

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF GOFFSTOWN**

8 & 10 Main Street

Goffstown, N.H. 03045

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Web Site: <http://GoffCong.org>

**PASSAGES** FEBRUARY 2009

An independent, non-denominational, family of Jesus Christ in the historic tradition of Bible believing,  
Christ-centered Christian faith.

**FROM THE PASTOR**

Lent: the Christian Church sets aside each year a time for personal prayer, Bible study and devotion. Self-examination, prayer, acknowledgment of sin and need for repentance and forgiveness. Lent can also move in a more positive direction – strengthening and deepening our love of God and love towards one another. Jesus teaches that this love commandment summarizes all of God's commandments in the Bible. Love towards enemies, love towards all sinners, love for all people, love for those who hate and abuse and persecute us. The list has no end. This is not optional.

To this end and purpose our congregational wide focus during Lent will center on not just talking about it, but doing it, practicing how to love - biblically! To help us with this "practicing the one another commands" of the Bible we will be guided first by the Bible and second by Jim Van Yperen's study guide, *Living in Authentic Community*.

Beginning the week after Ash Wednesday (February 25) we will have organized small home groups for everyone. So please pray about getting into a small group.

Here is a reflection that recently spoke to me – and perhaps it will help you in deciding how to live your Lenten discipline.

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life -Proverbs 4:23*

The Bible says you should guard, or watch, your heart. Why? Because your heart is your core being. It's your character. And out of your heart the rest of your life's story will unfold.

So, guard your heart. Protect it. **Here's how according to Scripture.**

- **Purpose to live a pure life.** Don't live by preferences, but by convictions.
- **Prepare for ambush.** Expect and detect temptation. Know your vulnerabilities and your weaknesses. Be honest with yourself and guard your eyes. Run from temptation.
- **Practice spiritual disciplines.** Strengthen your heart with **the Word of God**. Keep a **vital prayer life**.
- **Ponder the consequences.** Think about the effect on your life if you don't guard your heart. If you don't guard your heart, you can lose your spiritual influence and the right to lead your family.
- **Partner with other believers.** Become accountable. Partner with another believer or group of believers who you trust and who can hold you up in prayer. Find someone who will listen to you and with whom you can be transparent.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO GUARD YOUR HEART TODAY?**

- *Daily Word* (Jan 27) from Dr. Jack Graham

God bless you all.

Pastor Charlie



FEBRUARY 25, 2009

SERVICE OF ASHES AT 7:00PM

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**Sunday in the Morning**

8:30 - 9:30 AM

In the Chapel

Bible Study led by Bonnie Bastian

This class studies different books of the Bible and other Christian literature relative to spiritual growth and knowledge of the Lord. The group discusses which book to study and then meets weekly for the lessons. Regular attendance is encouraged, though participants are welcome to attend as they are able.

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**T h a n k s   f r o m  
M o n a d n o c k   B i b l e  
C o n f e r e n c e**

to the members of the Congregational Church of Goffstown

January 13, 2009

Dear Friends at the Congregational Church

of Goffstown:

As a board, we would like to thank you for your financial support over the past year. Because of your help we have been able to serve over 5,000 teens and 3,000 adults this year.

During our first two winter weekends of 2009, 30 teens have reported a first time commitment to a relationship with Jesus. Another 77 have declared their commitment to refocus their relationship with God and live their life according to Biblical standards.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your eternal investment in the advancement of the kingdom.

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**IMPORTANT CHANGE: PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS HAVE CHANGED. E-MAILS WILL BE FORWARDED UNTIL MARCH 1 ONLY. ALL VERIZON ADDRESS HAVE BECOME MY FAIRPOINT.NET AS OF JANUARY 29.**

All articles for the March issue must be in the office by February 23. We will be folding the newspaper on Friday, February 27 at 9:00am in the Chapel of the Parish house. If you would like to help out, please join us at that time. News articles are always welcome at any time of the month. They can be left in the Secretary's mail box in the Parish house or e-mailed to:

office\_goffcong@myfairpoint.net.

Pictures can be left in the mailbox to be scanned. Please include a label, a short sentence or two about the picture or the names of the people in the photo. They will be returned after they are scanned. They can also be sent as .jpeg files to the office e-mail address.

