

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GOFFSTOWN**

8 & 10 Main Street

Goffstown, N.H. 03045

Tel: (603) 497-2365 FAX: (603) 497-3881

E-Mail: office_goffcong@myfairpoint.net

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

PASSAGES MARCH 2009

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

FROM THE PASTOR

God's plan is always the best plan because the Bible says

**"he will supply all your need according to his riches
in glory by Christ Jesus."**

(Philippians 4:19)

In Exodus 35-36 the Holy Spirit has set forth a marvelous outline of God's plan for His children's contributions, financial and otherwise, to the building up of His church. Here is God's "Stewardship Class 101":

First, Ex 35:4-9, whoever is of a generous heart, bring in the Lord's contribution. Here are a few ideas or options: gold, silver, bronze, yarns (especially blue, purple, scarlet), goats' hair, rams' skins, oil, spices, lumber, etc.

Second, Ex 35:10-19, everyone contribute of your abilities and skills or trade: craftsmen, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, sewers, floor sweepers, accountants, pencil sharpeners, curtain hangers, cooks, janitors, teachers, etc.

Third, Ex 35:20-36:1, just do it. You don't need to think or talk or wonder about the how; no need to form a committee, invent pledge forms or annoy those who don't want to be a part; everyone be responsible for yourself - just do it!

Result, everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him (35:21) did it. And all who were of a willing heart (35:22) did it. Everyone who could make a contribution did it (35:24). All the skillful women brought what they had and used their skills for "the Lord's contribution" (35:25). All the women whose hearts stirred them (35:26) used their skills for spinning and weaving. The leaders also (v.27) brought from their precious stones and jewels (read: 'investment portfolios' - provided their back taxes-owed were paid up!). All the men and women whose hearts moved them (v.29) brought anything they could for the work "as a freewill offering to the

Lord." The Lord gave some of the people special creative talents and gifts of skill for the work and the result was (36:5): **the total contributions were "much more than enough for doing the work"** - God's stewardship plan was so successful that the people had to be restrained (36:6) from bringing any more!!!

So, it's as simple as that! **Determine what** you are able to give. Just do it. We really don't need any goat's hair at this time, but hey, if that's all you've got we'll find a use for it!

Determine how much you are able to give. And just do it. If you need a number, the Bible's rule of thumb is 10 per cent. That's a good place to start. **Determine when**. Again God's word says do it regularly, weekly. Do it as a part of your ongoing worship-experience and personal worship-relationship with the Lord, which should be every Sunday. **Determine your attitudinal why**: not grudgingly but cheerfully. Just do it.

A comparison of our congregation's total giving for the first seven Sundays of this year

to the first seven Sundays of last year, and the year before looks like this:

Through Feb 15th, 2009: \$31,579.50

Through Feb 17th, 2008: \$31,612.20

Through Feb 18th, 2007: \$26,270.00

Some people give a lump sum at the beginning of the year, so don't use these numbers to extrapolate the rest of the year. We are exactly where we were last year, despite the recession, despite no pledge forms, despite this and that. - Soli Deo Gloria!

Thank you each and every one for your gifts of love!

-Pastor Charlie

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.



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Be sure to "spring ahead". Move your clocks forward one

hour and check/replace the batteries in your fire and CO2 alarms.

\$\$\$\$ 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 Call: 1-800-322-1073 or 647-4470 Open year round 8:30am to 4:30pm.

**MORE INFORMATON IS AVAILABLE
IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

All articles for the April issue must be in the office by March 25. We will be folding the newspaper on Tuesday, March 31 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

PART TIME JOBS AVAILABLE

In spring 2009 thru early 2010, several thousand temporary census jobs will be available for qualified applicants throughout New Hampshire. Assignments will last 5 to 10 weeks. This is your opportunity to be part of something exciting and challenging that will have a direct impact on your community. The pay is between \$10 and \$18 per hour with most Census jobs paying around \$15 an hour. Call today to schedule an appointment to take the test and apply for a job. For more information call toll free: 1-866-861-2010 or go online at:

www.2010censusjobs.gov.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HENAULT, Jarrett	03/01	STOCKTON, Letitia	03/15
HENAULT, Jeremy	03/01	NORKLUN, Kristi	03/16
MOULIN, Jared	03/01	TAYLOR, Jeffrey	03/18
GAGNON, Alexander	03/02	BEAUDOIN, Kali	03/19
MCCORMICK, Scott	03/02	BEAUDOIN, Kalin	03/19
SULLIVAN, Michael	03/03	DUMAIS, AnaMaria	03/19
BEAUDOIN, Ginny	03/06	GARRON, Joseph	03/20
STRATTON, Thomas	03/07	RICHARDSON, Shirley	03/22
OUELLETTE, Jenifer	03/08	CARR, Barbara	03/24
SARGENT, Sandra	03/09	ELLIS, Emily	03/26
ZIVITSKI, Daniel	03/10	LUGO, Nicholas	03/28
KRAJENKA, Penny	03/14	SULLIVAN, Thomas	03/28
OUELLETTE, Devin	03/14	DUNCKLEE, Reece	03/29



