

United Congregational Church  
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Conway, MA 01341

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# The Visitor

United Congregational Church of Conway

Volume 73, Number 10

October 2012

## Voter Registration

**F**OR RESIDENTS not yet registered to vote in Conway, there will be a voter registration session 20 days in advance of the 06 November Presidential Election. The Board of Registrars will hold hours in the 32 Main St. town office building from noon until 8 p.m. on **Wednesday, 17 October**. Individuals planning to register by mail are reminded that registration cards must be postmarked before 8 p.m. on Oct. 17.

## Presidential Election

**P**OLLS for the Presidential Election on **Tuesday, 6 November 2012** will be open at the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Anyone planning to cast an absentee ballot for the election is reminded that applications must be filed before noon on Monday, November 3.

Applications can be made by letter or on the official state forms. As soon as they are available, ballots may actually be voted in the town offices on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon or on Monday, 5 November between 10 a.m. and noon.



## Halloween Rag Shag

by Linda Baker

**O**N WEDNESDAY, October 31st, the Conway Firemen's Auxiliary with the support of local businesses will host for town residents the Annual Halloween Rag Shag and Parade. The parade will begin at 7:00 PM. Everyone will follow the fire truck from the common, found at the corner of Shelburne Falls Road and Main Street, to the town hall. After the parade there will be a Costume Contest at the town hall from 7:15 to 8:45. Each school grade's costumes will be judged and prizes awarded to all entries. There will also be a Carved Pumpkin Contest for children K-12 and a category for adults also. Drop off your carved pumpkin between 5:00-7:00 PM. To enter the contest pumpkins must have the entrant's first and last names clearly marked on the back or underside of the pumpkin. All carved pumpkins should be picked up by the end of the Costume Contest or they will be discarded. After each class of the Costume Contest cider and donuts will be served downstairs in the all purpose room. Don't miss all the fun!



## Red Sleigh Bazaar and Luncheon!

**T**HE TIME HAS COME for the annual Red Sleigh Bazaar sponsored by the UCC church. This year it will be held at the Conway Grammar School – **Saturday, November 3** from 10:00 – 2:00PM.

We have an assortment of vendors selling wonderful crafts and clay creations and jellies and pickles. We will have an overflowing baked goods table with everything from fudge to cookies to homemade breads and baked beans. We will have a table full of interesting items for you to take a chance on! There will be theme baskets raffled off - a maple basket, a bed and bath basket, a backpack with supplies, Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets! There will be a chance to sign up for the Visitor greeting.

**Luncheon** will be served from 11:00 – 2:30PM and will consist of ham, egg and tuna salad rolls, chips, pickles and olives, piping hot clam chowder, and scrumptious apple crisp.

So come early and do some shopping and stay and enjoy a tasty lunch with friends. **See you there!**

**EMAIL ADDRESS  
For the Visitor**  
Please send ads, articles  
and etc. to  
[uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com)

## Still Space for Bazaar Vendors

The Nov. 3rd Congregational Church craft fair (10-2) will be at the Conway Grammar School and is still open to vendors. In this space we have lots of room and attract a bigger crowd. So if you've been before, come again, and if you're looking for a new venue to sell your wares, give us a try! Tables are available for \$20 and we ask that each vendor also donate a small item to the raffle table. For inquiries and reservations, please call Michele Novak at 413-625-8106.



## From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

I imagine there is something very special about being in Israel; walking where Jesus walked; seeing the places where He preached and healed. And especially treading through the walled city of Jerusalem – along the path that He must have walked as He was led to the Cross. One of the places we hear a lot about in the Bible is Jericho and beyond it, the Dead Sea. It is named that because it is a very dry and barren part of the world.

It was in desert conditions, very much like this, [and in fact not that far away] – that the Israelites roamed for forty years, prior to entering the Promised Land. They must have experienced intense heat for days on end, - and without the benefit of modern air-conditioned buses, and bottled, safe drinking water. They must also have known one of the strange phenomena of desert regions – the mirage. For the people of Israel, their quest for the Promised Land sometimes seemed like a mirage. Forty long years, they slugged through the sand and the barren rock in search of this elusive goal. Yes, the People of Israel knew all about mirages. They knew the disillusionment that a mirage can bring to those on a journey of faith.

So when the Prophet Isaiah spoke about a mirage – he was talking to people who really understood what he was talking about. However, in Psalm 90, Isaiah takes the normal understanding of a mirage and turns it completely around. With incredible daring, he takes what most Israelites would see as a nightmare situation – one filled with cynicism and disillusionment – and says: it doesn't have to be that way. The mirage can become a pool – a pool of refreshing, pure water! Isaiah's point is this. - He knows that life is often full of disappointments, with wrecked dreams and broken promises; but his point is: "Life doesn't have to be that way; not when we put our trust in God! "The mirage" he asserts, "can become a real pool of fresh, renewing water."

So what's the relevance of this Scripture passage for us today? We need to see that when life is difficult, when our hopes seem all dried up, God can turn our mirages into pools of refreshing water. Through faith, there is always hope. Hold on to that and, trusting in God, seek out the life-giving water that is all around us.

Yours in Christ,  
*Candi*

Rev. Dr. Candice M. Ashenden

P.S. And if you are looking for company on your spiritual journey, please know that the doors of the UCC Conway, and my door, are always open to you.



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
The United Congregational Church of Conway is a welcoming Christian community bringing generations together to celebrate God's presence and to learn to grow in our faith. We humbly strive to offer hope, encouragement and love to each other, the Conway community, and the world through our actions and with our resources.

## Church Clips

**M**EMBERS OF THE U.C.C. invite you to join them for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Come as you are! Everyone is welcome!! Please remember that the doors of the United Congregational Church are always open to you.



- **IF YOU NEED TO** reach the church, messages may be left on the church answering machine at 369-4040.
- **REV. DR. CANDICE ASHENDEN** holds office hours Mondays from 9:30AM-12:00PM and will be available in Conway on Mon. afternoons for visitation, appointments, counseling, meetings, etc. She will always be available at other times if pre-arranged (or in an emergency). She welcomes calls at home at any time: 49 Charles Street, Orange, MA 01364, 978-544-2801 or e-mail her at [revcandi@gmail.com](mailto:revcandi@gmail.com). Please do not hesitate to call.
- **MAILING ADDRESS** for written correspondence with church officers and committees is P.O. Box 214, Conway, c/o the appropriate committee.
- **ARTICLES & ADS** for publication in the Visitor must be received no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month. MAIL COPY to Ginny Knowlton at 11 South Hill, E-MAIL to [uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com) or hand deliver.
- **CHURCH FACILITIES** may be rented by groups or individuals for special activities. Equipment MAY NOT be removed for off-site use. Call Lorraine at 369-4061 for details.