This newsletter, calendar and weekly bulletins can be read on line at: <http://goffcong.org>

Thank you,

Barbara Pinard

Editor/ Church Administrative Assistant

**\$\$\$\$ HELP \$\$\$\$**

**FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:**

You don't need an address to apply for food Stamps. You can also apply from the privacy of your own home. Call 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4238

**UTILITY AND HEATING COSTS:**

Contact Southern New Hampshire Services, 160 Silver Street, Manchester, N.H.

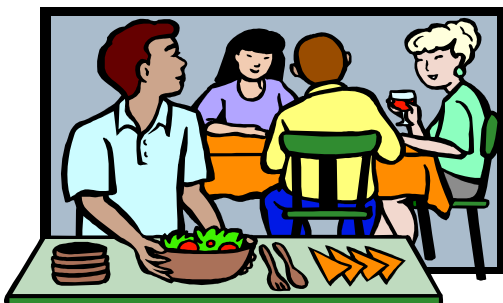
Website for information: [www.snhs.org](http://www.snhs.org) Call: 1-800-322-1073 or 647-4470 Open year round 8:30am to 4:30pm.

**MORE INFORMATON IS AVAILABLE**

**IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

HALL, Rebecca	02/01	HALL, Sheldon	02/13	NORKLUN, Rebecca	02/23
MILES, Jenna	02/02	PEABODY, William	02/13	RIDGE, Jennifer	02/23
SENNETT, Shea	02/02	DUNCKLEE, Kathryn	02/14	LAMSON, Evelyn	02/24
HAVENER, Erin	02/03	PETERSON, Elizabeth	02/14	O'REILLY, Paul	02/24
HAVENER, Nicole	02/03	CARR, Benjamin	02/16	DUCLOS, Phyllis	02/26
HALL, Justin	02/04	ROSS, Ruth	02/16	KRAJENKA, Heather	02/26
HALL, Stephanie	02/04	AYER, Curtis	02/18	SMITH, Amanda	02/26
LUGO, Brooklyn	02/05	PARKINSON, Virginia	02/18	ELLIS, Tyler	02/27
AYER, Nicholas	02/06	STOCKTON, John	02/18	SULLIVAN, Jason	02/27
BROOKS, Mercy	02/08	HOPPER, Valerie	02/20		
MCKAY, Katherine	02/08	BUTTRICK, Nora	02/21		
KRAJENKA, Kevin	02/09	HAMBLETON, Darcie	02/21		
SAVOY, Jennifer	02/09	FORD, Charles	02/22		
PYSZKA, Andrew	02/12	CARR, Jane	02/23		
PYSZKA, Suzanne	02/12	COMEAU, Sheryl	02/23		
SMITH, Beth	02/12	HUNTER, Henry	02/23		
CHABOT, Rebekah	02/13	MARTEL, Dakota	02/23		



### COMMUNITY DINNER

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please join us for a Community Church dinner sponsored by the Congregational Church of Goffstown. The supper will be held Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 5:00pm in Stark Hall on Church St., Goffstown, N.H. The meal will include: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread, drinks and dessert. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, and children under 5 years old are free.

### NETWORK FOOD PANTRY



Donations of canned goods and items are needed for the Network Food Pantry. The February request is for baby food items (baby food, cereal, formula) or personal items such as baby shampoo, soap, diapers, etc. Donations may be left in the back of the Sanctuary in the plastic bins marked for the Food Pantry. Monetary donations or supermarket gift cards can be sent directly to the Network Food Pantry care of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church at 3 North Mast Street, Goffstown, N.H. or left in the Office Mail box in the Parish house in an envelope marked for "Network Food Pantry".

## DIACONATE DIALOGUE

### PREPARATION FOR LENT

Just as Advent is a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, Lent, although not mentioned directly in scripture, is our spiritual preparation for Christ's final earthly human journey. The Bible does mention the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3 and Matthew 11:21. As we come to an end of Epiphany on February 22nd, we should be preparing for Lent starting the following Wednesday, February 25th.

As Epiphany deals with how God comes to His people through His son, Lent takes us into the period of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. These final three weeks before Lent gives us a great opportunity. The greatest one would be coming closer to the Lord. Take this time to select something to do during this devotional period. Make a few minutes during the same time of day. Suggestions of what to do would be reading a book such as Rev. Rick Warren's The Purpose Driven Life, which has forty chapters. Another could be magazines such as The Upper Room and/or Our Daily Bread which have daily biblical verses followed by stories. Do not have a title in mind, check out our library located in the vestry or see the Pastor as he has an extensive library for loan. A final suggestion might be daily readings from scripture. A list of suggested readings will be on the table at the back of the sanctuary and on a table as you enter the parish house. Start and end with prayer time. By using this time, you can further your

journey with the Lord.

