

Mountain Reflections

Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 218 Rangeley, Maine 04970



Annette Mott

As I write this column for the January newsletter, we are in the third week of Advent and still in an Advent “waiting” mode. That’s where we are with regard to the search for a new settled pastor, too. Derek reported on behalf of the Search Committee on Sunday, December 8 th that the Committee is in continuing conversation with a good candidate, and that a neutral pulpit has been arranged. This is very hopeful news, and I hope you will keep both the Search Committee and the candidate in your prayers.

When I attended the post-Holly Fair potluck at Nancy Z’s in November, I took a beet and feta cheese salad as my contribution to the meal, and several people there asked me for the recipe. I decided I would share the recipe with the whole church:

Winter Roasted Beet and Feta Cheese Salad (from Pastor Annette)

Salad Ingredients (combine ingredients in the amounts that suit you):

Arugula Lettuce

*Roasted beets, cut up

Crumbled Feta Cheese or Goat Cheese



Craisins (dried, sweetened cranberries)

**Toasted chopped walnuts

*Roast beets by wrapping them individually in foil before baking them at 400 degrees till tender (about an hour, depending on the size of the beets). Then cool the beets and peel them before chopping them for the salad.

**Toast walnuts by spreading them in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet and baking at 350 degrees for 7-10 minutes.

Salad Dressing:

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

1 T. honey or maple syrup

2 tsp. Dijon mustard

salt and pepper to taste

Directions: whisk the salad dressing together, pour over the salad ingredients, and toss.

Shalom,

Pastor Annette



Meet Our New RCC Members

On Sunday, December 1 st we rejoiced as three new members joined our church. We asked them to each write a little about themselves for the newsletter:

Mary Ellen Simon writes: I am a retired, full time resident of Rangeley and am actively involved in our community. My volunteer activities include my neighborhood association, Rangeley Friends of the Arts, the CASA after school program, the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, chairing the annual Art in August fundraiser in Oquossoc, and delivering lunches to seniors for Rangeley's Meal Site. Most recently I have signed on to be a driver for the Rangeley Health Rides (formerly the RHAT van).

I live with my husband Harry and four rescue dogs. Interests are gardening, cooking, art and design, winter sports and most recently horseback riding. An avid reader I've enjoyed, to name a few, the religious/philosophical works of Kathleen Norris, Pema Chödrön, Thomas Merton, Michael A. Singer, Joseph Campbell and John Shelby Spong.

Sam Meehan writes: I moved to Rangeley with Kelsey just over a year ago from Minnesota. I get the pleasure of working full time with my lovely wife, which is a great change of pace. Before coming to Rangeley, we worked in retail mostly on opposite



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shifts, rarely seeing each other. I have loved our first year here in Rangeley. I have become involved with the RFA productions. Most recently, I've now started to teach voice lessons. This is particularly great because now I have the opportunity to use my degree in music education. Life is good.

Kelsey Meehan writes: Sam and I are newcomers to the Rangeley area having moved from Madelia, Minnesota to Rangeley in November 2018. We enjoy traveling and have lived in North Dakota, Nebraska & Minnesota previously. I am originally from Kimball, MN and I went to Concordia College in Moorhead MN. I have a degree in Theatre concentrated in Stage Management & Light Design with a minor in Music and I got my Business Degree from Rasmussen College. Sam and I are really enjoying being a part of the community we found here! I recently joined the RFA board as a member and we both have joined the Community Choir. I am a voracious reader, love doing puzzles, enjoy cooking and am looking forward to breaking out my skis this year!



Rick Baker

It's the start of another calendar New Year. Wow. Where does the time go! I hope you have recovered from the Holidays by now.

Pastor Annette, the Deacons and Women's Fellowship did a great job guiding us through the Seasonal activities. Thanks to Mission for the special offerings they undertook and to Diane, our Sexton Extraordinaire, for looking after the church during those busy times.

As our church enters into the post- Advent/Christmas Season it usually is a "quieter" time. An opportunity for all involved in the fairs, special services, and other activities to "recharge their batteries". But, I know the Search Committee is still hard at work and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

An extremely good piece of news is that we have a new secretary. Megan Whitney takes on that job under the guidance of Linda W. Megan is a bright, energetic and wonderful person to get to know, so please stop by and introduce yourself to her if you have the chance. Her hours are still in flux, so stay tuned.

May you have a safe, healthy, fruitful and meaningful New Year.