## Deadline

**P**LEASE remember that the regular deadline for Visitor articles is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Each day that you delay pushes our production a little further into the month. If your information or ad does not appear, we may not have received it on time. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## 2012 CROP Walk

21 October 2012

Central Congregational Church  
93 South Main St., Orange.

Registration: 1:00 p.m.

Walk: 2:00 p.m.

When CROP began in 1947, CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, the acronym may have been outgrown but is retained as the historic name of the program.

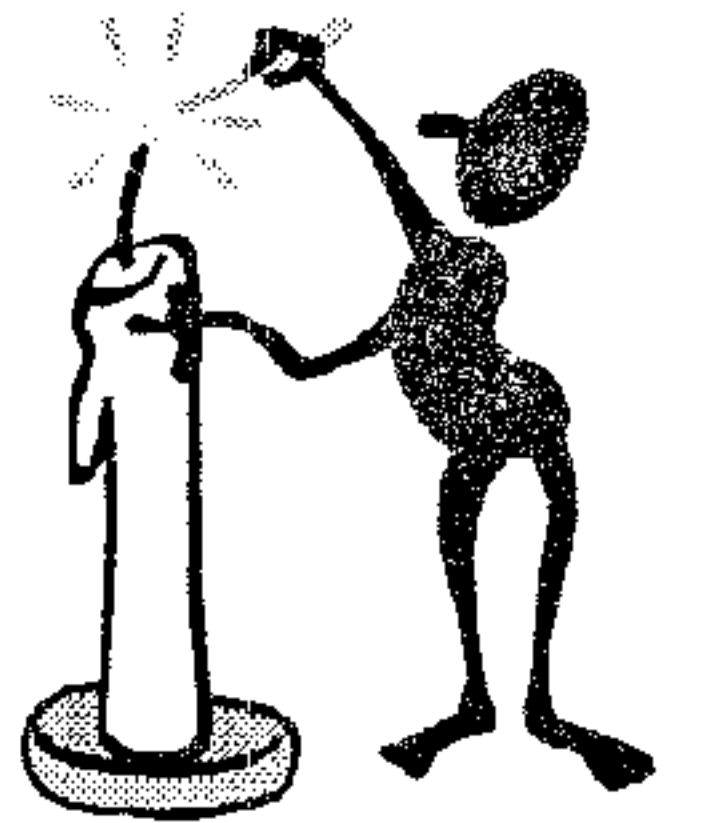
CROP Hunger Walks are ecumenical, interfaith, multi-cultural events helping to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs.

Each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community. This year CROP Hunger Walks will share almost \$4 million with food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other local efforts across the U.S.

For information about how you can become involved, please contact Rev. Ashenden at [revcandi@gmail.com](mailto:revcandi@gmail.com).

## 2012 Holiday Greeting

**F**OR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, the front page of our December issue has featured a Community Holiday Greeting, incorporating the names of people extending their holiday wishes into a seasonal design. The Visitor Greeting provides a way to send a seasonal salutation to friends and neighbors all over town and at the same time, extend a helping hand to individuals in another part of the country.



We ask a small donation... the amount you might have spent on postage and cards. Funds raised have traditionally been designated for Native Americans through Neighbors in Need.

Names and contributions payable to "UCC of Conway - VISITOR GREETING" should be forwarded to Ginny Knowlton at 11 South Hill Dr. before November 25.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Visitor at the same time, please designate the split.



## Gardener's Corner

by Liz Pichette

**A**MONG THE LAST native flowers to bloom, Asters are impressive with over 50 species found in the northeast alone, many being garden worthy. Against the gold of autumn, their deep purple and lavender blooms nodding in the breeze always catch the eye.

From the Greek meaning 'star', Asters are composite flowers with fertile disc florets in the middle with sterile ray florets on the outer perimeter forming the petals, occurring singly or in corymbs (clusters). Species range from 6" to 8', spreading to 3' wide. While most flower better in full sun, they tolerate part shade and will thrive in moist to well-drained soil, as well as a wide range of pH. Prone to mildew, rust, leaf spot and aster wilt; good air circulation and frequent division of clumps are advised. The genus has recently been reclassified as *Symphyotrichum* but *Aster* is still recognized.

The most familiar species is New England Aster (*S. nova-angliae*). In the wild, purple is the most common color, however, many cultivars have been developed over the years with currently about 50 in cultivation. Available in red, pink, lavender, purple and white flowers 1-2" wide, they range up to 6' tall and 3' wide.

New York Aster (*S. novi-belgii*) is similar but is found in moister soils and swampy areas. Easily hybridized with over 300 cultivars available, the range of colors is vast. Height is 3-4' with smooth green foliage, as opposed to the rougher foliage of the New England Aster.

Calico Aster (*S. lateriflorum*) has 1/4-1/3" white ray florets with disc florets that start yellow then turn purple-brown as they age, giving the impression of calico fabric when viewed from the distance, hence the name. Height ranges 3-5'.

Smooth Blue Aster (*S. laeve*) has cloud-like clusters of 1/2" lavender flowers on erect wiry stems up to 4' tall, and is a lovely sight to behold, one I look forward to every year.

For partial shade, White Wood Aster (*S. divaricatus*) and Large-leaved Wood Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) offer clusters of 1/2-1" white flowers in late summer over heart-shaped leaves. Both form a ground cover that even when not in bloom is charming.

Asters can be propagated by division, root and stem cuttings or by seed. Native plant nurseries offer species other than the common varieties regularly available. Hardy and tough, native asters are a good choice for your autumn garden.

## Flu Shots

**P**LEASE MARK your calendars for two upcoming opportunities to get a free flu shot:

- **Sunday October 21, 10 - 1 p.m.** Frontier Region Drive-Thru EDS, Yankee Candle Way (off Rte. 5&10 in Deerfield) and
- **Friday November 2** at the First Friday Walk-In clinic at Town Hall from 9 a.m. - noon.

Town Nurse, Lisa White will continue to offer flu vaccine in her regular first Friday nursing hours from 9a.m. to noon at the Conway Town Hall through the flu season."

Public Health Nurse Lisa White, RN, BSN, serves the Town of Conway through contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. She is available to answer questions about health issues and concerns and may be reached at (413) 774-3167 x 106.

## Garden Club Notes

**T**HE AIMS of the Conway Garden Club are to stimulate interest in gardening and related skills, to enhance the natural beauty of our area, and to educate and promote environmental improvement.

### Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, Oct. 4** We will pay a visit to Real Pickles in Greenfield, where Dan Rosenberg will give us a tour of his new 12,000-square-foot building. Work was done to make the facility as energy efficient as possible. The business is now producing its own electricity. The company's line includes, in addition to pickles, other pickled products--sauerkraut, red cabbage, garlic kraut, kinchi, and beets. More information at [www.realpickles.com](http://www.realpickles.com).
- **Saturday & Sunday, October 13-14** Anyone interested in bonsai may want to attend the Bonsai Art Exhibit by Douglas Taylor (413-733-2009) at Sixteen Acres Garden Center, 1359 Wilbraham Road, Springfield. In addition to the exhibit, there will be a bonsai workshop for a fee of \$30, which includes instruction, a pot, and a tree.
- **Thursday, Nov. 1** We will make a trip to Kringle Kandle in Bernardston, after which we will have lunch at the Farm Table. Time to be announced.
- **Friday, December 7 or 14** The Garden Club's season will come to a close with its annual Holiday Tea, which will be held at the home of Helen Hodges. Final date and time to be announced.