February 25th is Ash Wednesday and begins the period of Lent. This day, we should be examining how Christ's suffering and death leads to our salvation. Ashes have several references in the Old Testament and are often related to sorrow, mourning, humility and repentance. We use ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality in that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return"-Genesis 3:19. Finally, as the Pastor stated in his Annual Report, "...beginning in late February and early March (Lent) we will devote the rest of the year to learning and understanding the one another commands in Scripture, and most important, practicing how to do biblically the way Jesus loves His church..." Let us continue to follow our Pastor as he leads us closer to our Heavenly Father and how He wants us to live.

**Please see page 6 for our new class starting in March entitled "Living in Authentic Community Practicing the one another commands" By Jim Van Yperen.**

### **A Prospective New Members' Class**

will begin following worship at 11:30 am

on Sunday, March 1, 2009

If you are interested or you know of someone who might be interested please call the church office

497-2365 to sign up.

Or you may speak with Pastor Ford personally so that we have enough materials available.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Our **Annual Meeting** was held on Sunday, Jan. 25 in Stark Hall after a lunch of soup and sandwiches. Besides the usual business, it was voted to change our fiscal year to end August 31, which means the next annual meeting will be held in September 2009. The reason for this change was to more closely mirror our budgeting cycle since fall is the typical 'start-up' period of our church year. The Trustees were also authorized to spend restricted capital improvement money to replace the carpeting in the vestry with a laminate flooring which will be easier to keep clean.

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### Coming in March, 2009

#### A TWO DAY SEMINAR FOR PARENTS

#### *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR*

#### *HEALTHY FAMILIES*

On March 27 and 28, the Congregational Church of Goffstown will host a **Marriage and Parenting Seminar** presented by Rev. Willie Batson of Family Builders Ministries. The Friday evening session will be preceded by a dinner from 6:00 to 6:45 PM in Stark Hall, followed by a couple's date night marriage seminar titled "**A Great Marriage: What's Love Got to Do With It?**". There will be two parenting session on Saturday. From 9:00 to noon, the seminar will be "**Building a Spiritual Foundation in your Home**" and will emphasize methods to build Christian values in our children at home. Following lunch, there will be another session entitled "**The Authoritative Parent: How to Parent without Yelling**". There will be a registration fee of \$5 per person for the Friday evening session, and a fee of \$10 per person (\$15 per couple) for the Saturday seminars; meals are included. There is a **registration deadline of Friday March 13**. Sign up today!



**DO YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION TO A CHURCH EVENT OR AN APPOINTMENT? CALL CHARLIE CARR AT 497-2670 TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION.**

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#### CHRISTIAN RADIO IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

1320 AM	WDER Derry
590 AM	WVNE Boston
91.1 FM	WVNH Concord
90.7 FM	WLMW Manchester



AFR American Family Radio, [www.afr.net](http://www.afr.net)

Uplifting music and news to encourage you in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

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**Hannaford cards** are available from Kathy Sargent. Shaws cards will be available again on February 8.

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## Life is All About

### Relationships

Singles + Couples + Parents

#### Relationship Conference 2009

**March 14 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Bethany Church Greenland, NH

Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. Gary Chapman**

Author of The Five Love Languages

\$40 per person if we can get 10 people to attend.



# MISSIONS

**"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your own hand." - 1 Chronicles 29: 14**

During our annual meeting which was held on January 25th , our Mission Board Budget for 2009 was voted on and approved by those members of our church family that were in attendance. Please refer to the annual report for the detailed information and the ministries that will be supporting in 2009.

As Jim Beltz mentioned in the mission summary of the annual report " thanks to everyone who went out of his or her way to minister to someone in our congregation or our community this year and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because He commanded us to feed His sheep that we strive to serve the needs of others. May we continue to grow in our efforts to serve Him in this fashion. May His name be glorified in all that we do!"

We would like to acknowledge and thank Jim Beltz for his service as our Mission Board Treasurer and Council Representative for the past several years. As his term on this board is up and he moves on to serve God and the people of this church body in other areas that he has been gifted to do so , we will miss his exemplary leadership and humble service.

