

The Congregate Tidings

Volume 33 Issue 8

August 2019

Communicating Well

This past Sunday, the Scripture lesson was Luke 10:38-42, a short but revealing snippet about Martha, her sister Mary, and Jesus. I mentioned that Martha, frustrated by the obligations of hospitality required of her as the homeowner and hostess, brought Jesus into a conversation that she should have had with her sister directly. Any family counselor would raise this up as the perfect example of *triangulation*, which is something most of us learn as children because we discover early on something true of humankind: we are inherently inclined to take sides in any miscommunication or dispute.

So when we were little, if Mom said no, we went to Dad to plead our case and vice versa. I was a grand champion at not just triangulation but “quadrangulation” and “pentagulation” as a child: if I wanted something and both parents said no, I went right for my grandmother, who often said yes. But if she said no, my grandfather was a sure-fire yes except in the very rare instances that what I wanted was dangerous. Looking back on things, I’m sure my parents were less than thrilled that I had my grandfather so thoroughly wrapped around my little finger. I also realize how quickly my parents learned to present a united front and how, if what either my brother or I wanted was of vital importance to us, we could present our case logically and perhaps receive a different answer from both of them. But only after they talked and agreed; swaying one was not enough.

A colleague once said that he wished Jesus had said to Martha, “Go talk to your sister.” He thought it would be a much better teaching moment for the modern church, and he may not be wrong. But Jesus does a couple of important things that make this example of triangulation neutral, if not positive. First, he hears what Martha is saying and takes it seriously. We know this because of the way he speaks to her, using her name and identifying the issue: “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things.” Second, he helps her to see another option in the moment, which is to do as Mary is doing. Mary has been sitting and listening to Jesus.

I wonder, as I think about this story, what might have happened had Martha spoken to Mary directly instead of involving Jesus. Ponder with me for a moment as I use my sacred imagination*.

Martha welcomed Jesus and his 12 disciples into the home she shared with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. She felt the weight of hospitality on her shoulders as she busied herself in the kitchen. She knew Mary would come to help her any moment.

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***Check out our newly
designed website
thanks to Tracy
Strout and many
photographers!***

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But the moments passed and time grew longer while Martha kneaded the bread and turned the meat on the spit, a treat for their guests that she and Mary had been saving to share with them. Mary was better at turning the spit, singing nonsense tunes to help her keep the motion even and smooth. Where was Mary, anyway?

Martha stepped into the atrium and looked around at the gathered crowd. Lazarus was there, and several men from the village with him, sitting with their backs against the wall across from Jesus. The 12 who followed him sat or reclined on the floor, listening and asking questions as Jesus spoke.

And there was Mary, sitting right in front of Jesus and looking so intently at him that she might be memorizing every word Jesus said! Lazarus could tell her later. Right now, Martha needed Mary's help.

"I'm sorry, Lord, to interrupt, but I need to speak with Mary."
Jesus smiled at Martha, then at Mary as she got up from her place. He resumed his teaching.

"What is it, Martha?" Mary asked.

"I need your help in the kitchen and you're out here daydreaming with Jesus!" Martha didn't realize how angry she was until she said those words.

Mary laid her hands on Martha's arm. "Oh, Martha, I'm sorry. I just really need to be with Jesus right now. It's too early to worry about the meat on the spit. Is the bread rising?"

"Yes." Martha heard herself growl.

"Good. Come and sit with me for an hour. Listen to Jesus. Then I'll help you in the kitchen. The bread won't rise any faster if you're watching it and the meat will roast just fine for a while."

Martha felt her shoulders ease. Mary was right. She didn't need to watch the yeast do its work. And the thickest part of the roast did need time before the turning began. She was worried about the wrong things at the wrong time.

She smiled at Mary "Is there room in front?"

Same outcome, no triangulation involved. Mary even gets to speak for herself!

