



14 Laban Ainsworth Way

Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-552-7979 [fcij@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fcij@myfairpoint.net)

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## FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

No matter how many times you have hung a new calendar to begin a new year, a new episode in your life's story, if you try, you can rediscover a child like optimism and hope for the 365 days ahead. While breath is in us, let us live and enjoy our days.

Age brings losses and limitations but it also brings wisdom and peace. Our view of life crystallizes, simplifies and streamlines. We get down to basics and feel steady standing on the firm ground of the few things that really matter. Family. Friends. Faith. Fascination. We know where real pleasure comes from, where strength can be found, where meaning and hope reside and how to pay close attention to everything so that we will delight in a sunrise, a cardinal at the feeder, a child's wild laugh. Don't miss anything. Henry David Thoreau got it down to one word "Simplify."

We have spent December listening to glorious music, hearing sacred scripture, tasting so many good things to eat, and being reminded that God loves us and by the words and cards of far away friends that others love us as well. It has been a feast.

Here is a poem to move us forward into a new year holding on to what we have learned, remembered and how we rejoiced.

### A Celtic Christian Hymn

The will of God be done by us,  
The law of God be kept by us,  
Our evil will be controlled by us,  
Our tongue in cheek be held by us,  
Repentance timely made by us,  
Christ's passion understood by us,  
Each sinful crime be shunned by us,  
Much on the End be mused by us,  
And death be blessed found by us,  
With angel's music heard by us,  
And God's high praises sung by us,  
For ever and for aye.

Happy New Year, Bob



## TRUSTEES & BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT:

### Trustees and Buildings and Grounds Report

At the December 8th Trustees' meeting, refinements were made to the Proposed 2012 Budget and the Trustees voted unanimously to recommend the budget at the Annual Meeting on January 22. Treasurer Janet Grant and Trustees' Chairman Tom Gundlach will present the Proposed 2012 Budget to the Church Council on January 4th for their approval.

The Trustees re-appointed the following members of the Investment Committee for 2012: Charlie Marvin, Luther Durgin, Linda Giragosian, and Bill Gilson. Ken Kraft has almost completed the audit of the church's finances.

Mike Shea has replaced the two black dimmer switches for the back Sanctuary chandeliers which were not dimming and he also replaced the dimmer switch in the Parsonage which controls both the dining room and kitchen lights. Gwen has been in contact with Randy Heglin, Director of the Jaffrey Public Works Department, regarding the dead ash and maple trees on Blackberry Lane which abut church property. The trees, which were on town property, were taken down on December 22 by Wally's Tree Service and expenses were paid by the Town of Jaffrey through their tree removal account. Through another donation, a heater was purchased for Gene Faxon to use when he is practicing the organ in the Sanctuary which will lessen the need to heat the entire Sanctuary during that time. Whenever Mother Nature decides to surprise us with more snow, the donated snowblower is ready and waiting!

Gwendolyn Gundlach  
Building and Grounds

## ANNUAL MEETING

November 20, 2011

TO ALL MEMBERS:

The Annual Meeting of The First Church in Jaffrey will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 22, 2012 immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to:

Receive and vote on reports for the year  
Vote on the proposed 2012 budget  
Vote on officer and committee nominees for the coming year  
and to undertake such other actions that may legally come before the meeting.

All members of The First Church are urged to attend.

Sylvia J. Hamilton, Clerk

## WASSAIL CELEBRATION

Gene Faxon, Eve Kodiak, and Andrea Larson will again bring their Wassail celebration to First Church on Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 3 PM. A gift from Bob and Steffie Kyte, last year's concert filled the sanctuary and sent all who attended out into the dark, chilly evening filled with joy and warmth from the wonderful music. This year we will ask for a \$10 donation per adult and hope that many families will join us in celebrating the winter season. Please mark your calendar and look for more details in the December newsletter.



### **AN AFTERNOON WITH MAREN TIRABASSI – JANUARY 17**

On Tuesday, January 17 from 1 – 4 pm in the Parish House, Maren C. Tirabassi will lead a seminar called “Talking With Family”. Through presentation and small group discussion, participants will consider different ways to make clear to their families their plans and wishes for the later years. This free event is offered by the First Church Christian Education Committee. Monadnock at Home is a co-sponsor.