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## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Prayer group meets each Wednesday from 7:00am to about 8:30am. Anyone is welcome to come and fellowship as your schedule permits and leave when you must. Coffee is provided.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men gather on the 5th Saturdays from about 8:00-9:30am in Stark Hall for a delicious breakfast with a guest speaker. This gives men an opportunity to meet others, form friendships, and engage in current issues and ideas.

## COMING IN MARCH

*Living in Authentic Community Practicing the one another commands* By Jim Van Yperen

**"In Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others."**

- Romans 12:5

Beginning in early March our church family will be fellowshipping and studying and learning to practice together the "one another commands" in the bible.

Meeting in small home groups in 6-week segments we are going to learn what Jesus meant when He commanded: "love one another as I have loved you." Increasingly our neighborhoods, our communities, our world, shows how hungry we are to be really loved, the way God loves. This small group study series will not only inform us, but will in very practical ways, biblical ways, help us to practice the kind of love we know in our Lord Jesus. This is a very important event for all of us who claim the name of Jesus, to get involved in being loved and in loving others.

## WATCH YOUR BULLETINS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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## MOTHER – DAUGHTER

### CONFERENCE

May 8-9, 2009

Speaker: Sherri Martinelli

Enjoy a God-centered program &

the opportunity to connect with other women

all in a place you can call "HOME."

Monadnock Bible Conference Center

monadnockbible.org

Jaffrey, NH 603 532-8321

## Reverend Isaac Willey

Reverend Isaac Willey served as Pastor to the Goffstown Congregational Church, then known as The Religious Union Society of Goffstown, for the seventeen years from Nov. 23, 1837 to January, 1854. His was almost surely the most turbulent pastorate in the history of our church, at least in part due to his character and beliefs. However, he was well enough liked that his dismissal came at his own request, and not that of his parishioners.

Church records include a signed receipt from Rev. Willey for \$600.00 for "supplying" as their "Minister the past year ending the same 30th of September 1838 at the west meetinghouse in said Goffstown ... " Another receipt, dated May 16, 1844, was for "eighteen dollars and fifty cents being money collected in the east part of Goffstown in payment for my services the past winter." Thus, the two churches paid him separately, and he served mainly at the west church. Where he served in Grasmere in 1844 was not in a church structure, as there was none.

In 1842, the church in Grasmere was disposed of in some manner not recorded, and in that same year the church on South Mast Street was sold to the Methodists, and moved to Nashua. That must have been some feat! Church services were then held in the Town Hall.

In 1845, the present church was erected at the corner of Main Street and a new street named Church Street. Later changed considerably, this church had four great pillars across the front, a large central steeple, and a chimney protruding from the front northeast corner of the roof.

During these drastic changes, one Ephraim Warren served as church deacon from about 1830 to his death in 1849. One old record shows that Ephraim was an "executive commissioner" of the church in 1840. He was probably a calming influence during these stormy years.

During Rev. Willey's term, one of the deacons was excommunicated for selling intoxicating liquors. This was a rather mild ripple in the turbulence.

A much bigger ripple was caused by a woman preacher, who "stirred up mischief, stealing away many hearts, not all women's." Reverend Willey wrote of her, "In the beginning of 1841, a woman preacher came into the place and held meetings about daily. Her hearers

increased until the large church holding nearly 1,000 persons was filled. She professed no connection with any church and was sustained for a time by persons who had been excluded from the Baptist and Congregational churches. It is a fact worthy of recording that in the following spring more than one half of the voters of the town, and nearly all those who had never been willing to support any other preacher, came into her support. A number of persons who had made profession of religion hastily were drawn off from each of the churches. The excitement occasioned by her preaching after a few months declined, and no considerable good has been discovered as the result of her labors."

Rev. Willey lived at first in the house previously occupied by Rev. Stowell. At midnight, May 28, 1846, it was burned with all its contents. His family, consisting of ten persons, was in the street with very few items of clothing. By the kindness of friends, their losses were made good. He purchased and thereafter lived in a home nearby. The excitement and the exposure seriously affected the health of his wife, leading to her death, Feb. 20, 1848.

The Reverend was a staunch temperance man, and his temperance sermons and consistent work aroused against him the hostility of the liquor element, and one Saturday night the church building was set on fire, evidently due thereto. Thoughts were thus led back to the house fire. The church fire was discovered in time to be extinguished without serious damage. The people assembled in worship the next day, and read upon the smoked wall behind the pulpit a certificate of their pastor's faithfulness and of the rum power's wickedness.