If you have questions about the Garden Club and its activities, contact Pat McLoughlin (268-0310 or [mcloughlinpat3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcloughlinpat3@yahoo.com)). New members who share our common interest are always welcome.



## Firearms Safety Class

**T**HE CONWAY POLICE Department will be conducting a firearms safety class on Sunday, October 21, 2012. Classes may be used for certification to obtain a Firearms License, to clarify many of the changes to the Massachusetts Gun Laws, or to gain additional knowledge and confidence in your handling of firearms. This is a one day class beginning at 9:00 A.M. Registration prior to the class is required, and seating is limited. For additional information or to register contact Chief Ouimette at 369-4710 or 369-4235 ext.7.



## Broadband Committee Notes

by Bob Armstrong, [bob@armstr.com](mailto:bob@armstr.com)  
**L**AST MONTH, the Visitor allowed us to include an insert, a form to fill out to declare your support for Wired West. I believe that Conway supports Wired West, yet we have not received as many forms as I expected. Some have come in from the areas of Conway that have no Comcast service. Even if you are happy with your current service, if you would consider switching to Wired West if the service were faster and cheaper, please let us know by filling out the survey. Several people have told me they did not fill it out as they have decent service today. If you want Wired West in Conway, even just to compete with your current service, please fill out the form.

You can fill it out online at the Wired West home page, <http://wired-west.net/> (click on the link in the upper right).

This Support Form does not obligate you to using our town owned service but will be used next Spring to demonstrate the strong demand for high speed broadband when we apply for bond funding to build the network. It also may help determine the order that towns get wired and connected.

## UCC Calendars

**T**HE 2013 CALENDARS are here: 12 months with Vintage Conway pictures, a page with date and times of various town committee meetings, etc., and Jan. and Feb. of 2014. They are available at Baker's, Page's, Greenfield Savings Bank, Red Sleigh Bazaar (Nov. 3rd) or call BettyLou@369-4481 or Lorraine@369-4061. Thank you to our Sponsors and we hope that you will use their services. The price is \$15.00.



## CCC Grant Applications

CONWAY Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science projects. The postmark due date is October 15. Organizations, schools, and individuals may apply for grants that support projects and activities in town including festivals, exhibits, workshops, lectures and short-term artist residencies or performances in schools. Proposals must have a confirmed venue.

The Conway Cultural Council is part of a network of Local Cultural Councils serving all cities and towns of the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each community.

Specific guidelines and complete information are available online: [www.mass-culture.org/lcc\\_public.asp](http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp).

## Tax Abatements

Lee Whitcomb, Assessor

EVERY YEAR, when tax bills are sent out, some property owners feel that there are problems with the value placed on their property. If you feel that there is a problem, you must act promptly – the period in which you may apply for abatement of the value of your property is restricted to the period between the date the first half bill was mailed and November 1. No application for abatement can be accepted after November 1, 2012 and you cannot apply for abatement for a prior year's taxes – *each property owner has the responsibility to review their billed values every year and to take action within the legal periods.*

If you have received an exemption (a credit against your tax bill, based on personal circumstances such as blindness, age and income/asset amounts, or veteran's service), we will send out the regular annual application to you shortly after the bills go out. If you think that you might qualify for an exemption but have never applied before, we would be glad to talk with you and to send you the information. Applications for exemption must be submitted before December 31, 2012.

We expect to issue Conway's real estate and personal property tax bills for the first half of FY2013 in late September, to be due on Thursday, November 1, 2012.

**Deadlines for taxpayers to file:**

- **Abatement application** – November 1, 2012
- **Exemption application** – December 31, 2012

## Housing Committee Update

Pixie Holbrook,

Housing Committee Chair

[pjholbrook@comcast.net](mailto:pjholbrook@comcast.net) or 369-4609

THANKS to new volunteers, who became members of the Conway Housing Committee, we are back at work exploring and planning for affordable housing units for seniors in our town. Our new members include Donna Crabtree, Grant Ingel, Eve Endicott and Tim Morgan. Woody Paparazzo continues to be a member as well. Each brings new skills, talents and insights to this important project. Donna has recently retired from being the Executive Director of the Amherst Housing Authority. Grant has been active on prior committees, and saw to completion a set of town driveway by-laws and Conway's streetscape improvements. Eve is newer to town, and comes with a background in land trusts and real estate law. She is a member of the CPA as well, and serves as a conduit to the CPA, one of our potential funding sources. Tim, also newer to town, is a contractor who specializes in historical preservation. Pat Lynch continues as a liaison to the Council of Aging.

We are meeting every two weeks, studying the past work of the committee, including our phone survey, conducted last spring. With that information, we are moving forward exploring three types of housing options. At this point, our vision is to create 6-12 senior-suitable rentals units, with preference for being within one mile of the center of town.

We are committed to making as low a visual impact on our town as possible, while being consistent with the town's architecture. We are mindful of finding ways to give preference to Conway residents or those related to a Conway resident. The three options include:

1. building a cluster of several units on vacant land, approximately 900sf per unit
2. retrofitting several pre-existing buildings, preferably near or in the downtown, that could each be converted into 2-3 units
3. combination: retrofitting a pre-existing building and adding additional units to it

Each option has pros and cons, taking into consideration septic and water, cost of new construction vs. retrofitting, impact on neighbors, proximity to the community of the center of town, ease of walking or transportation, etc. Conversations are lively and productive, with so much to consider.

We discuss often whom these units are for. We recognize there is a continuum of need for seniors, from

highly active people who desire less property maintenance and less heating costs, to those who are in need of daily assistance from others. Our plan is to not be an "assistive living" option, but to be able to meet the needs of seniors who can still drive or who can get transportation from others nearby. We envision support activities coming to them (such as podiatry, housecleaning, some van transport or volunteer drivers) and we anticipate shared activities such as a common garden, walking paths and gathering place for meetings, exercise and more.

Originally we had planned for only 6, but we have been advised by other groups to consider more. This decision has not yet been made. We are using for reference, and have visited, a comparable project in Westhampton. Their town is a similar size and demographic, and they have 8 units (including one community room) and have just begun an additional 7. They draw from mostly Westhampton and Chesterfield, and have an active waiting list.

Our next big step is to better understand funding sources. To that end, we are in contact with representatives from the Mass Housing Partnership, Hilltown CDC and Franklin County Regional Housing Authority. Our CPA, with dollars in reserve for affordable housing, falls into that category as well.