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, March 7, 2009 at 5:00pm in Stark Hall on Church St., Goffstown, N.H. The meal will include: **Corned beef and cabbage**, boiled potatoes, carrots, vegetables, bread, drinks and dessert. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, and children under 5 years old are free. All are welcome. Why not bring a friend to joins us for a great meal and fellowship? All proceeds will benefit the Family Builders Ministry.

Thank you to all of our church family who attended the February dinner, thank you to those who delivered dinners to our shut-ins and thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help us make these dinners possible.

NETWORK FOOD PANTRY

Donations of canned goods and items are needed for the Network Food Pantry. The March request is for donations of complete "meals in a can". 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".



"Blessed is he who is generous to the poor"

Proverbs 14:21

DIACONATE DIALOGUE

Practicing the One Another Commands

We all have relationships. Without them, our lives would be void in so many ways. It was God's intention that humans have relationships. As stated in Romans 12:5 "In Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others." In our society, we maintain several varying types of relationships. Some of them may be through our employment, social associations, clubs or family. But what about the most important relationship, which is of our church family?

Our church family is a place where others know you and accept you without reservation. They are there to pray with you as the saying goes through thick and thin. They share in your journey to come closer to Christ. The book by Jim Van Yperen Living in Authentic Community says "God calls us into relationships with Him and with one another in order to change our desires. God invites us to radically alter how we think and act about ourselves and others.

Over the next few months, we as a church will consider these issues. We do not take this lightly, as God has given us commands to have relationships. We will, as Van Yperen says in his book Living the Authentic Community, "study the process so as to continue our spiritual growth by learning to practice what God's Word teaches about authentic community." We have copies for you to use as we begin and continue this six week process. In this first process we will learn through our small group meetings and each week at worship, what Jesus meant when He commanded "love one another as I have loved you."

We urge you to purchase the book for \$10, books at no cost are available through the pas-

tor, and get involved by attending the meetings. Sign up sheets for meetings are located in the Vestry at the end of coffee serving tables. Books are available in the office and in the front of the sanctuary. This is a perfect addition to the Lenten period.

THE CHURCH HISTORIAN

"The Church Historian, according to our bylaws, is an officer of the church and a member of the Church Council. He/she is charged with the care of church records and artifacts, the preparation of exhibits and, primarily, with reporting items of historic interest to the membership, through the publications of the church, as he/she shall determine."

At different periods, such articles have been distributed under separate cover, or as inserts in monthly newsletters, passages, or bulletins.

I, Charles W. Carr, Church Historian in 2009, third elected, but fourth in such a capacity, have taken it upon myself to gather and compile all the previously collected history, from Rev. Samuel Gerould, from Dick Berry, from Doug Gove, from Hadley's History of Goffstown, from church Annual Reports, and from the internet, and put it into dated chronological order. Whereas, much of what was compiled in the past placed emphasis on events, accomplishments, and importance, my stress will be on people. I have added many names of people into the historical records. In many cases, the names were there in the sources, but not included in the compiled records. In other cases, the names of people were found in other places. It is not necessary to name everyone whose name is associated with an event, but only the leaders and originators. Otherwise, the history would be no more interesting to read than the phone book. But, the church is people; the building is simply the place those people assemble, to be "where three or more gather in My name."

All are invited to contribute to our church history. Anyone may be aware of some point or matter of historical value that somehow does not find its way into written records that a historian may consult. It will not hurt, and may help to make our history more complete.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Donating flowers for Sunday worship: If you would like to donate flowers for the Sunday worship service in honor or memory of someone or something, here is the procedure:

- Call Barbara at the church office (497-2365) to find out if the date is available. If it is, then book it and let her know what to put in the bulletin. Let her know whether you will be taking the flowers following the service or whether they will be available to be delivered to someone to enjoy.
- Call Apotheca Flowers (497-4940) to order AND PAY for the flowers for the date you selected. Minimum order is \$25.

Change in Shaws receipts: Shaws register receipts no longer need to be saved and collected. Simply register your Shaws Rewards Card at shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards, linking it to our church's ID number (#49001018544) and we will receive 1% of your qualifying purchases made on **Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays** at any Shaw's or Massachusetts Star Markets. Please encourage friends and family members to also participate! If you need help to enroll, please call Ann at 497-3118.

Shaws and Hannaford gift cards are available on an ongoing basis from Kathy Sargent or Ann Beltz.

