

# Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine 04970



Annette Mott

I would like to devote my column this month to thinking with you about some of our wider church connections, and in particular to inform you about what has been happening at the Conference level over the past year.

As you know, RCC is a member congregation of the Living Water Association, a group of 18 geographically-related United Church of Christ congregations that have covenanted together for mutual mission, support, and accountability. Our church sends clergy and lay delegates to the Association's semi-annual meetings. Many of us know of our Association's work most directly through our two Members in Discernment, Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield, who are preparing for ordained ministry through the care and direction of the Living Water Association's Committee on Ministry.

We are also members of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ, which encompasses 153 UCC congregations in Maine. Many of you will be most familiar with the help the Conference provides when a church is looking for an interim or settled pastor. But they also support congregations with information, resources, and consultations on a wide range of subjects. The Conference enables people, both clergy and lay, to connect throughout the state in order to engage in our Pilgrim Lodge ministry, mission work, anti-racism work, and other forms of common ministry.



Some of you may recall the “Moving Forward Together” plan that was developed and approved some years back to re-vision and re-structure the way the Conference went about its work. After that plan had been approved, Deborah Blood was called as our Conference Minister to implement the new plan. But the years since the new plan was first approved have been rocky ones. Bangor Theological Seminary closed, and the negative effects of that closure have been deeply felt by our churches, clergy, and Conference. Giving to the Conference has been diminishing at a rapid rate, and the Conference staff has been seriously reduced. But it hasn’t been just a money problem. It has proved very difficult to recruit the number of volunteers needed to implement the vision of “Moving Forward Together.” There have been other problems as well. Some people have been unhappy with the Conference Minister’s style of leadership, and the Board of Directors has received its share of criticism. Issues around inadequate communication, a lack of transparency, and “top-down” leadership style have made the past year a difficult and conflicted one in the Conference. (Do these issues have a familiar ring to them?).

A group of former Moderators of the Conference have been meeting informally about their concerns and have pressed for these issues to be addressed. The first step in addressing them that Conference Minister Blood and the Board of Directors took was to engage a nationally respected consultant, Dr. Larry Peers (I am familiar with his work, and he is very good) to hold listening sessions within the Conference to hear what people across the Conference were experiencing and thinking. I participated in one of these listening sessions myself. Dr. Peers then wrote up a summary of his findings with recommendations to both the Conference Minister and the Board of Directors on how to improve their performance and responsiveness. I would be happy to email anyone interested that report from Dr. Peers.



At the Annual Meeting held in Saco the last weekend in October, both our Conference Moderator, Rev. Geoff Parker, and our Conference Minister, Rev. Deborah Blood, apologized for mistakes made in the past and vowed to operate in a more open and responsive style in the future.

Several specific initiatives were named that you should know about:

- 1) The Conference will contract with ministers within our midst with the requisite gifts and skills to assist in Search and Call work, in order to provide better and more timely help to congregations in the Search and Call process.
- 2) To foster better communication and transparency, the Board of Directors has already started publishing a quarterly newsletter called *Table Settings*.
- 3) The Board and Rev. Blood will be offering opportunities to gather and talk around the Conference. The first of these will be held on Thursday, November 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Foreside Community Church in Falmouth.

Several other initiatives were mentioned in the cover letter from Geoff and Deborah that accompanied Dr. Peers' report. Again, I would be happy to email you a copy.

Shalom,

Pastor Annette



Rick Baker

Getting the winter wood organized, pellets stacked close by and snow blower tuned-up are all tasks that our "snow-bird" friends do not have on their to-do lists. Fall is well on the way to our "beloved winter." Hang in there!



At our last Council meeting Little Mountain School came and gave us their semi-annual update. They reported they are doing well and their enrollment numbers did not decrease as they initially thought would happen because of the new pre-k program at the school. LMS has a new teacher this year that has shaped a curriculum for their preschoolers' that helps better prepare them for kindergarten. By all accounts the parents are pleased and are more involved.

Our Church Committees and Boards are gearing up for the busiest time of our year. The Andover Youth will be with us Veteran's Day Weekend, the Holly Fair is on November 23 and the Walk to Bethlehem is scheduled on Sunday, December 8, along with RCC tree decorating, following our service on that morning. Please see the individual reports for details of these activities and further information to help keep in touch with RCC activities.

We still need a church secretary. Please, if you think of someone have them contact the church office. Many thanks to Linda Wendelken and Kathy Brittain for doing that job until a qualified person is found.

It is my sincerest wish that the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season brings you some quiet time for contemplation, thoughts of peace, and enjoyment of all things around you.

Please keep all of our Congregation and our Church in your thoughts and prayers as we move through this journey together.