As we learn more along the way, we plan to inform the public through Visitor articles, public forums and neighborly conversation. We ask that you, town residents, help us in suggesting or offering potential property for this project, and to contact any of us with your comments, questions and suggestions.



## Thanks for Reading With Us

GIRL SCOUT Cadette Troop 40050 would like to thank all the children involved in any of the Young Reader Story Circles held at the Field Memorial Library making for a very fun year. An additional thank you to anyone who participated in the summer reading program.

Caitlin & Grettie

## Medical Equipment Loans

THE COUNCIL ON AGING reminds residents that it can provide a free loan of medical equipment (walkers, potty chairs, wheelchairs, etc.) as needed. To inquire about available equipment, contact Julie Clark at 369-4629.



## Senior Calendar

- **Council on Aging:** 1st Wed. of the month, 9:30 a.m., Town Hall. Next regular meetings are scheduled for **Nov 7** and **Dec 5**. The COA receives grants from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs and an annual appropriation from the town. Patricia Lynch of Ashfield Rd. is COA chair. Contact her at 369-4284 with questions re senior activities.
- **Senior Shuttle Bus:** The bus currently runs to Greenfield on the first and third **Thursdays** of each month. Reservations must be made by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before. Current riders, call Heidi at FRTA, 774-2262 ext. 103 to reserve a place.
- **Walking Group:** Meets at the UCC on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for gentle walks around time. Call Phyllis Dacey, 369-4326, for information.
- **Foot Screenings:** Bimonthly screenings are held at Town Hall by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.
- **Exercise Classes:** Classes, which resumed in September, are held at Town Hall each Wednesday from 1:45 to 2:30 and will continue until May. Join us for a healthful routine of free weight and cardio exercises with Deb Porlier. For information call Pat Lynch (369-4284) or Peg Tiley (369-4010).

## Open Space Committee Needs Members

by Tami Borton

**T**HE TOWN is resurrecting the Open Space Committee after a three-year hiatus and we need members! Be a part of the challenge of balancing economic growth with the need to preserve/enhance the Town's scenic beauty, natural resources and recreational opportunities. Help property owners protect their land, assist the Commonwealth in developing a new Open Space Plan, and advise the Select Board (and other committees) in making informed decisions about land use. The commitment is likely to involve monthly meetings, field visits, document review and occasional meetings with other committees and the Board. Contact Tami Borton at 707-318-2761, 369-4478, [tborton@comcast.net](mailto:tborton@comcast.net) and/or plan to attend the All Committees Meeting (October 15, 2012 at the Town Hall General Purpose Room at 7:00PM).

## Hello from Rosie

*Hello Conway friends from Big Sky Country where the deer and antelope roam. I love it here with wonderful views, weather and friendly people. No Humidity! Hope to stay here as long as I can.*

*Thank you folks for the help I received: packing and heading out, cards, best wishes, gifts and dinners. Miss you folks, but you're welcome to come visit.*

*I'm having a lot of adventures and getting lost a lot, but it's a hoot.*

My new address is:

231 Sky Pilot Lane

Stevensville, Montana 59870

Phones: home = 406-777-6906

cell = 406-381-3105

*Till we meet again, Rosie Recore*

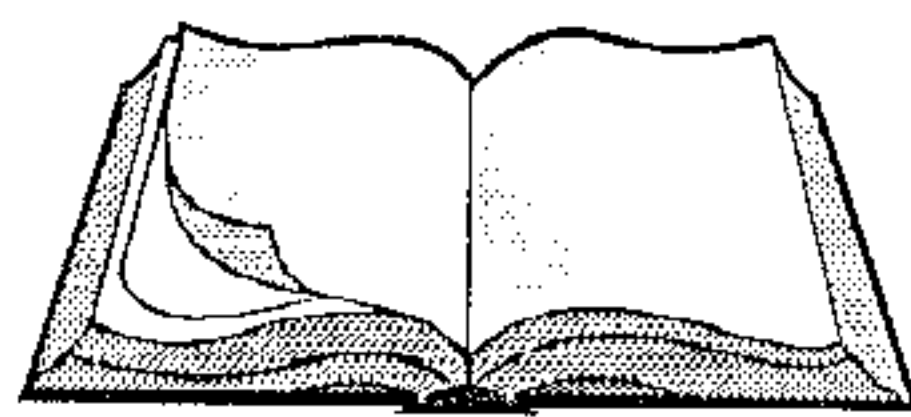
## LIBRARY NOTES

**K**EEP THE LIBRARY in mind when you are looking for a book. The Field Memorial Library is currently open on Wed. from 3 until 8 p.m. and on Sat. from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. There is a good selection of popular new books, a growing collection of audio-books on CD and a wide variety of movies. There are also a large number of periodicals to peruse. Read current issues at the library or borrow past issues to read at your leisure.

Our lending period is two weeks with a fine of 15-cents per library day for overdue items. If you have an over-due book, please return it as soon as possible so that other people may enjoy it. Renewals may be made by phone at 369-4646 — just give an author for fiction titles, a number for non-fiction titles.

There is a book-drop next to the front door if you can't make your return during library hours. **PLEASE BAND OR BAG ITEMS TO PREVENT DAMAGE.**

Titles that the Library does not own may be ordered through Inter-Library Loan. Due dates vary per lending library. It is important that these items be returned to FML by the due-date on the lending slip to allow for processing and transportation time



*"A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read."*

--- Mark Twain

## Trustees of Reservations

**T**HE BULLITT RESERVATION, a new property of The Trustees of Reservations in Conway and Ashfield, welcomes you to enjoy one of the up coming October events. Call 628-4485x1 for more information or directions.

### ➤ Basic Plumbing Repairs—Toilets and Sinks

**October 11 | 6 PM | \$5**

Nancy Hoff from Ashfield Hardware will explain how to tackle some basic plumbing repairs, from leaky faucets to toilet adjustments.

### ➤ Community Discussion and Potluck: Nature Sightings: Who, Where, and Why?

**October 18 | 6PM | Free**

Share your wildlife observations and learn more about their habitats, lifecycles, and travel patterns with Recorder columnist Gary Sanderson. Bring a dish or drink to share, soup will be provided.

### ➤ In Depth Nature Photography Saturday, October 20 | 9AM-5PM Saturday, October 27 | 9AM-12PM Members \$60; Nonmembers \$75

Learn how to improve your nature and outdoor photography through a mix of classroom and outdoor shooting. You will learn techniques for landscape and macro photography, and enjoy time wandering the scenic fields and buildings at Bullitt taking photos and receiving feedback from the instructor, a professional photographer and experienced teacher.