Maren C. Tirabassi is an ordained United Church of Christ minister with thirty years of church experience. She is the author of seventeen books including the recent “Gifts in Open Hands – More Resources for the Global Community”, “All Whom God has Joined”, “Before the Amen – Resources for Worship”, and “Caring for Ourselves While Caring for Our Elders.” Maren travels throughout the country facilitating workshops on creative worship, youth ministry, aging concerns and liturgical writing. She teaches memoir and poetry in a wide range of settings from high school to senior center, correctional facility to ESL class. Maren is the pastor of Union Congregational UCC in Madbury, New Hampshire and lives in Portsmouth with her husband Don.

Registration for the event is required. Call the church office (532-7979) or speak with Bob Kyte, pastor, or Carol Hess, chair of the Christian Education Committee. In case of a weather cancellation, the event will be held on Thursday, January 19.

Rescheduled for Jan. 29 since it was canceled due to snow in October

## Special Worship and Sharing January 29– 10:30- 12:00

Honoring the UCC tradition that the people are the church, the Pastoral Relations Committee asks you to join with us on October 30 from 10:30 to 12:00 to worship and share your ideas. Following a worship service from 10:30 to 11:00, the congregation will break into groups to listen and share responses to the following four questions:

- What are two priorities you see as the tasks of this church in this community in this time?
- What are First Church's strengths in addressing your two priorities?
- What are your specific suggestions for accomplishing these priorities?
- What do you appreciate most about Bob Kyte's ministry?
- What might make Bob's ministry even more effective?

The feedback from this process is important in helping Bob and the committees of our church set directions. We look forward to your participation as we worship and reflect together. Cider and donuts in the discussion groups will replace the traditional coffee hour.

If you are unable to be with us on the 29th, please mail your responses to Pastoral Relations Committee, The First Church in Jaffrey, P.O. Box 673, Jaffrey, NH 03452 or drop written responses in the box labeled PRC in narthex.

The Pastoral Relations Committee  
Jim Balentine  
Marcia Breckenridge  
Bobbie Gilbert  
John Van Ness

# FOOD PANTRY FOR JANUARY

## Proteins

Stew, Sloppy Joe, Corned Beef Hash, Chili, Canned Chicken



# January 2012.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 9:00 <i>Choir Reh</i> 10:30 <i>am Worship</i> 11:30 <i>am Coffee Hr</i>	2	3	4 11:00 <i>am Bible Study</i> 3:00 <i>pm Council</i> 4:30 <i>Joint Benev</i> 8:00 <i>pm AA</i>	5 11:00 <i>am Sr. Exer</i> 3:30 <i>pm Credo</i>	6 9am <i>Pastor &amp; Secretary in</i>	7
8 9:00 <i>Choir Reh</i> 10:30 <i>am Worship</i> 11:30 <i>am Coffee Hr</i>	9	10 11:00 <i>am Sr. Exe</i>	11 11:00 <i>am Bible Study</i> 8:00 <i>pm AA</i>	12 11:00 <i>am Sr. Exer</i> 3:30 <i>Trustees</i> 3:30 <i>pm Credo</i>	13 9am <i>Pastor &amp; Secretary in</i>	14
15 9:00 <i>Choir Reh</i> 10:30 <i>am Worship</i> 11:30 <i>am Coffee Hr</i> <i>Woods Fund Presentation</i>	16	17 11:00 <i>am SrExer</i> 1:00 <i>pm An</i> <i>Afternoon with Maren Tirabassi</i>	18 11:00 <i>am Bible Study</i> 8:00 <i>pm AA</i>	19 <b><i>Weathervane Deadline</i></b> 11:00 <i>am Sr.Exer</i> 3:30 <i>pm Credo</i>	20 9am <i>Pastor &amp; Secretary in Meeting</i>	21
22 9:00 <i>Choir Reh</i> 10:30 <i>am Worship</i> 11:30 <i>am Annual Meeting</i>	23	24 11:00 <i>am Sr. Exe</i>	25 11:00 <i>am Bible Study</i> 8:00 <i>pm AA</i>	26 11:00 <i>am Sr.Exer</i> 3:30 <i>pm Credo</i>	27 9am <i>Pastor &amp; Secretary in</i>	28
29 9:00 <i>Choir Reh</i> 10:30 <i>am Worship</i> <i>Congregational Forum following worship</i>	30	31 11:00 <i>am Sr. Exe</i>			30	31

<i>Birthdays</i>	
1/3 <i>Gunilla Johanson</i>	1/18 <i>Nancy Taylor</i>
1/6 <i>Ken Campbell</i>	1/19 <i>Corrine Adams</i>
<i>Bob Chase</i>	1/22 <i>John Van Ness</i>
1/16 <i>Bob Kyte</i>	
1/17 <i>Iver Olsen &amp; Carol Hess</i>	