From The Upper Room...

When we trust God, there is less room in us for worry. What God wants for us is better than anything we could ever dream up for ourselves.

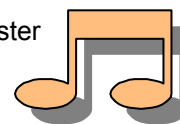
Sabbath rest is not just a good idea; it is a commandment.

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

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



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

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The VNA of Manchester and Southern NH Inc. in partnership with Bentley Commons at Bedford will start a free Hospice Volunteer Training Course on Saturday, April 25, from 9:00am to 3:00pm and continue every Thursday evening 6:00-8:30pm through June 18 at Bentley Commons at Bedford, 66 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, N.H.

This comprehensive training program will equip participants with the necessary skills to provide non-medical aid and support to terminally ill individuals and their caregivers. Trained volunteers will work with the hospice team of health care professionals to provide emotional support, respite care, as well as grief and bereavement support to family members. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. Please contact Linda Krisch, Volunteer Coordinator at 663-4008 or e-mail Lkrisch@elliott-hs.org if you are interested.

MISSIONS

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:37,39

Our Community Supper of Corned Beef and Cabbage will take place on March 7th. The proceeds from this meal will be given to the Family Builders Ministry.

Please join us for Worship on March 8th, when we welcome powerful guest speaker, Ray Gauthier, of the Straight Ahead Ministries for youth and teens in detention.

We will be serving the homeless on Sunday March 29th at the New Horizons Soup Kitchen in Manchester from 4pm-5:30pm. If you feel called to do this please see the sign up sheet in the vestry on the coffee table.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The 4th-7th grade Sunday School class is continuing to work their way through the Old Testament. We have been studying Israel's kings, beginning with Saul, David, and Solomon, and now into the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. We are learning about the problems they had when they introduced neighboring cultures idols into their worship, forsaking the one true God. While we aren't tempted to make sacrifices to golden calves or worship Baal, the idols that turn us away from God today come in the form of TV, video games, sports, and material possessions, to name a few! God allowed Israel and Judah to be taken captive by Assyria and Babylonia respectively because of their disobedience. Even through this time of exile, God was faithful to His promise to preserve King David's bloodline, so that over 500 years later Jesus, the Lion of Judah and Eternal King, was born to live and die on the cross for our sins.

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.

Sign up sheets are located in the Vestry. Books are available in the Vestry and the church office.

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 Peter Lovejoy, D.D.

On August 22, 1993, the Search Committee voted to call Rev. Peter Lovejoy to fill the empty seat of Pastor to the Goffstown Congregational Church. The Negotiating Committee of Tom Stratton, Judy Campbell, and Jeff Wallace concurred unanimously with the recommendation, as did the congregation. He was called "a man of patience and wisdom".

After Rev. Pete (as everyone began to call him) joined the church by letter of transfer from the First Congregational Church of Pembroke on Jan. 30, 1994, there were more words of acceptance, such as, "We are blessed by having a full time minister; Pete has been an asset to our church, and we thank him for his leadership, caring, and love." Jan Nawoj. "We continue to strengthen through Rev. Lovejoy's compassion." Paul Smith

Since here was a man who followed a pastor who was dismissed for inappropriate behavior, he would be watched very closely, his every move carefully monitored, these good words had special value. When interviewed, Peter was asked if he had a plan for healing the church. He indicated that he had none, perhaps knowing that he could only be himself, calm and unassuming. As modest as he is, he probably did not dwell on the thought that perhaps God had sent him, because God knew that under his guidance the church would heal. There is in the history of his pastorate no hint of any plan or concerted attempt to bring about healing. But it happened. .

A lot happened during Rev. Pete's first full calendar year of 1994. The parsonage was sold, to reduce maintenance costs in the operating budget. Stark Hall was resided with vinyl; the play yard fence was replaced; the auditorium floor was refinished; new tables and chairs were purchased for Stark Hall; and wiring in the Parish House was upgraded.

In March of 1995, Pastor Lovejoy took a trip to Israel. Stark Hall was insulated, and had new storm windows installed, through money from the Mildred Stark family, by way of the Odd Fellows, with the aid of Clint Rising. In the Annual Report is the comment, "Our astounding choir made 1995 history under the direction of Clarine Leslie."