### ➤ Two Bridges Trail Opening Hike Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2PM Free and open to all

Come celebrate the completion of the new Two Bridges Trail that connects the Bullitt Reservation to Chapel Brook Reservation in Ashfield on this community hike. Join your neighbors and Trustees staff for a moderate 2 mile walk through the woods. Return rides will be available. Meet at the Bullitt parking lot, 332 Bullitt Rd.

Visit [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org) for trail maps and more information, or call 413.628.4485.

## Pardon Us

*"If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We try to print something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes."* (quoted from a weekly paper in Clermont, Florida)





## Conway Swimming Pool Repairs Move Forward

**T**HE SWIMMING POOL is owned and operated by Conway Community Swimming Pool, Inc., a private non-profit organization independent of the town, run entirely by volunteers and donations. The pool is one of the finest examples of community cooperation in the history of the town. It was built for residents of Conway in 1949 along Pumpkin Hollow brook by as many as fifty or sixty volunteers at a time and completed in less than two months. The cost, which would have been more than twenty-two thousand dollars if the work had been hired (1949), was less than forty-five hundred dollars. The pool was dedicated on July 4, 1950 and has been run entirely by volunteers and donations for the last 63 years.

It was the Fall of 2010 when the Conway Swimming Pool was officially closed after discovering significant bypass and sinkhole issues with the dam. Throughout 2011 local volunteers attempted to make low cost repairs and do long overdue dredging. It quickly became apparent that the days of annual volunteer labor and equipment donations would no longer keep the pool going. Increased government regulations would make the historical volunteer and low cost work impossible. In December of 2011, volunteers, both old and new, jumped head first into what would be a huge undertaking for so few people with essentially no funding. Annual donations had dropped off 75% in the last many years. The organization had a bank balance of less than three thousand dollars to cover annual operating costs usually under \$1000.

For the past 9 months the committee has been moving forward diligently, but carefully. While it is expected that actual construction will only take a few weeks, the engineering and permitting processes will likely take anywhere from eight months to a year. There are over six local, state, and federal agencies involved including the Department of Dam Safety, Army Corp of Engineers, Conservation Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, and each has one or more permitting requirements of which one may have a dependency on the other.

Most people not are aware that the process of working to prepare documents and awaiting responses from these agencies can take weeks and months for each one alone.

The engineering firm to be selected would be responsible for all the civil engineering for the dam repairs, dredging, beach reclamation, settling pond, and general improvements. They would also be responsible for the permitting, environmental concerns, and preparing and overseeing construction. After many months of hard work, the committee has secured engineering services and funding to pay for those services. Acquiring and reviewing proposals from three different engineering firms was not easy and took many months. Conway Community Swimming Pool, Inc., chose to work with Fuss & O'Neill as they offered the most comprehensive and low-cost proposal. All of the engineering, permitting, and project management services are expected to cost approximately \$80,000. This does not include any of the actual construction costs.

Working on finances in parallel since January, the committee needed to quickly acquire funds for the environmental engineering and could not begin to think about the actual construction costs. A plan was developed to request Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to purchase a Conservation Restriction on the property in order to prevent future development. Use of CPA funds was appropriate because, should pool repairs fail, the land was in danger of being sold as two possible building lots. The town voted in May to purchase a conservation restriction for the appraised value of the land in the amount of \$123,000. This was a win-win-win for the town, pool committee, and CPA initiatives. Not only would the land be preserved for years to come, but the pool committee would receive funds that they could put to use as they chose. In the majority of CPA acquired conservation restrictions, the money goes to private individuals, generally for their own personal benefit. In this unique situation, the funds will go into the organization's operating account and can be used consistent with the pool's purpose. The process of actually transferring funds is a long one, requiring grueling review of an 18 page conservation restriction by

attorneys and the State of Massachusetts. Most paperwork is complete and is simply awaiting final reviews and filing and it appears the CPA funds should be transferred this month. This will allow the engineering and permitting to move forward quickly without any breaks in the project.

So, when will the pool once again be opened to residents of Conway? Fuss & O'Neill has already started environmental surveys and soil borings required for permitting. Soon they will begin engineering, reviewing permitting requirements, and submitting permits for approval. By the end of October we hope to have preliminary cost estimates for the actual construction costs associated with repairs. Then the next hurdle will begin. Fundraising, lots and lots of fundraising. Construction costs are not yet known, but could exceed \$250,000. Add to that the fact that annual maintenance costs will quadruple due to new regulations, the committee will be looking for a lot of donations in the coming months. Since last year, the committee has raised approximately \$8,000 through private donations made by residents, but is a long way from having funds required for construction.

IF all goes as planned, and IF permits are turned around quickly, and IF a contractor can be secured for spring, and IF the committee is able to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary for construction, the pool is expected to be open to residents for the summer of 2013. The committee wishes to thank the Conway Community Preservation Committee, Conway Conservation Commission, Conway Select Board, residents, volunteers, and donors who have kept the project moving forward and continue to showcase a community rich in local cooperation and support. Information on the pool and project can be found at [www.ConwaySwimmingPool.org](http://www.ConwaySwimmingPool.org).



## Lost and Found

**A**S USUAL, following the Festival of the Hills the supply of found items at the town hall has grown. Most of the items are on a table just outside the general-purpose room and may be picked up any time that the Town Hall building is open or call 369-4235 Ext.5 (Assessors).



## Exchanges

**D**O YOU HAVE a job that needs to be done? Are you looking for jobs to do? Have something to sell? Looking to buy or trade a particular item? For a small donation we will run your ad in next month's **EXCHANGES**. Mail copy and payments to Ginny Knowlton at 11 South Hill, or e-mail copy to [uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com) with subject noted as **VISITOR ad**.



➤ **GET A HANDLE** on your hardy garden and landscape with our tools! Pruners, loppers, saws, shovels, gloves... Backpack sprayers, compost forks, log splitters, winches, birdnetting, tracking wagons, cider equipment. Stop mosquito's & ticks with repellent hats, bandanas, Bug Band bracelets and Geraniol based spray. Incredible assortment of great tools, books and equipment! Authorized Echo dealer. Gift Certificates - great idea! Celebrating 58 years & Norm's 94<sup>th</sup>. OESCO, Route 116, Conway, M-F, 7-5; Sat, 7-noon; 369-4335. =76

➤ **EXPERIENCED HANDYMAN:** repairs and small renovations, custom woodworking, drywall and plaster repair, other services available, small jobs a specialty, John Pelletier, handyman and woodworker. Lic. Reg. 153453. Phone: 369-4064 - ask for John email: [spell938@earthlink.net](mailto:spell938@earthlink.net) [12/12]=34

➤ **PAGES** Coffee Bar & Used Bookstore, 98 Main Street, Conway. 369-6055. Now open 7 days per week - Mon-Fri 7am to 3pm; Sat 8:30am to 4pm; Sun 8:30am to 3pm. Locally roasted, organic, fair trade coffee beans, espresso, cappuccino, lattes, organic hot cocoa, 100% crushed fruit smoothies, lemonade, iced tea, frappes, frozen hot chocolate, a daily selection of pastries and Chris' famous scones on weekends. Free wi-fi. Indoor/outdoor seating. [S]=70