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

Rick



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Treasurer: Paula Hatfield

Clerk: Linda Caspar

Members at Large: Rick Baker, Kit Caspar, Lourrie Chandler, and Cheryl Curris

Building and Grounds and Sexton: Diane Van Amburg

Christian Ed: Corinne Sorenson

Deacons: Scott Hatfield

Finance: Millie Hoekstra

Mission: Dave Walker

Women's Fellowship: Nancy Zambraski

Minister of Music: Sue Downes-Borko

PSP Committee: Marcia Baker

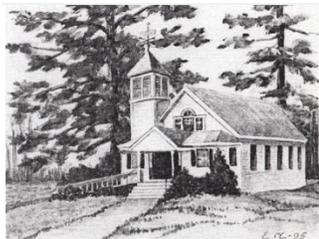
And of course Pastor Annette

Peace

Rick Baker

Moderator





Buildings and Grounds Committee

Diane VanAmburg

Thanks to Paula and Scott for doing the plowing. Yes, we have snow again this year. Leo Ceminara sanded the parking lot early Sunday morning the 15th . Nancy put up the orange fence to guard against any falls on the path. Thanks to all who are trying to keep us safe and upright.

Fred Dubay was voted a new member of the board. He will join us during the time he is here in town. Glad to have Fred officially a member of the board.

Megan our new church secretary has a key to the barn.

If anyone sees any problems with our buildings and grounds please contact a member so we can take care of it.

Thanks so much.

Buildings and Grounds Board: Derek Wendelken, Rick Baker, Dick Moore, Kirby Holcombe, Fred Dubay and Diane VanAmburg.



Deacon News

Scott Hatfield

We are very pleased to share with you that Claire Chase has agreed to join the Board of Deacons, filling a vacancy. We welcome her energy and wisdom. This brings our Board back up to full strength. Please thank Claire for her generous service.

We continue to work with organizations and individuals in our community to meet extraordinary needs. We would make you aware of Franklin County's Ecumenical 50-for-50 program. People are able to get 50 gallons of fuel oil (or other heating fuel) for only \$50. Because we feel this is frequently a good option, and because we have referred a number of people in that direction when it was the best option, the Deacons Relief Fund has sent \$500 their way.

We appreciate the two folks who filled our pulpit while Rev. Annette has been away on vacation. On November 17 we had the Rev. Peter Panagore. On December 29 we had the Rev. William Blaine-Wallace. We hope you enjoyed hearing their messages.

We also thank those who offer so many contributions to make our Advent season such a special time. We would be remiss not to acknowledge those who fetch the tree, provide snacks, greet the Walk to Bethlehem, decorate for Christmas Eve, arrange poinsettias, prepare bulletins, offer special music or



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accompaniment, light Advent candles, read scripture, ... There are many, many who offer their services --- and we appreciate every one of them.

One special story to pass along.... As one of your Deacons was getting everything ready for Christmas Eve service, a couple from out of town happened by. They were happy to come inside and appreciate the simple joy of our sanctuary freely available, beautiful, and quiet. They returned for our Christmas Eve service and commented how that was "just what they needed" as they departed. We will continue to strive towards our mission of being open, welcoming, peaceful, and joyful.

Our Deacon of the Month for January is Lucy Simonds. Please reach out to any Deacon with any needs or suggestions.



Nancy Zambraski

Well, another Holly Fair is behind us and what a success. Thanks to everyone who helped bake, make crafts, organize & and; work the day of the Holly Fair. As usual, we kept things out for sale on Sunday during coffee hour & did quite well. At last count we generated approximately \$7,000 in proceeds. We had a nice gathering of 20 women who met following church service on December 15 th and distributed \$10,000 to charities from money generated from the sales from our 2 summer festivals and Holly Fair. It has always been the mission of Women's Fellowship to give back. What a satisfying way to end the year giving to well-deserved charities. Plus, we decided to purchase new tablecloths for use in the Barn since some of ours are a bit tattered.



On December 1st Women's Fellowship was honored to host a brunch reception following the "New Member" service where we served approximately 30 people. It was a blessing to be able to welcome three new members to our church.

We will take a well-deserved break until May when we will meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our inventory is low, so as you're putting away those Christmas decorations and want to get rid of slightly used items, we are always ready to take them for the Santa's Seconds table. We are also in need of baskets. *And* if you have any crafting ideas that we might be able to make, please let us know.

