

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

JANUARY

2013

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.:9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

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Church Office

Contact Information

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Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.:9:30–1:00

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Mission Statement

The Columbia

Congregational United Church of Christ as part of the United Church of Christ and the worldwide Christian Church is called by God to be disciples of Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, the mission of the Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ is to worship God and to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ: to promote Christian fellowship among our members and friends, and to live in Christian fellowship with the Church Universal and the whole creation; that we might live faithfully, serving God and humanity, and striving for righteousness, justice, and peace.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PORCH

Often on New Year's Day I feel refreshed. With a sigh of relief, I say goodbye to the previous year with the hope of a new year ahead. It is not that the year past was so difficult, although there have been some like that. Mostly I have memories of good times, good decisions, good work, good friends, good experiences, and a generally good life. Any missteps can be seen as learning experiences and any big mistakes hopefully have been forgiven. God is a forgiving God and if we believe we are made in the image of God then we too need to be forgiving, even self-forgiving and rest in the knowledge of being forgiven.

The hope of the New Year is that good things will far outweigh the difficult ones. We can begin again to live according to the teachings of God through Jesus. A New Year allows for expanding on the good and minimizing the errors. The apostle Paul, who was one of the greatest disciples, wrote to the Philippians, that he continuously seeks a stronger relationship with Christ, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead" (Phil. 3:13).

As you put away the presents, pack up all the ornaments, take down the Christmas tree, be sure you don't put Christ and your faith in the box with the nativity set. Now is the New Year with Emmanuel, God with us. Yes, God was with us last year, but were we fully with God? Now is the time to strengthen our understanding of Christ and nurture our faith in the One True God. Now is the time for beginning afresh with Christ, with the church community and with all of creation.

Together we can grow in faith and knowledge.

See you in church, **Pastor Betsey**

January 2013

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**JANUARY 6**

EPIPHANY

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett, Janice Knight,
and Kim Foss.**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****JANUARY 13**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****JANUARY 20**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****JANUARY 27**

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****COMING EVENTS**

FAMILY SUNDAY will continue to be Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour. Each family is asked to bring in one appetizer/finger food to share on our buffet



table (cookies, cheese & crackers, veggies & dip, mini sandwiches...nothing that needs to be warmed or eaten with a utensil). Bring **ONLY** enough servings to feed 8-12 people.

Wednesday, January 16th

Pastoral Relations Meeting 7:00PM
Lounge

Saturday, January 19th

Church School Teachers Meeting
10AM – 12PM Lounge.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**January 15TH**

If you are unable to meet this deadline, your submission can be included in the following Newsletter.

January 2013



LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by being a LAY READER and reading the Scripture or bringing a children's sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list on the bulletin board by the elevator door **and** speak with Pastor Betsey Polglase.

DEACON OF THE MONTH

JANUARY – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JANUARY – Doug Erickson

GREETERS AND USHERS

JANUARY 6 - **Deacons:** Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett, Janice Knight, and Kim Foss

JANUARY 13 – Volunteers needed

JANUARY 20 – Volunteers needed

JANUARY 27 – Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2013 is always welcome. Cards may be left in the Stewardship box, given to any member of the Stewardship Committee or handed into the Church Office. Extra pledge cards are available in the Stewardship box upon request. We invite your generosity in supporting the 2013 budget.

WAIM is frequently in need of the volunteer services of skilled craftspeople. If you are skilled as a carpenter, painter, electrician, plumber, sheet rocker, heating systems, computer technician, etc. and would be willing to become part of a craftsperson resource guide for WAIM please see Anthony White, Sr. for survey form.

FOOD PANTRY IN URGENT NEED OF FOOD: The Church is collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and the Columbia Food Pantry. **Items especially needed: Soups, Pastas and Cereals.** If you would like to contribute, please leave items in the basket found at the front of the sanctuary or deliver directly to the Soup Kitchen.

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Joy to the World, the Lord has come! He rules with truth and grace! Hoping all receive the wonders of His love. His love shines for all to see and brings us the gifts of hope, peace and joy.

I am grateful to all those who make our Christmas pageant special. The Church School presented "The Twelve Days of Christmas" which told us that God so loved the world that He gave us a son, born to set us all free.

The children shine as they come together for the pageant. There were children who were not in good health but still wanted to be a part of the pageant and some who tried. I was filled with joy to know it meant that much to them. When the opportunity arises please thank the teachers for their role in presenting the pageant. Lynn Sharp does an awesome job directing and the rest of the teachers help with props, singing practice, and most importantly keeping the children calm during rehearsals. I say this with a smile because they get so excited about being there. Also we want to thank Nancy Douton for her directing of the chimes and accompanying the music for "Away in the Manger."