➤ **THE CONWAY INN** offers pizza on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including take-outs. Now—free WiFi. Call 369-4428 (=15)

➤ **KAYER CARPENTRY:** Master carpenter; 25 plus years of experience. Custom designs, additions, remodeling, and repairs: sunrooms, kitchens and baths, windows and doors, decks and porches, built-in furniture, entertainment centers, music and media storage, bookshelves, window seats, closet shelving and organizers, molding and trim made to match or repair your existing woodwork. Licensed and insured. Call Kevin Ayer at 413 369-0078 or email: [kevinayer@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinayer@yahoo.com) [09/12]=63

➤ **GUILFORD-BRUSH HOG-ROTARY MOWING** 369-4481. [10/12]

## More Exchanges .....

➤ **LIFETREE THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE:** Deborah Donaldson is an experienced, nationally certified massage therapist in practice since 1994 specializing in Myofascial Release, chronic pain management and pregnancy massage. High stress? Muscle strains? Massage can help heal, restore, and rejuvenate. Every session is uniquely tailored to your needs. Gift certificates available. Visit [www.lifetreemassage.com](http://www.lifetreemassage.com) or call Deb at 369-0213. [10/12]=56

➤ **WHAT'S YOUR STORY?** The Heart of Story is a six-week writing workshop for women 18 and older, led by Jane Roy Brown. The cost is \$150 (or \$120 if you "like" The Heart of Story on Facebook). I offer the workshop periodically at the Field Memorial Library in Conway, or you take it one-on-one online or via Skype. For more info, visit [janeroybrown.wordpress.com](http://janeroybrown.wordpress.com) and [facebook.com/theheartofstory](http://facebook.com/theheartofstory). Enroll or send questions to: [brownjaneroy@gmail.com](mailto:brownjaneroy@gmail.com) [03/13]=71

### Rates for Ads (75 words or less)

**\$5.00 per ad/per month**  
(payment in advance)

For those advertisers that choose to run ads in multiple, consecutive issues, we will offer the following:

**\$25 per ad for 6-month period**  
**\$50 per ad for 12-months**

Longer ads will be considered at the rate of 10-cents for each word over the 75 word limit

We continue to run give-aways, lost and founds, etc. at no charge.

[uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com)

➤ **BEEFALO BEEF** - Time for outdoor grilling. Great tasting Beefalo Beef and grilling the perfect combination. Always available at the Herrmann's Chestnut Lot Farm in Conway. Call ahead 369-4266. [www.chestnutlotfarm.com](http://www.chestnutlotfarm.com)

➤ **CARPENTRY:** 30 years experience. Fully licensed, insured and lead certified. Replacement windows/doors, repairs and renovations. Contact Frank Kuzdeba [fkuzdeba@comcast.net](mailto:fkuzdeba@comcast.net) Phone-369-4223 or (413) 222-3330 [04/13]=23

➤ **FIREWOOD** - Quality seasoned, split hardwoods ready for delivery now or later in the year. Trailer-load containing 185 cu. Ft. (1-cord when stacked) delivered in Conway for \$250. Call Bill Graves for more info. Home: 413-369-4679; cell: 413-522-3573. [10/12]=37

➤ **ROOMS FOR RENT** in Conway near center. Heat, cable included. Use of kitchen and living room. 369-4774

➤ **COLE MOUNTAIN CABIN** is our newly-built 4-season retreat in the Northeast Kingdom of VT. Back in the woods (best with 4-wheel drive in winter), sleeps 6, two sleeping levels, two baths. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, downhill (Burke/Jay), reading and relaxing. We're 3 hours from Conway, 20 minutes to Canada. See more at [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com), Westmore, VT. \$800 weekly, \$125 nightly. Pixie Holbrook/John Rioux. 369-4609 or [pjholbrook@comcast.net](mailto:pjholbrook@comcast.net) [03/13]=62

➤ **PAINTERS**, responsive, reliable and reasonable. Please call Marc or Doreen at 369-0219 [01/13]=13

➤ **CONWAY HEALING ARTS**, 46 Main Street. Serving our community for 19 years, Debra Hoyle, is a nationally certified and insured therapeutic body worker offering individualized sessions of Acupressure, CranioSacral Therapy, and Reiki at reasonable rates. Contact and information: 413-325-5579, [greenlady33@comcast.net](mailto:greenlady33@comcast.net), [www.greenladyarts.com](http://www.greenladyarts.com).

Testimonials-- from A.D., writer and teacher: "I highly recommend Deb Hoyle. After being sick with pneumonia for weeks, I scheduled two sessions with Deb and was amazed by how much her treatments speeded up my recovery. I could feel the difference immediately."

-from K.C., financial consultant: "Deb's intuition and calm, supportive manner make her a gifted body worker and healer. The benefits of her work are lasting. She is a discreet professional and tailors the sessions to meet each individual's needs." All ages welcome, references available.

[09/12]=128

### ➤ CONWAY - HEALING THERAPIES ... SOMETHING NEW...

New Chapter Supplements below retail...Check it out at [www.newchapter.com](http://www.newchapter.com). Call me to place your order. It's always a good time to detox with a Lymphatic Therapy Session. Stimulating your lymphatic system *strengthens your immune response* and helps remove toxins and pathogens (disease). Treatments are recommended both pre & post surgery to *reduce swelling and scar tissue tightness*. Many clients have had breast cancer and find treatments beneficial. *Rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, neck & back pain, headaches, TMJ* and swelling due to injury or lymphedema are some of the conditions I have treated. I'm a *Certified Lymphatic Therapist, Certified CranioSacral Therapist* and a *Reiki Master*. I've been offering these gentle but profoundly effective therapies since 1994 (NCTMB:5197-00) Curious?? First time session only \$40. (Gift Certificates and home visits available). Affordable rates, peaceful home office. *Pam McCormack* 369-4644 [11/12]=139



## More Exchanges .....

➤ **DOG WALKER and PET SITTER** available. Experienced. **BOARDING** also available in home with fenced in patio. Please call Doreen at 369-0219. [09/13]=21

➤ **YOGA IN CONWAY** for all levels. Mondays 5:30-6:45 p.m. and Wed. 10:15-11:30 a.m. @ The Fireman's Aux. Building, next to Firehouse. New Classes forming for "Early Risers" & "Yoga 4 Kids". Drop-ins welcome. Private & small group sessions available. For more information on classes, workshops & black out dates contact Jody Fontaine, 200 hr. RYT 413-824-9435 or [ucreatesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:ucreatesolutions@gmail.com).