Peace

Rick Baker

Moderator



Evelyn Franson

Our Prayer Shawl ladies have been busy distributing their gifts of consolation/celebration since our last report. Scott and Becky delivered ten shawls to Maine Med., our first opportunity to serve those patients. Two were sent to friends in New Hampshire and one each to Maine, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Thank you all.

And here is an excerpt from a recent letter of thanks.

“The shawl is breathtakingly beautiful. Your thoughtfulness humbles me. I sent a picture to my mother, sister and sister-in-law and they were touched by your kindness. I'm excited to show it to my 91 year old grandmother since she has spent a lifetime creating beautiful knit items for others. Someday I'd like to visit your church and thank the person in person but for now a card through the mail must suffice.”

This wonderful ministry continues as we enter the Rangeley winter. All are welcome to stop by and/or join the eight-twelve gals who gather in the Barn around the candle on the first and third Mondays from 2-3:30. Newly completed shawls are blessed around 3:00 with the rest of the time spent in knitting, crocheting, weaving, visiting, advising, sharing ideas, etc. Our bottomless closet is holding a shawl of love and caring for your giving. Just let any of the gals, including Pastor Annette, know of your need, come on by and choose the one that speaks to you. All are free for the loving!



**CHRISTIAN**  
**EDUCATION**

Donna Wilcox

The Christian Education committee would like to thank all of those participating in our first “intergenerational” Pumpkin Party event of the year. All seemed to have a wonderful time eating a variety of snacks and decorating pumpkins and cupcakes. Also, thanks go to those that brought in treats and the many, many pumpkins.

We will again be providing a pizza meal on Saturday night for the Andover Youth group that is coming Nov. 9.

The Genesis Study has started with a nice number of participants on Sundays at 11:30. All are welcome.

Watch for our next “intergenerational” event to be held on Sunday Dec. 8 along with the church tree decorating.



## Buildings and Grounds

### Committee

Diane VanAmburg

Well, we are into fall so we are planning on what we need to do for winter. Scott will be in Portland some of this winter so we have new schedule for plowing. Paula if she is able to get here after doing her own driveway, Curtis Haley will fill in when he is able – now recovering from hip replacement- and Kutting Edge will be on call if needed. This will be a challenge for all so please bear with us.

Kutting Edge will also be doing the shoveling this year.



Fred Dubay put in gas detectors in Fellowship Hall and in the office. We cannot use them in the kitchen as lighting the stove would set it off.

All the new barn keys have been given out. Sue Downes-Borko now has one also.

Kutting Edge will be doing the fall clean up after the leaves are down.

Dick Moore is still doing trash for the church, offices and bathroom. If you have coffee hour the kitchen and barn is your responsibility.

Thanks to all who help behind the scenes – Evelyn who cleans the barn and bathroom. We have many people who just see something that needs to be done and do it. That is what makes this church so special.

Thanks to the B & G Committee: Dick Moore, Derek Wendelken, Rick Baker, Kirby Holcomb, Fred Dubay, and Diane VanAmburg



## Deacon News

Scott Hatfield

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on October 28.

We continue to work with organizations and individuals in our community to meet extraordinary needs. Special thanks to Linda Jones and other Deacons for their efforts to educate us on ways that we can connect people in need with governmental services and assistance. Churches operate as a safety net, but many needs are met by something as simple as a call to 211.

If you're around town on November 11 at 11:00AM, you might hear our church's bells ringing. We will be honoring our Veterans, in keeping with our brethren from the Maine Council of Churches, by



ringing our bells for two minutes. And, of course, every day is a good day to thank a Veteran for his or her service.

Rev. Annette has let us know of her remaining vacation time for 2019. She will be away on November 17. Our search for pulpit supply has resulted in an exciting opportunity. The Rev. Peter Panagore has agreed to step in for that day. Some of you will recognize that name as a Maine radio and tv personality as well as author and speaker. We believe that this should be an opportunity that you will not want to miss. Please stand by for more information – and please let any of Peter’s fans know so that they can attend. If you want to learn more about Peter, he has an extensive website at: <https://www.peterpanagore.love/>

The Deacons have made plans and determined the dates for our busy Advent season. Watch for updates in future bulletins. For your planning purposes, please note:

The Giving Tree Lighting, November 30

RUCC Christmas Tree Decorating, December 8

The Walk to Bethlehem, December 8

Christmas Eve Service, once again at 7:00PM

The Deacons wish you every blessing of the season. We hope that these opportunities to fellowship and worship together are as meaningful to each of you as they are to us.

Our Deacon of the Month for November is Lucy Simonds. For December, it is Linda Jones. Please reach out to any Deacon with any needs or suggestions.