Forty-seven members were added to the church during his pastorate. Rev. Willey resigned in May 1853, and was dismissed in January 1854. He at once entered the employ of the American Bible Society, as its agent for New Hampshire, and continued as its agent to his death in Pembroke in 1883. He was buried by his wife there.

Churches going away, a church a building, two fires, a competitive preacher, suffering with a wife's declining health and her death, and yet he survived it all, and went on serving God and people. Apparently here was the right person for the time. Bravo, Rev. Isaac Willey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles W. Carr – Church Historian

## In Loving Memory

We express our sympathy and sincere condolences to the family and friends of . . .

### *Priscilla M. Ackerman*

September 3, 1928 – January 5, 2009

The funeral service was held on Friday, January 9,  
with Pastor Ford officiating.

### *Elmer F. Thayer*

October 25, 1919 – January 13, 2009

The funeral service was held on Thursday, January 15,  
with Pastor Ford officiating.

### *Pearle W. Preston*

July 16, 1917 - January 14, 2009

The funeral service was held on Saturday, January 17,  
with Pastor Ford officiating.

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."*

Revelation 14:13

## Joined in Christian Marriage

Congratulations to:

### **Karen Burl & Matthew Moulton**

. . . united in Christian marriage on Saturday, January 31,

with Pastor Ford officiating.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:

*and they shall be one flesh."*

Genesis 2:24

† † †

"Love is not the answer to everything, but it creates a climate of security in which we can seek answers to those things that bother us. In the security of love, a couple can discuss differences without condemnation. Conflicts can be resolved. Two people who are different can learn to live together in harmony. We discover how to bring out the best in each other. Those are the rewards of love."

*The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt*

*Commitment to Your Mate* (p.154),

by Gary Chapman

## HAITIAN UPDATE

It's been a while since I got back from Haiti in October and now I am getting excited about my next trip in March. It will be a medical team and will do at least five or six clinics to help those who otherwise have no access to health care. The October team was a very special one for all of us and we named it the "Dream Team". We clicked from the very first moment in Haiti and it was even more incredible since over half of them were "first-timers". I wanted to share that it's not only what we do for the poor in Haiti that is a life-changing experience, but also the friendships formed, lessons learned on how to work together, laughing and crying at things experienced in such a different culture. I encourage you to pray about whether God may be calling you to participate in what He is doing in Haiti for the least of His children. You will receive so much more than you will give.

As always, visiting the orphanage is a highlight and I will bring your greetings to Alensky and Wizna. We will probably never know just how special this act of love is to the hearts of these abandoned ones who have found hope not only in Jesus, but in the love that surrounds them through the staff and all the teams that visit.

### THINGS NEEDED FOR THE MEDICAL CLINICS:

- Infant vitamins and Tylenol (generic is fine)
- Children's Tylenol
- Eye drops (small pkgs.)
- Sunglasses and reading glasses (the bright sun deteriorates their eyes)

There will be a basket in church to drop off your donations.

"Blessed is he who is generous to the poor" Proverbs 14:21

-Becky

The Congregational Church of Goffstown

8 & 10 Main Street

Goffstown, N.H. 03045

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

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GOFFSTOWN, N.H. 03045

PERMIT NO. 25



Saturday, February 14th

If you are looking for a Christian community

**A**live in the Spirit

**B**iblically faithful

**C**hrist-centered

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

Morning Worship	10:00 am
Children and Youth Vacation Bible School	
Every Sunday	10:15 am to 11:15 am
Youth Disciples - Wednesdays	3:30pm
Adult Sunday School	8:30 am
Adult Bible Study—Tuesdays & Fridays	7:00pm
Sundays	6:00pm

And not just on Sunday. . .

Pastoral Care

Choirs

Outreach to those in Need in the Community

Youth Programs

Small Group Bible Studies

Women's and Men's Ministries

Marriage and family seminars

Child Care – We are a “Kids First” safety policy church

**Mission Opportunities Near. . .**

Goffstown Network Food Pantry, Straight Ahead Ministry to kids in detention, New Horizons Homeless Shelter, Campus Crusade for Christ, The Women's Prison, and more.

And far. . .

Worldwide Missions – Monadnock Bible Conference, Haiti, Costa Rica, Papua New Guinea, and more.