➤ **POSITION WANTED:** Cert Home Health Aid looking to help someone get up in the morning, get dressed and fix breakfast. Also available for rides to appointments and outings.....413 522 0085 Nellie

➤ **NATURAL ANGUS BEEF** No Growth Hormone Maple Syrup Call for more information Vachel Farm Conway 625-9340. [03/13]=16

## What's the Story Morning Glory?

*This a column of original writing created by Deb Hoyle about life in the hills. This month its*

### WHAT STAYS

Landscapes  
Bridges flower  
Past and present  
Growing, expanding, wild, surrounded  
Joy and abundance tasting fresh  
Created with images, notes, and light  
Partner of mine shares this country place  
Flowing, many hued, those changes in and around  
Move when we feel moved, peace remains always  
This life pulls, the root is felt  
gratitude a constant

### Send Us Your Story

**W**E ENCOURAGE you to submit news and personal interest items to *the Visitor*. Since we don't have a staff to run about and collect material, we really depend on those people who are willing to do a little writing and sharing. Lately we've had some creative and contemplative submissions to share with you. Read and Enjoy. Let us hear from you. e-mail to [uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com); or snail-mail to 11 South Hill, Conway; or hand deliver to Town Office, 32 Main St.



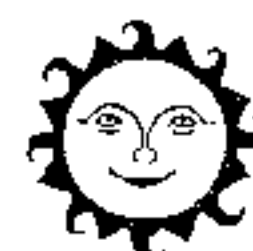
## ???DID YOU FORGET???

**D**OG LICENSES are past due! As of July 1, prices are as follows: Males and Spayed Females are \$13.00 each; Females are \$16.00 each. These prices include a late fee/fine. Make checks payable to the *Town of Conway*.

Licenses are available from the Town Clerk on Tues., Thurs., and Fri. mornings between 9 a.m. and noon. Owners that find the hours inconvenient may purchase licenses by mail at P.O.Box 240, Conway – please include SASE bearing 65-cents postage.

The following information must accompany all requests: Owners name and address, Dog's name, breed color and gender; a current rabies certificate. **Proof of a current rabies vaccination is required!!!**

Keep in mind that State Law requires that dogs be licensed each year. We have more than 300 unlicensed dogs on file! You know who you are, and so do we.



### Challenging Opportunity

**T**HE BOARD OF HEALTH is actively searching for an individual to fill a vacancy on the board until the next town election. Becoming a member of this Board is a worthwhile and challenging way to be involved in community affairs.

The Board of Health is required by commonwealth statutes and regulations to perform duties pertaining to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions and the protection of the environment. In Conway, some specific areas of involvement include managing the Transfer Station, inspecting food establishments, overseeing installation and inspection of septic systems, and supervising animal safety issues.

Interested residents are invited to attend meetings to find out more. The board meets in Town Hall at 7 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call 369-4235 ext. 8, or email [boardofhealth@townofconway.com](mailto:boardofhealth@townofconway.com) for more information.



*You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."*

— James D. Miles

## Time to Move on

by Ginny Knowlton

**M**Y PERSONAL INTRODUCTION to Visitor production came in the late 1950s when I assisted my mother during her brief tour of duty on the "staff." I have been contributing articles since 1979, and became a co-editor in 1989. Coordinating the entire production process ultimately, fell to me in 1992. After 20 years of producing *the Visitor* as a solo endeavor, it appears that the time is approaching for this volunteer editor to hang up her hat.

Created by Rev. George Foster Camp as a way to provide ALL Conway residents with a means for staying in touch with the church and with each other, the underlying purpose of *the Visitor* has always been to provide a community service.

As an undefined concept passed from generation to generation like a family treasure, *the Visitor* has been able to grow and evolve with the needs of the larger community that it serves. Decisions regarding policy and content have traditionally rested with the editor rather than with a committee. For the past 7 years, all facets of production have been under the jurisdiction of the editor since each part hinges directly on another.

New policies and guidelines are being established to define *the Visitor* and govern operations and content. The new directives are being written and instituted by well-intentioned individuals who have not (until recently) ever been involved in any portion of Visitor production. The concept of policies to govern *the Visitor* seems arbitrary to me and ill suited to accommodate either the service aspect of the publication or a volunteer editor. My greatest fear is that the flexibility necessary to allow *the Visitor* to grow and change with the community may be in jeopardy.

It has been my pleasure to work with the community in preserving the original idea and intent of *the Visitor*. And it has been my joy to see *the Visitor* support itself entirely through donations for the past 23 years. To ensure its longevity under adverse conditions, the unwritten watchwords of my tenure have been simplicity, efficiency and frugality.

Thanks to everyone that has taken an interest in the continued existence of this publication. It really has been a wonderful and exciting adventure.

It is my intent to stay through the completion of the December issue. After the first of December, your donations and communications to the Visitor should be mailed to:

UCC Visitor  
P.O. Box 214

Conway, MA 01341

As it moves into its 74<sup>th</sup> year, it is my hope that *the Visitor* will transition gracefully under its new guidelines and leadership and continue to provide a valuable community service.



## A Wonderful Weekend

**D**O YOU WANT TO KNOW what I did this weekend? I got to hang out with 100s of friends. Saturday morning I got up bright and early and went out to a pancake breakfast where the price was right, the wait staff was adorable, and I didn't have to tip. Then I hung out downtown where my friends and I decorated, hung up signs, erected tents, put out tables and chairs, placed trash cans and recycle containers, and got ready for our party. For our mid-morning snack we had cookies, cakes, pies and a plethora of other goodies...and maybe a splash more coffee to keep the motor running.

I really wanted to take a nap in the afternoon, but there were too many phone calls to make and last minute details to iron out. Afternoon turned into early evening and I was off again to a turkey dinner with even more friends. We had stuffing, gravy, potato, squash, cran sauce, pie, etc...what a wonderful meal and great company. I ate, laughed, visited, and took a chance at a raffle for amazing local crafts.

Sunday started out early as well, but sadly without pancakes to get charged up. Back to the center of town I went for fresh cider and cider donuts instead! 10:00 rolled around and my day got busy. I watched a road race, and saw how fried dough was made. I went to an art exhibit, watched a woman weaving effortlessly on a beautiful loom, learned about invasive plants, saw a local beefalo farm and saw that quilting is an art that is alive and well. I learned that if you are really good, you can cut 220 lbs of wood small enough to fit through a stove pipe in 120 seconds. My choices for lunch were BBQ, burgers, kielbasa, fries, Tibetan, ice cream, lo mein, pie, maple candy, chili, brittle, maple candy, fudge, etc! I ate a baked potato stacked high with everything, I behaved...

After lunch I got to ride in a police cruiser, marched in a parade, and waved to all my friends. Behind me were classic cars, horse drawn wagons, a marching band, lots of kids, and a drum corps. Once the parade was over, I pet baby animals, held a screech owl, looked at crafts, watched a forge, touched animal skulls, and cheered on a whole bunch of adults trying to see who could throw a cast iron skillet the furthest.