Nancy Zambraski

The Women's Fellowship group has been meeting every Friday as we gear up for the Holly Fair which will be held Saturday, November 23<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm in the Barn. We are busy doing our last-minute crafting, making gift baskets, preparing baked goods and baking cookies for the cookie walk. If you can contribute by baking breads or cookies, please **see the list below** for ideas. Contact Linda Caspar with any questions. Things are bustling, so come join the fun.

#### **HOLLY FAIR FOOD TABLE 2019**

We are putting out a request for homemade food items for the **Holly Fair**. Following is a list of items that would be most welcome. **If you think of something else, that would be wonderful.** We will be happy to add it to the tables. Questions?? Contact: **Linda Caspar 864-5539 or Claire Chase 864-9399**

**We also need cookies for the Cookie Walk! Everyone loves cookies so let's get those ovens cranking!**

**Please deliver all items to the Barn anytime Thursday, Nov. 21st or Friday, Nov. 22nd by noon at the latest. If you would like someone to pick up your baked items, just let us know. We will wrap them up and price them for you!**

**JAMS AND JELLIES**

**RELISH & PICKLES**

**BREADS Below are some ideas ~ (continued on the next page)**

Pumpkin

Date

Apple Cinnamon



Banana

Cranberry Orange

Blueberry

Cranberry

Zucchini

Small fruit cakes

Lemon Poppy Seed

Apple Cheddar

Coconut

Maple Pecan

Rhubarb

### **PIES and BARS and MUFFINS, OH MY!**

Apple or other Fruit Pies

Raspberry Squares

Carrot Cake Bars

Pecan Tarts or Bars

Lemon Macaroon Bars

**ROLLS** (Please check with Claire or Linda)

**NEEDHAMS** (these are very popular – We need um!)

**BLUE CHEESE DRESSING**

**CARMEL CORN**

We will be gathering on **Thursday**, November 21 at 10 am to set out all our crafts for sale. We will take a quick break to enjoy lunch. We will tidy up on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, then it will be “*All Hands on Deck*” on the morning of the Holly Fair. If you can volunteer any of these days, please join us. All are welcome.

Keep in mind that all profits generated from the Holly Fair are donated to charity, so if you have a charity in mind, please contact me. We are always looking for organizations that need help. Last year we gifted \$6,800 and added several new and deserving charities to our mission. Included below is a short article from one of the recipients of our gifts, Rev. Catherine “Kit” Ripley. Please take the time to read how she is changing many lives through her art therapy program.



## UPDATE ON REVEREND CATHERINE "KIT" RIPLEY

### AND HER MINISTRY IN THAILAND

During our Women's Fellowship gathering on October 4th, we viewed Kit's short video describing her art therapy classes and her vision for the future of her continuing mission work in Thailand. Following are Kit's words describing her call to provide therapeutic art classes for tribal girls in her residential school.

*"I have been serving at the New Life Center Foundation in northern Thailand for 16 years, working with tribal minority girls who are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence and human trafficking. And Rangeley Congregational Church has partnered with me to support my ministry for over a decade. Early in my service at the New Life Center, I opened the Imago Art Studio and began to facilitate therapeutic art classes for the adolescent girls in our residential program. Over the years, God has blessed Imago Art and it has grown to benefit over 650 people through classes and workshops for survivors of trauma, lectures and art workshops, and contemplative art and prayer retreats at the New Life Center and throughout the community. The New Life Center is also now discerning a call to extend our rehabilitative and educational services and offer even more community-based ministry (including therapeutic art) in the coming years. In order to adequately respond to this emerging need in my community, I feel the need for more specialized academic training. I have enrolled in a 3-year Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree with a specialization in Art Therapy at Lesley University in Boston and started classes this past July. I intend to continue missionary service while simultaneously working toward my counseling degree through this low-residency (primarily distance learning) program. The anticipated expenses for this program are expected to total about \$80,000 US. Attached below, you will find an attachment with the details. I have been awarded scholarship support amounting to about \$23,000 (which will be spread over the course of the 3 years). I would be most grateful for any support that the*



*Rangeley Congregational Church Women's Ministry could offer. And please know that you and the church are often in my thoughts and prayers."*

Women's Fellowship will take a well-deserved break after the Holly Fair and will start back up crafting in May, meeting on our typical second and fourth Fridays of the month from 10 am to noon in the Barn. However, we do have a few *"All Women"* event ideas during the time we won't be meeting regularly, so watch for our email blasts so you won't miss the fun.

Let us remember that the Holiday Seasons are upon us. The Women's Fellowship Co-chairs express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the fabulous women of our church and would like to pause and be thankful for all of you. Remember the real reason of the season that is coming.

