grappone Center, Oct 22, 2016

Of the 135 churches in the New Hampshire Conference 95 had representation at this annual event. There were 103 authorized ministers. 5 Youth delegates and 161 adult delegates were in attendance. Also 51 visitors, guests, and exhibitors shared the day.

The theme this year was church music. The Rev. Bryan Sirchio, both clergy and long time composer and performer of spirited church music, was the key speaker.

We began with registration at 8:00 am, breakfast buffet, gathering music, welcome and housekeeping notes before beginning the worship with communion.

This is always a joyful coming together of faithful people. The tables are round and one person always volunteers to be table deacon for the communion service.

Conference Minister, the Rev. Gary Schulte, gave the State of the Conference address and also conducted the Focus Group I attended.

While finances and a somewhat aging membership were discussed, the spirit of faithfully continuing congregations traveling together into God's future were much in evidence.

Eighteen people had signed up for the various speak-out sessions. If you have ever attended an annual meeting you know how spirited these times can become when the faithful present their favorite projects to the group.

Through votes and nominations, celebrations of significant anniversaries, the remembrance of clergy who have died, and the installation of new conference leadership people such as Ann Desrochers, who has accepted the position of Office Manager at the Conference in Pembroke, right up to and through the adjournment with closing prayer around 3:00pm, this was a time of renewal and of regaining a sense of who the UCC is as a denomination.

If you have never attended an annual meeting, it is well worth planning on attending in 2017. Pastor Veronica

**Upcoming Events**

* **Live, and lively music at our Living Room Coffee House** Nov 19. Come at 6:30 to sign up for open mic, or just to relax with a snack before the music starts at 7pm. Featuring**The Tara Greenblatt Band Members are; Tara Greenblatt, Saibhung Singh Khalsa, Lucio S. Eastman, Shana R. Hall, & Grace Aldrich. Together they weave a musical tapestry of luscious harmonies, decadent strings, groovy hand drumming, & poignant lyrics.**
* **Snowbird Potluck on November 13th** After worship service we will share a lunch—made by us! Just bring a dish of your choice, no need to sign up! We will wish our snowbirds a good winter! And safe travels. Maybe we can plan some winter activities to look forward to.
* **November 27 First Sunday of Advent** The waiting begins for this very special holiday in the life of our church.
* **Dec 4 Greening** We will be doing the church “greening” on Dec 4 after worship service. Come, join in the spirit of the season by decorating God’s house.
* **Soup Kitchen mission** Signup sheet will be on the bulletin board. Dates are **January 14, February 11, and March 11** SAVE the DATES! Our first trip in August was a great success, ask Kathy Chapman, 878-4993, about the event, and get an idea of the need, fun, and the work.
* **Thank you to those at Church Cleanup November 5**  it was a good day to be out raking/blowing leaves, cleaning inside and outside our church building. Lunch was delicious, thanks to Bettie, and the fellowship was enjoyable by all!
* **Success of 9th Annual Friends of the Poor Run/Walk Oct 1** This was another of St Vincent DePaul’s great 5K runs for raise money for the Greenville Food Pantry. The route of the run/walk was very beautiful with the up hills complimented by the down hills! Michelle represented our church, and had a good time as well. Money raised was over $3000.
* **Halloween Tailgate Party** It was a very chilly evening, though the children didn’t seem to notice as they were actively making the rounds of the over 20 vehicles which came to share in the event. Thanks to the Fire Department, and the Mason Police for their watchfulness, and to all who shared their tailgate goodies. Some people have suggested that 6-7:30 is long enough to hold this event, so we will keep that in mind for 2017.
* **Lending Library** 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 grace.
* **Yarn into Prayer Shawls!**  Join the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. If you know someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at [Usercat2@comcast.net](mailto:Usercat2@comcast.net) or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680



* **Curt Dunn** and Karin Eisenhaure. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers as sometimes life is quite challenging. Thanks to Karin for organizing the donations for the holiday foods that will be sent to Zebadiah who is in the Concord prison.
* **Dotsie Millbrandt** Please keep the family in prayer. Dotsie is very busy with care of both Wolfgang and his mother, Archie the dog, and the ducks! Emails and cards are welcome. She will let us know how else we can assist. [Dotsie24@gmail.com](mailto:Dotsie24@gmail.com) or 1322 Starch Mill Rd, Mason, NH 03048.
* **Joe and Jennie Walsh** and Joshua, Jonathan and Joseph are always in our hearts and thoughts. Update as of 11/7: Joe is doing much better after having his tonsils removed which was causing his idiopathic angioedema. He hopes to go back to work soon. Jenny is working in the daycare center that her mother runs, and the boys love their school, and activities. Call, write, or email them with your news! Their address is: 50 Clinton Ave, Chelmsford, MA 01824 [978-256-6700](tel:978-256-6700) [Jwalsh131@comcast.net](mailto:Jwalsh131@comcast.net)
* **Arthur Rafter**. Arthur died on Nov 10th, from complications of pneumonia. Plans for a service have not been made at this time. An email will be sent out when we receive information.
* **Cindy Tibbetts**  Cindy and Jim have sold their house, and moved to Milford. She may need rides to church when Jim or her parents can’t do this. Give Cindy a call at 809-2036. New Address: Cahill Place, 486 Nashua St. Milford 03055
* **Lilia Washburn**  She is always in our hearts, but I bet she would love to know it. She was ill this first week of November, but hopefully will be on the mend soon. Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, 25 Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Although visitors are welcome from 10am to 7pm, it is good to call first. 878-3065
* **Gretchen Brown** has limited mobility these days, and loves visitors. You can call ahead 878-1481 or stop by. Gretchen is on a special diet in an effort to alleviate her chronic pain. It is gluten free, but also has other limitations. Please call Michelle if you need help with ideas or details 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
* **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 for Pastor Veronica Don at 603-878-1684 or on her personal phone at 603-213-6368.

**Our Sustainability Mission:**    Mason Conservation Committee provides special blue plastic bags for roadside trash collection which you can leave on the side of the road for town pickup. Pick up the blue bags at Charlie’s Auto Shop on Jackson Rd, or we will have a supply at church. Please put recyclable items into a separate bag you can take to the Wilton Recycling Center, or put them into our recycling bins in our church kitchen. . **Please bring only paper products (no Styrofoam) for church events, avoid plastic water bottles, and use the dishware/dishwasher whenever you can. Recycle paper, cardboard, #1 plastics, and milk bottle plastic, as well as all glass and cans. Bins for these are in the kitchen.**

**Prison Ministry:** Zebadiah Kellogg Roe who grew up here in Greenville/Mason still has more than 10 years to serve. His home on Darling Hill Road is now ready to rent, to pay for taxes and upkeep so that he will have a place to live when he is released. It is a converted barn, and the downstairs used to be the Darling Hill Farm Store. Upstairs is the living space. Please contact [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com) if you know of someone looking for a large studio rental. By helping him rent his house, he will be able to pay the taxes and preserve his home.

Any news items, comments, or things you would like to share: contact Michelle at 878-1680 or [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com)