Rev. Lovejoy recorded much of the 1996 history of the church in his Pastor's Report. "As I review the year 1996, a number of events stand out. The Seder service with Rabbi Arthur Starr of Temple Adath Yeshurun in Stark Hall in March, and the Healing Service for those whose lives have been touched by AIDS, on that same day. The wonderful clowning presentation of Godspel by the ecumenical youth on Good Friday; the Showboat musical in May; the decision of our congregation to support the burned-out

churches in the South; saying Thank You to Linda Looney in July for all that she did above and beyond her work as Director of Christian Education; welcoming Linnae Peterson as our new Director of Christian Education in August. In September, there was the Crop Walk for Hunger, and the youth sermon by Dr. Alex Karanikas. October brought Children's Sabbath, and the celebration of the 225th anniversary of our congregation. November brought the Whiffelball Tournament Fundraiser for Alyson, and the ecumenical Thanksgiving service. December brings us to Advent, the Christmas pageant, and the celebration of Christmas." He includes more, including his attendance at the ordination of his wife, Joyce, installed as pastor of the church in Deering.

Also, Pete was active in conducting services at BelAire Nursing Home, and Briston Manor West nursing home; he attended Youth Forum meetings, which grew out of the teen suicides of a few years earlier; he participated in meetings and Bible Study sessions of the Hillsborough Association; and attended the annual meeting of the N.H. Conference in Wolfeboro in June.

With all of that, Pete found the time to pursue doctorate studies at the Hanover Campus of the Bangor Theological Seminary, of which he wrote, "I am finding my studies challenging and ex-citing, and it will pay dividends in our life as a congregation." He also had plans to develop a team "to meet with me to discern a project that will bring renewal and revitalization of our congregation".

Pete also had other, broader plans: to strengthen communication within the congregation; to build stronger ties with the wider church family, both ecumenically in town, and within the county and the New Hampshire Conference.

Rev. Lovejoy chaired the Committee on Ministry of the Hillsborough Association. In 1999, he was replaced during a contractual 3-month leave of absence by Rev. Dr. Lois Sundeen, of Bedford. While away, he completed his doctorate thesis, "From Going to Church to Belonging to Church to Being Church."

His 2000 Pastor's Report was his final one. In it, he thanked Linnae Peterson, Ruth Levin, Michelene Pivorunas, Terri Pattee, and Terri Stechowych for all their fine work for the church. Of Rev. Peter Lovejoy, Judy DesMeules wrote, "Pastor Pete's wisdom and guidance was a treasure." Apparently, God had sent the right person to heal the church as part of God's plan, unknown to Pete or anyone else, as usual.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles W. Carr—Church Historian

Family Builder's Ministry Marriage / Parenting Weekend

March 27 and 28, 2009

Hosted by: The Congregational Church of Goffstown 8 & 10 Main St., Goffstown, NH 497-2365 www.goffcong.org

Seminar Presenter: Rev. Willie Batson, www.familybuilders.net

Friday evening, March 27: Marriage Seminar

- Title: ***"A Great Marriage: What's Love Got to Do With It?"***
- Time: Dinner from 6:00 to 6:45 PM in Stark Hall will be provided.
Seminar from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Stark Hall
- Childcare: Childcare will be provided for those parents attending the seminar.
- Cost: Registration fee of \$5.00 per person for the seminar; no charge for the dinner. An offering will be taken to support Family Builder's Ministries.

Saturday, March 28: Parenting Seminar

- Session 1: ***"Building a Spiritual Foundation in your Home."***
- Time: Check in: 8:30 to 9:00 AM; continental breakfast
Seminar from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon
- Lunch: Lunch will be provided as part of the seminar in Stark Hall.
- Session 2: ***"The Authoritative Parent: How to Parent without Yelling."***
- Time: Seminar from 1:00 until 4:00 PM.
- Childcare: Childcare will be provided for those parents attending the seminar.
- Cost: Registration fee of \$10.00 per person (\$15 per couple) for the day. An offering will be taken to offset the cost of the seminar and to support Family Builder's Ministries.

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2009

Registration

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Friday Marriage Seminar (\$5 pp) _____ Sat. Parenting Seminar (\$10 or \$15) _____

Fri. Childcare needed? Yes No Sat. Childcare needed? Yes No

Childcare Information: Please list child's name(s) and age(s)

Friday, March 27: _____

Sat., March 28: _____

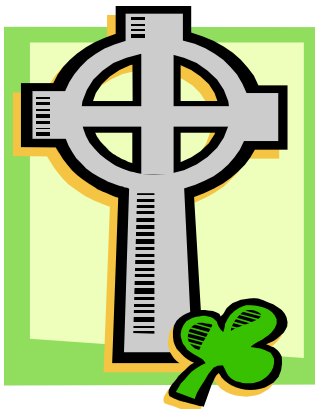
Total Enclosed _____ (Make checks payable to Goffstown Congregational Church)

Please send to Goffstown Congregational Church, 8 & 10 Main St., Goffstown, NH 03045

The Congregational Church of Goffstown

8 & 10 Main Street

Goffstown, N.H. 03045



St. Patrick's Day
March 17

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 25

If you are looking for a Christian community

Alive in the Spirit

Biblically faithful

Christ-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.