Many, many times in a church, things escalate because we don't go to the source of our confusion or irritation at the beginning. I've found that 95 out of 100 times, going to the source first is the only step necessary because what confused or irritated me was a simple incomplete communication loop: someone thought I knew something I didn't or didn't include me in a loop accidentally. Another four times, I didn't read the e-mail correctly or didn't listen carefully enough, or was distracted and didn't hear everything. A few moments of follow-up with the source clarifies the situation without another step. The one time out of every hundred that the first step isn't enough, I've always been thankful for the processes that churches and businesses have in place to assist with communications.

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All of this is to say, especially as you are preparing for the eventual arrival of a new pastor, try to give everyone a chance to explain what's confusing or irritating before you triangulate someone else in. It's easy enough for anyone to forget to carbon copy someone on an e-mail or to assume that everyone has the same information as you do. We lead busy lives and "Stuff happens." Pastors are as human as everyone else and we do make mistakes. When something happens that raises your hackles, take a moment to consider: do I think this person is intentionally provoking me or is it more likely to be an oversight? I can't think of anyone in the congregation who would intentionally provoke me, so my go-to solution is to seek clarification from the originator of the "problem." I may not agree in the end, but at least I understand better.

Matthew 18:15-20 gives us good advice not just for "Reproving Another Who Sins" but for clear communications, as well. Start with the source and only add people if the communication issues aren't resolved at that level. Your new pastor will thank you for it, every time!

*"Sacred imagination" is a phrase coined by Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney of Bright Divinity School. She uses it to mirror for Christians what our Jewish siblings call "Midrash", or seeing texts through new eyes to discover more of God's work in the story.

Pastor Ruth



Thank you!

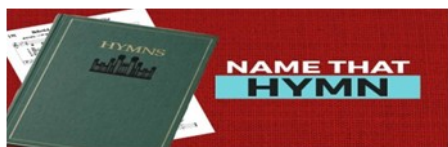
The ONA Team would like to thank all that came to the meeting at Steve & Denise Woodcock's home on July 8th to share in our meeting. Please know **we heard each of you** and will be reviewing in depth what our redirected course will be at our next meeting, August 5th.

A big "THANK YOU" as well to Steve & Denise for being such wonderful hosts and opening up their home to us to enjoy some delicious refreshment prior to the meeting.

Special Meeting Sunday, August 4, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in the Vestry or as soon after Fellowship as reasonable.

Meeting Agenda: Interim Pastor and declining Attendance; Status of O and A; Our continued relationship with the UCC; and Pastoral Search Committee makeup.

Carl Lindblade, Moderator



SUMMERTIME HYMN QUIZ

AUGUST 2019

By Muriel Magg



Hymns can be beautiful, inspirational, rousing or somber. A few are famous, known even to non-Christians.

If you love church music, here is a quiz for you! Some are classic and traditional hymns. A few land in the African-American tradition of spirituals, and you might consider a few as "Sunday School" songs.

Can you guess these hymns from a lyric? This little quiz is designed to find out.

Answers can be found on the next page. **GOOD LUCK !**

1. I once was lost, but now am found."

- A. Lord, I Want To Be a Christian
- B. Amazing Grace
- C. I'll Fly Away

2. "And exchange it some day for a crown."

- A. Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross
- B. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- C. The Old Rugged Cross

3. "Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee."

- A. Abide With Me
- B. Holy, Holy, Holy
- C. Faith of Our Father's

4. "Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee ..."

- A. I Love to Tell the Story
- B. The Church's One Foundation
- C. How Great Thou Art

5. "Sing, choirs of angels/Sing in exultation."

- A. Angels We Have Heard on High
- B. O Come All Ye Faithful
- C. Angels, from the Realms of Glory

6. "O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble."

- A. Were You There?
- B. Just a Closer Walk With Thee
- C. What Wondrous Love Is This

7. "Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away."

- A. Softly and Tenderly
- B. Abide With Me
- C. We Gather Together

8. "In spite of dungeon, fire and sword ..."

- A. Faith of Our Fathers
- B. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- C. Shall We Gather at the River

9. "All our sins and griefs to bear."