Thank you to the Board of Christian Education for the wonderful Advent Workshop and the lovely luncheon provided after the pageant Service.

A new year is here and we pray it's a good one!

In the darkest moments a light shines. It helps us to overcome the despair we feel after a tragedy or disaster. I am amazed how many lights were shining this year. We are like stars in the sky to many to count but each one important.

Happy New Year,

Jean Murphy

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Sheets and Pillow Cases Needed!

Darien Parmenter, a senior at Bolton High School, will be collecting gently used pillow cases and sheets. These will be used as part of her senior project to help support missions in Haiti, by supplying them with diapers, pillowcases, and sun dresses for the children in need. Donations can be left in the Parish Hall or given to Darien before or after service. Thank you!

OUR CARE TEAM

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, If you show love to one another.” John 13:34-35

We seek to be a loving and caring church community, contributing our time, our resources, and our love to help and support each other in times of need. This is the goal of our Care Team.

We have a group of approximately 12 members of our congregation that have signed up to offer their help with transportation, meals, short term chores or just a presence offering concern and fellowship. These volunteers do not replace Pastoral visits or calls.

Should you or anyone that you know need a little TLC from our Care Team, please contact Dixie at **860-228-8480** or email **dixiesilvestri@hotmail.com** New volunteers are always welcome.

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TRIBUTE

Carolyn Moeckel – A Remembrance

Little could she know on my birth in 1948 what an active, self-destructive, oddball kid my mother was bringing into this world. With a penchant for wandering off into the nearest field, river, gravel bank or gulley, given to climbing trees, wading into swamps, or crossing railroad bridges (from underneath), I began injuring myself in novel ways at a very early age. Getting a stick jammed through my mouth at age five started my run of calamities, followed by outrageous mistakes like getting two hooks of a large fishing lure embedded in the back of my head. Then came such things as breaking my foot twice in the same place (on separate occasions), cuts and slices from head to toe in various and curious ways, and slamming my finger in a car door. In one infamous scenario, I ran into a nest of white faced hornets that chased me home, while stinging me repeatedly, and a number of them followed me inside. A few of the angriest ones flew into Mom's hair. She did quite a dance on the kitchen floor, trying to extricate them from her scalp. These are just a few of the many surprises I brought home to Mom in my growing-up years.

At any rate, Momma Moeckel took it all in stoic Danish stride, albeit with occasional asides of exasperation. She got to know the route to the Emergency Room like the back of her hand, and could no doubt find it blindfolded.

Mom could make anything. If I needed a quiver for a certain-sized set of arrows, she made it. New drapes for my bedroom — done. Quilts, really primo jobs, I still use them. She caned chairs, made picture frames, knitted and sewed anything, and could make anything, up to and including full dresses (my prom dress was striking!). Most of the things she made were for other people. Whatever endeavor she was involved in at a given time (which was always), she had someone in mind for it, rarely herself. Her joy came in the making and the giving.

Family was always very important to this loving lady. She clung to memories of her family members very deeply, and spoke with such fondness of each of them. Her face would light up every time she talked about their past experiences together. She came from a large family and much love must have been shared among them for her to feel the way she did. Later, her life was tremendously brightened with three granddaughters, and they have been showered with her love and affection all of their lives. Mom was lucky enough to see two great granddaughters come into this world, and this must have been so fulfilling for a family-oriented, mothering, loving, giving person.

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The Danish clan she came from had a very competitive, sports-oriented spirit, and Mom was loaded with that. The nature of the game wasn't that important. From who could swim the fastest to who could toss the most bottle caps in the bag, she had so many board games, you would need a prong truck to move them. From tennis to checkers, she'd be game to play.

In her last few days, she only had an occasional "good day" when she could communicate or wanted to eat. I was sitting next to her on a "good day," while she attempted to eat a bowl of tomato soup with small chunks of cheese on the side. She started to play with her food, that is, rolled the cheese into little balls, and then threw them into the soup. She turned to me with a challenge: "Two points if I make it." "Okay," I agreed, "best of ten wins." She'd throw the cheese balls into the soup and, for my part, I would toss cheese balls into the air and catch them in my mouth. Thus was the nature of a brand new game we devised on the spot. Of course, she won two out of three games. She always had to win. She never gave up. That was Mom.

Well, those of us who knew her...WE were the real winners; what **lucky, lucky** winners.

A tribute by her son Jeff Moeckel.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....

*Just think,
you're here not by chance,
but by God's choosing.
His hand formed you
and made you
the person you are.
He compares you to no one else-
you are one of a kind.
You lack nothing
that His grace can't give you.
He has allowed you to be here
at this time in history
to fulfill His special purpose
for this generation.*

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

January 2013

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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