Blessings to you all,

Nancy Zambraski, Women's Fellowship Co-chair



## Scholarship Committee

Mary Richards

The Scholarship Committee members this year included Marge Miller, Joann Bean, Carol Ellinwood, and Mary Richards as chair. They met in June of 2019 to review scholarship applications and determine the level of financial support they could offer each student who applied for funding.

The application process required students to address their educational background; church participation; work experiences; level of financial need; letters of recommendation and a paragraph that informed the committee of their future aspirations.



Not only were the applications impressive, each student who is currently enrolled in a University program and maintains a grade point average above 3.5 or grades equivalent to an A-. In addition we have two students who are entering their freshman year this fall. In total we awarded seven scholarships to a group of most deserving and highly eligible students in our church family.

The first scholarship was awarded to Zachary Durand for his senior year at Assumption College where he will receive a degree in Mathematics and Economics with a minor in Data Analysis. Our second scholarship was awarded to Zachary's brother Noah Durand who will begin his freshman year at the University of Rhode Island this fall. Noah is enrolled in the School of Engineering. The third scholarship award went to Haley Morrill who is entering her junior year at the University of Maine at Orono. She is currently working on a degree in pre-pharmacy and microbiology. Haley's sister Amber was also a scholarship recipient. Amber Morrill will be entering her freshman year at the University of Southern Maine this fall to work on a degree in nursing. The Egan sisters were our fifth and sixth scholarship recipients. Maddison 'Maddi' Egan will continue her studies in Nursing, biology and holistic medicine at the University of Southern Maine where she will be a senior this year. Brooke Egan will be attending the University of Maine at Orono this fall as a freshman. She is working on a degree in nursing. The seventh and final scholarship was awarded to Tabitha Sponaugle who will be a freshman at West Virginia University. She is enrolled in a degree program in the School of Engineering with a minor in Forensics.

The committee would like to thank the Rangeley Congregational Church Community for its continued support of the scholarship fund. Without your generous individual donations we would not be able to provide the needed level of support to our students. Education is truly the key to future success and we are fortunate to belong to a church family that values it's students to the level that you do. Thank you for your continued kindness!



<b>2019-2020 Church Council Members</b>	
<b>Moderator/Council President:</b>	<b>Rick Baker</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Paula Hatfield</b>
<b>Clerk:</b>	<b>Linda Caspar</b>
<b>Members at Large:</b>	<b>Rick Baker Kit Caspar, Lourrie Chandler and Cheryl Curris</b>
<b>Building and Grounds and Sexton:</b>	<b>Diane VanAmburg</b>
<b>Christian Ed:</b>	<b>Corinne Sorenson</b>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<b>Scott Hatfield</b>
<b>Finance:</b>	<b>Millie Hoekstra</b>
<b>Mission:</b>	<b>Dave Walker</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship:</b>	<b>Nancy Zambraski</b>
<b>Minister of Music:</b>	<b>Sue Downes-Borko</b>
<b>PSP Committee:</b>	<b>Marcia Baker</b>
<b>Minister</b>	<b>Pastor Annette Mott</b>

*The November-December Facilities and Event Highlights Calendar is located on the next page.*

*A full list of Calendar Events can be found on our website: [www.rangeleyucc.org](http://www.rangeleyucc.org)*



November–December  
Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Day	Nov. Dates	Dec. Dates	Time	Place
Worship	Sunday	Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24	Dec. 1 Dec 8 Dec 15 Dec 22 Dec 29	10-11 am	Sanctuary
Genesis-Bible Study	Sunday	Nov.3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24	Dec. 1 Dec 8 Dec 15 Dec 22	11:20 am (after a short fellowship time)	East Room
Tree Trimming	Sunday		Dec. 8	11 am	Sanctuary
Walk to Bethlehem	Sunday		Dec. 8	5 pm walk through town, 6 pm community pageant at Good Shepherd	
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Monday	Nov. 4 Nov. 18	Dec. 9 Dec. 23	2-3:30 pm	Barn
Men's Breakfast	Monday	Nov. 12	Dec. 9	8-9 am	TBA
Finance Committee	Monday	Nov. 11	Dec. 9	3-4 pm	East Room
Church Council	Monday	Nov. 11	Dec. 9	4-6 pm	East Room
Deacons	Monday	Nov. 25	Dec. 23	4-5 pm	East Room
Christian Ed.	Tuesday	Nov. 12		8:30 am	East Room
Pastor "Walk-In" Hours	Tuesday	Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27	Dec. 3 Dec. 10 Dec. 17	1-3 pm	Pastor's Office
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday		Dec. 24	7 pm	Sanctuary
Women's Fellowship	Friday	Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22		10 am – Noon  All Day	Barn and East Room
Mission Andover Kids Visit	Friday- Monday	Nov. 8-11			Barn
Holly Fair	Saturday	Nov. 23		10 am – 2 pm	Barn and East Room