- A. Jesus Loves Me
- B. What A Friend We Have in Jesus
- C. Rock of Ages

10. "By his counsels guide, uphold you/With His sheep securely fold you."

- A. Beautiful Savior
- B. God Be With You Til We Meet Again
- C. Just as I Am

11. "That Jesus Christ is born."

- A. Away in a Manger
- B. Sweet Hour of Prayer
- C. Go, Tell It On the Mountain

12. "Let me hide myself in Thee."

- A. Holy, Holy, Holy
- B. Rock of Ages
- C. Abide With Me

13. "While the snow lay round about/Deep and crisp and even."

- A. Good King Wenceslas
- B. Go Down Moses
- C. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

14. "Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine."

- A. Now Thank We All Our God
- B. Blessed Assurance
- C. Just a Closer Walk With Thee

15. "Joyful all ye nations rise."

- A. Angels We Have Heard on High
- B. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- C. The First Noel

16. "Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

- A. Come, O Come Emmanuel
- B. Softly and Tenderly
- C. This Little Light of Mine

Summertime Hymn Quiz continued

17. " ... great things he hath done."
 A. To God Be the Glory
 B. Great Is Thy Faithfulness
 C. Spirit of the Living God
18. "With the cross of Jesus, going on before."
 A. How Great Thou Art
 B. Blessed Assurance
 C. Onward, Christian Soldiers
19. "Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee."
 A. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
 B. Thine Is the Glory
 C. For the Beauty of the Earth
20. "It satisfies my longings/As nothing else can do."
 A. Amazing Grace
 B. I Love to Tell the Story
 C. Let Us Break Bread Together

1 B, 2 C, 3 B, 4 C, 5 B, 6 A, 7 B, 8 A, 9 B, 10 B, 11 C,
 12 B, 13 A, 14 B, 15 B, 16 C, 17 A, 18 C, 19 A, 20 B

The Handbell Choir is planning to peal bells with the Community Band at the final concert of the season on Tuesday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the gazebo at the North Conway Community Park. The concert is free, but weather may preempt the concert. Watch the church's Facebook page for updates.

News from the Food Fundraising (Fryeburg Fair) Committee

Hello First Church:

I am at the point of getting ready to call our first planning meeting for the 2019 Fryeburg Fair and our Blueberry Crisp operations there. However, several birdies and other messengers have told me that Some of the good people that we rely on during moving, baking and selling blueberry crisp at the fair may have some individual scheduling conflicts already so that they will not be able to give the same assistance as they have in the past.

In light of this situation, could all of you who have regularly helped: 1. Move and setup the trailer, 2. Baked crisp for days and days, 3. Worked in the booth at the fair, 4. or washed pans and any number of other helpful tasks please e-mail me at richard.goss@roadrunner.com to let me know if you are going to experience a change in the schedule of help you normally give.

Once I get that information together, we will be able to plan for the various new challenges which will face us as we blueberry along.

Thank you for your support.
 Richard P Goss III, chair



31st ANNUAL BACH LUNCHEON

Sunday, August 25, 2019

It doesn't seem possible that it's almost time for the 31st Annual Bach and Friends Festival Weekend, Worship Service and Luncheon.

Immediately following the Bach Worship Service on Sunday morning, August 25th, members of the Music Committee, Chancel and Handbell Choirs will host a luncheon in the vestry.

If you can assist us by volunteering to provide sandwiches, a main dish, salad, dessert or help with set up and clean up, please indicate your preference and availability on the sign-up sheet posted in the vestry.

All help will be GREATLY appreciated!
Thank you.

Muriel Magg



Bell Choir and Chancel Choir members—as well as anyone who would like to sing with the Chancel Choir on **Bach Sunday, August 25!**—remember that we have rehearsals for that service on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**. The Bell Choir will rehearse at 5:30 p.m.; the Chancel Choir and guests will rehearse at 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *PS to any potentially interested new bell choir members: this rehearsal would be a good one to visit to see what it's like. If you can hold at least 1 pound in your hand(s) and count to 3, 4, and 6, you could be a ringer just waiting for a bell to set loose a great passion!*

ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY! All women are invited to join the pastors of the Eastern Slope Clergy for a book and Bible study using "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. This will be held at the North Conway Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings starting August 13. A men's study is in the works for the fall.