What an amazing weekend... I was at the Festival of the Hills!

Michelle Harris



## UCC Restoration Update

**E**XTERIOR WORK has finally begun at the church after months of working with architect Rick Katsanos of H/AI Architecture on designing and planning! Aspen has removed all traces of mold from our beautiful building and we are now faced with putting it back together so that our mold issues will not occur again. It has been and remains our goal to use local contractors whenever available so we proceed.

September began with Nick Potter and his crew removing and rebuilding a vital retaining wall on the side of the church. After that he began working on re-grading the lawn around the perimeter of the building so that all roof run-off in the future will drain away from the foundation. At the same time, Mark Ladd has built a roof addition that joins the handicap entrance roof and the air exchange room roof. This new roof will prevent the historic snow build-up along the exterior foundation wall and thus prevent future water infiltration on that side of the building. By the time this Visitor goes to press, Jack Boulanger will be hard at work replacing rotten clapboards and slates on the steeples and installing proper flashing all over the roof. This three-pronged approach is designed to keep all future water out of the building and, once it is completed, restoration will begin inside the church.

The interior steps will include hydrosealing the inside foundation walls, applying dry lock and fungicide and then rebuilding inner walls, including finish work, wainscoting and painting; electricity and plumbing will need to be updated as well. Both bathrooms and all inner doorways will be made handicap accessible and we hope to be able to reconfigure the kitchen to make it more accessible and user-friendly.

The completion of all this work is contingent on availability of funds and contractors and at present our hope is to return to the church for regular worship and activities at Easter.

## UCC Restoration Donations Update

**T**O DATE, \$8,761.00 have been donated to support the UCC restoration project and our heartfelt thanks goes out to all who have contributed in any way. We have received gifts ranging from \$1.00 to \$1,000.00 in private donations and we are also exceedingly grateful for the Conway voters upcoming donation of \$100,000 from Community Preservation Funds. Our projected project cost is \$375,000, although all inside work cost is based on our architect's preliminary estimates and not on actual contracts. The UCC church has allocated \$250,000 of their endowment for this restoration and that sum, coupled with current donations totals \$358,761.00, which leaves us with **the need to raise \$16,239.00** to complete the necessary repairs. So our work is not yet done! An additional thank you must be extended to the Firemen's Auxiliary for the future donation of new, easy-to-move tables so that we can continue our work as Conway's Community Center! We are so grateful!

## Employment opportunity!

**T**HE UCC is currently looking for someone to take over the running of the can shed on a 50/50 basis. You redeem the cans and bottles and keep 50% for yourself and give 50% for the operating expenses of the church. Inquiries, please call Marcus McLaurin in the evening at 625-0041.

## Shut-Ins

**P**LEASE CONTINUE to take a few moments from your busy schedule to remember our shut-ins with a card, a letter or a visit. When each day looks the same as the last and seasons seem to have no definition, a simple hello can make all the difference in the world.

Our list of shut-ins follows. You will notice that it has become much shorter over the past few months. If you know of someone that should be included, please contact Ginny at 369-4947 or [uccvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:uccvisitor@gmail.com) and we will include them in future listings.

- **Edith Chase** at BUCKLEY HEALTH CARE, 95 Laurel St., Greenfield, MA 01301
- **Florence Hassell** at VERNON ADVENT CHRISTIAN HOME, 61 Greenway Drive, B-Wing, Vernon, VT 05354-9474
- **Ancy Borton** at Loomis House 298 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke MA 01040
- Former resident **Elsie Landstrom** would love to hear from some of her Conway friends. Send mail to 447 Kendal Drive, Kennet Square, PA 19348.



October 1, 2012

Dear Friends,

As most of you know by now, our beautiful historic church building was temporarily shut down in November due to the suspected presence of unhealthy levels of mold. Unfortunately, our suspicions were later proven correct and we have now begun a necessarily extensive and costly remediation and renovation project. We are addressing long-standing moisture issues in and around the building that include, but are not limited to, curtain drains around the building, roofing extensions and repair. We have also hired a well-respected mold remediation firm and they have promised us a clean and safe building at the end of their work. Now that the cleaning is done, we are left with major repairs as many of our walls have been removed down to the studs. We also must replace some of the church property, carpets, and cabinetry.

This is, indeed, a daunting task, but we are proceeding with faith and hope and determination. In the past few months, so many of you, our neighbors and friends, have repeatedly inquired as to how you can be a part of this restoration project. Here are some of our projected costs and some opportunities to be a part of the solution.

- Mold Remediation - \$70,125
- Budgeted restoration costs - \$50,000
- Expected additional related expenses - \$200,000+  
(depending on recommendations of engineers and architects)

For every gift of \$100 or more, we will place a beautifully engraved gray brick in a new honorary walkway which will be created in the side yard of the church lawn, leading to the memorial bench. You may specify your engraving (see form).

In addition, we hope to replace all of our old, worn and heavy tables with lighter ones (at a cost of approx. \$300/each) so that we can continue to be a presence in the community through our suppers and in those important times when you need us most – times of marriage and of loss. If you wish to donate a table in memory or in honor of someone, your \$300 gift will make that possible and we will honor your gift in a special way in the future.

We also hope to be able to continue to be a presence in this community through church suppers, hosting AA meetings, our annual fair, the Easter egg hunt, Christmas Eve worship and more. If you are able, Pam and I hope you will join us in the 500 Club by making a gift of \$500 or more. For any gift over \$500, we will offer you a free brick engraving and we will forever treasure your donation by engraving your name on an honorary plaque, to be hung at a special worship service after which you will be our guest for dinner when we rededicate our church, hopefully in the fall.

If you wish to make a financial contribution to help us offset any of these expenses, we would welcome any gift – no amount is too small to be a valuable part of this essential clean-up effort - and, of course, every donation is tax-deductible.

Our community has sustained us in the past and, together, we will save this beloved building. The saying goes, "When God closes a door, God opens a window." We may have temporarily closed our church's doors, but the opportunity to be a stronger faith community is just beginning. Please join us in spirit, in prayer, in worship on Sundays at 9:30AM at the Conway Grammar School, and/or with a financial gift.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Dr. Candice M. Ashenden



**Donation Card to be Returned**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

**For gifts of \$1 - \$99 – THANK YOU!**

**For \$100 gifts:**

Brick inscription (**Recommended: three lines of text, up to 18 letters/ characters per line**) Maximum, if needed, up to four lines of text; max. of 21 letters per line)

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**For \$300 table gifts:**

Choose one and complete dedication:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**For gifts of \$500 or more:**

Name(s) as you wish it to appear on the honorary plaque:

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**Free brick engraving:**

Brick inscription (**Recommended: three lines of text, up to 18 letters/ characters per line**) Maximum, if needed, up to four lines of text; max. of 21 letters per line)

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And to each and every one of you, a heartfelt thank you  
from all of us at the United Congregational Church.