The Women's Fellowship Committee is planning an "All Women Event" in February. When we have a date firmed up, we'll let everyone know.

Blessings,

Nancy Zambraski, Women's Fellowship Co-chair



2019 Holly Fair Volunteers



Finance Committee

Paula Hatfield

The Finance Committee met on December 9th at 3pm to review and discuss November financial activity. Expenses were typical for budgeted accounts with no exceptional activity in income or expenses. Propane and oil fuels were purchased for this winter in September through the prebuy programs offered by S-K Quality Fuels and Dead River Company. We continue to receive monthly deliveries that are expensed against those prebuy accounts. The mid-year financial review and analysis will be done at the end of December, with results shared at the January Church Council meeting and subsequent newsletter. As always, your input and participation are welcomed at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 3pm in the East Room of the Barn. Our next meeting will be on January 13, 2020.

Submitted by Paula Hatfield, Treasurer



Music Notes

Sue Downes-Borko

Let us have music for Christmas...

Sound the trumpet of joy and rebirth;

Let each of us try,

With a song in our hearts,

To bring peace to men on earth.

-Mildred Jarrell



Thank you to all who raised their voices in song and provided our church with special music during Advent into the Christmas Season. The adult choir, Sam and Kelsey Meehan, Dave Walker, Erin Perkins Smith, and Derek and Linda Wendelken added joy to this last month's worship services.

Our handbell choir, The Rangeley Ringers, played at three Rangeley churches during December/January. The new addition to our holiday schedule was a performance at Norlands Living History Center's Christmas celebration.

The bell choir will soon be making plans for the Maine Spring Ring, taking place in Auburn in March as part of the Maine Bicentennial festivities.





Mission Board

Dave Walker

The fourth quarter is always a busy time for the Missions Committee. The Turkey Dinner was a terrific success in October. Many thanks to all the contributors of money, time, and sweat equity to make this an annual success.

The youth of the South Church in Andover, MA made their annual pilgrimage to the church on Veteran's Day weekend in November. In addition to their voluntary community service to the Rangeley area, the kids led the Neighbors in Need offering for the Mission Committee with a well thought out skit.

The calendar year has ended with the completion of the fifth of the UCC's 5 for 5 offering donations with the Christmas offering. Thank you to all for your continued generosity and making the mission of the church a success.

Your generosity does not go unrecognized locally or around the world. Recently, the committee received a cowbell, thank you card, and note from Heifer International. The note stated –

“Bells have been used since early Christian times to signal small things: a call to worship and unite in spirit or in celebration of lives joined together. In the United States, a bell is commonly associated with freedom.

At Heifer, we ring a cowbell to signify the blessing of big-hearted gifts like yours that transform lives. Your congregational gift has provided a blessing for our partner families around the world, granting them freedom from hunger and poverty.

We've enclosed one of Heifer's bells as a token of gratitude. It's generous patrons like you that bring the commandment “love your neighbor” to life. Thank you for joining our mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by investing alongside local farmers and their communities.”

Just a guess, but one would imagine Harold may find a use for the cowbell. The committee will rest for a couple months while the snow flies and renew mission efforts in the Spring. We hope all of you enjoy a very Happy New Year.



The January Facilities and Event Highlights Calendar is located below

A full list of Calendar Events can be found on our website: www.rangeleyucc.org

January Facilities and Events Highlights Calendar

Activity	Day	Jan. Dates	Time	Place
Worship	Sunday	Jan. 5 Jan. 12 Jan. 19 Jan. 26	10-11 am	Sanctuary
Genesis-Bible Study	Sunday	Jan. 12 Jan. 19 Jan. 26	11:20 am (after a short fellowship time)	East Room
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Monday	Jan. 6 Jan. 20	2-3:30 pm	Sanctuary
Men's Breakfast	Monday	Jan. 13	8-9 am	
Finance Committee	Monday	Jan. 13	3-4 pm	Barn
Church Council	Monday	Jan. 13	4-6 pm	TBA
Deacons	Monday	Jan. 27	4-5 pm	East Room
Search Committee	Monday	Jan. 6 Jan. 20	4-6pm	East Room
Christian Ed.	Tuesday	Jan. 7	8:30 am	East Room
Pastor "Walk-In" Hours	Tuesday	Jan. 7 Jan. 14 Jan. 21 Jan. 28	1-3 pm	East Room