8/2 *Laura Jean Beeler*

8/3 *Patricia Johnson*

8/4 *Ethel Saunders*

8/14 *Dudley Hall*

8/14 *Steve Cote*

8/16 *Erin Donabedian*

8/19 *Nicole Schiller*

8/20 *Julie James*

8/23 *Dorothy Towle*

8/24 *Mike Davenport*

8/29 *Stephen Woodcock*



8/6 *Sean & Patricia McGrath*

8/16 *Daniel & Katrina Jones*

8/26 *Andy & Laura Jean Beeler*

8/30 *Charles & Mildred Taylor*

Looking for something to do in September? Well come visit the **Mud Bowl**. This year's theme is **Mudeo Games** after Video Games. This is a family fun event that runs from September 6th thru September 8th. The event is a big fundraiser for 3 local non-profit organizations, RSVP, N. Conway Community Center and The Vaughan Learning Center. Early Tickets can be purchased at the Learning Center. For more information please call Heather at 603-356-5213.



AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 10:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:15 AM Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Pantry Open 1:00 PM Bach Festival Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>30 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 1:00 PM Bach Festival Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>31 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>1 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM WIC 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>2 7:00 AM Pastor Ruth Away 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM Pow Wow - Hussey Field</p>
<p>4 Pow Wow - Hussey Field 10:00 AM Communion Worship Celebration 11:15 AM Refreshments after Service 11:30 AM Special Meeting in the Vestry</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Pantry Open 6:00 PM ONA Meeting - Howard Room 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM Bell Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM Handbell Choir peal bells with the Community Band-North Conway Gazebo</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting 5:30 PM Family Movie Night</p>	<p>8 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry Open 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM Pequavket Foundation Meeting-Vestry 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM SOS (Survivors of Suicide Loss) 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 10:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:30 AM Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt at Whitaker Woods</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>13 6:30 PM Ecumenical Women's Book and Bible Study - North Conway Community Center</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>15 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Revolving Closet-Vestry- Packing back packs 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry Open 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Revolving Closet-Vestry 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Back Pack Giveaway</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 10:00 AM Worship Celebration</p>	<p>19 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>20 2:00 PM Trustees meeting 5:00 PM Diaconate 5:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ecumenical Women's Book and Bible Study - North Conway Community Center 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting 5:30 PM Family Movie Night</p>	<p>22 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Festival Rehearsal 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>24 12:00 PM Bach Festival Rehearsal 7:30 PM Bach Festival Concert</p>
<p>25 10:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:30 AM Bach Festival Luncheon 11:30 AM Bach Festival Rehearsal 4:30 PM Bach Festival Concert</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Bach Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's AA Step Group</p>	<p>27 6:30 PM Ecumenical Women's Book and Bible Study - North Conway Community Center</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Food Pantry Open 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>29 7:00 AM Rotary 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Food Pantry Open 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 Cleaning Day-Offices Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA meeting</p>	<p>31</p>

Gerry Tilton is looking for a good home for her dog, Georgia. She is a 6 year old Beagle with very high energy! She has proven to have too much energy for Gerry to handle! Georgia loves children and is a very sweet and loving dog. She had issues stemming from a former owner but has worked through them with the love and care that Gerry has given her. If you know someone who would love to have Georgia as their pet, please speak to Gerry or contact her by email at forestgt22@aol.com.



In this Summer season, let us remember those who are not able to be out and about due to physical limitations or fragile immune systems.

Those with ongoing health concerns include **Marge and Dudley Hall, Janet Earnshaw, and Linda Derse.**

Peg Chisholm is at Mineral Springs Care Facility., 1251 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway, 03860. **Agnes Birch, Liz George-Hussey, Cynthia Briggs, Dot Towle, Bebe Taylor and Frances Ross** are at Merriman House, 3073 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway, 03860. If you're passing through Ossipee, stop in at Mountain View Nursing Home, 93 Water Village Rd., Ossipee, 03864, to see **Harriet Goodwin**; she loves cards and cheery notes, as well. You can visit or send cards to **Lynn Runne** at Fryeburg Health Care Center, 70 Fairview Dr., Fryeburg, ME 04037.

Please contact **Bonnie Tryder** or **Pastor Ruth** in the church office with prayer concerns for Sunday or for next month's issue of The Congregate Tidings. You are welcome to ask for church greeting cards to be sent for celebrations, illness/recovery, grief, and general "thinking of you"/"pick me up" notes by contacting **Evelyn Porter**, the Coordinator of the Diaconate's Ministry of Greeting. Call her at home, (603) 496-2314, or by e-mail at hambru35@yahoo.com.

VAUGHAN BUILDING UPDATE

The contractors are here to remove the roof of the old carriage house! This is the first of many steps in the Vaughan Community Services, Inc., construction and renovation project that has been made possible by generous donations to the capital campaign. It is good to see this underway after months of waiting! The next step is to demolish the building and clear the site for foundation work on the Food Pantry and Clothing Depot building.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled soon; details will come as soon as we know.

Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make this day possible, especially Dan Jones, who chairs the Capital Campaign Committee; Bob Seaman, chair of the Vaughan Building Committee; Dot Seybold, Vaughan Board Chair; and the Trustees of First Church, ably led by Mark Porter. **Peter Magg has also** done significant fundraising as well as provided excellent oversight of the Vaughan budget and management of the capital funds.





The Next Youth and Family Movie nights will be on Wednesday, August 7th and Wednesday August 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun and easy Hike and Scavenger Hunt in Whitaker Woods on Sunday, August 11th! We will be leaving shortly after church and hope you can join us. Bring a friend, snacks and drinks!



YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST:

You're invited to attend the local **Pow Wow!** The event happens Saturday and Sunday, August 3-4 at Hussey Field, right off of First Bridge in North Conway. Gates open at 10. Grand entry each day is at noon and that is when the dancing starts and everyone is dressed in their regalia (not called a costume). There is parking. This is open to the public so that others can learn about the native culture, including the Abenaki trading post right in Intervale There will be dancing and drumming until 2 when the drums will break for lunch for about an hour. After lunch, there is typically a dance for children called the candy dance. The majority of the Sunday school children will be with Jenni Terry on Sunday immediately following worship until the Pow Wow ends by between 4 and 5.

Summer Camp Update

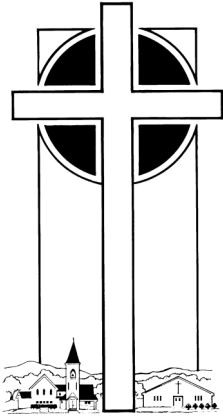
Vaughan Learning Center has been very busy this summer. All of our classrooms have been having so much fun doing water play. The photo is our Summer Camp group at the ocean, we spent the day at Pine Point. Summer is coming to an end soon and at this time we do have openings for 3-5 year olds. If you are interested in a spot for a child or you would like to make a donation please contact Heather at 603-356-5213 or send an email to Heather@VaughanNH.com.



The Congregate Tidings
First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
PO Box 401
N Conway, NH 03860-0401



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Shaver

Licensed Lay Minister: Gerry Tilton

Organist: Floyd W. Corson

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:

Anne W. Polak

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Bonnie Tryder

Vaughan Interim Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director:

Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Merridith Larson

Grounds Keeper: Ryan Tuttle

Custodian/night Watchperson: Bill McRell

July Newsletter Collators: Mae Shea Jodi Neal , Glenna Tibbets, Julie James and Penny Robinson

Sunday Worship Service/Sunday School
10 A.M.

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