



The BROOKSIDE CHRONICLE

Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528

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Visit Our Web Site: www.brooksidecc.org

January, 2017

Room to Grow, Room to Serve, Room for You
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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**January 22: Brookside's
Annual Meeting**

**11:30 in Fellowship Hall
Please come to review,
discuss, and vote.**

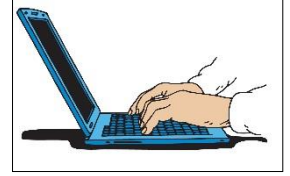
**Annual Reports are due
by January 4, please.**



ANNUAL MEETING

Marlayna's Musings

Comedian Paula Poundstone often rants about how people spend way too much time staring at screens on their computers, tablets, phones. She says, "If [the poet] Robert Frost were alive today, he would have written, 'Whose woods are these? I think I'll google it.'" And she complains about how some restaurants are now putting tablets on tables to make ordering easier. She says, "Well, gee, if saying, 'May I please have chicken fingers' is too difficult for our young ones, wouldn't we want to work on *that*?" Paula's point isn't just to be funny; it's also that many of us are addicted to our screens—and we are passing that addiction on to our children—to their (and our) detriment. "Screens," she says, "are tearing away our real connections."



I've been thinking about this point ever since Paul and I saw her perform last summer. And I've been thinking that's she's right. While computers, tablets, and phones can be extremely helpful, spending *too* much time on them can isolate us from one another. (Not to mention potentially damage frontal-lobe brain development in children—but that's another topic for another time.) In our high tech world, church is one of the few places left where our primary purpose is make "real connections." Not to say that churches can't use screens to further ministry—we certainly can—and should—use them in ways that help shine the love of God in our high tech world. However, our primary focus as church needs to be building and growing relationships with each other and with God, and a certain amount of actual face-to-face (or in God's case, Spirit to spirit) contact is crucial in building a relationship.

Some of this relationship building happens in our regular worship and church school on Sunday mornings. Some of it happens in coffee hour. Some of it happens in Ministry/Committee meetings or choir rehearsal. Some of it happens when we are working together on projects or in the Thrift Shop. Some of it happens in our one-on-one prayer life with God. And we thank God for all of these ways we connect with one another and the Holy One! However, sometimes these connections are so "project focused" that we don't have the time to really get to know one another on a deeper level. To go deeper, we need to take the time to share our stories with each other—to talk about who we are, what matters to us, what faith means, what we struggle with, what makes us laugh.

In church on **Sunday, January 15th**, we will spend half an hour worshipping in the sanctuary as usual, but then the other half hour we will spend in small-group, multi-age workshops, like the kids do in church school. The workshops will be focused on community building, where we will listen to each other share our answers to fun "get-to-know-you" questions such as, "What was your favorite thing to do when you were little?" "What is the best story you ever read?" (A full list of the questions we will use can be found on Page 3 in this Chronicle.)

In 2017, let's continue to make Brookside a vibrant Christian community by getting to know each other on a deeper level—strengthening the relationships we already have and starting to build new ones!

Blessings,

Pastor Marlayna

Book Study Coming in February and March

Save the dates! Pastor Marlayna will be leading an adult education book study in February/March at an "off-site" location out in a coffee shop/restaurant (exact place to be decided) from 7 to 8:30 pm on the following **Thursday** evenings. More information to follow in the bulletin and on the website:

Feb. 2, 9, 16

Feb. 23 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK - NO CLASS

Mar. 2, 9, 16

Church School Enriches All Who Are Involved

Accomplished: Many thanks to *Bobby Boisvert* for working with the children during Workshop time during November and December. They learned about the Christmas story, from where Bethlehem was – not in northern New Hampshire – to who shepherds and kings were in the society of Jesus’ time. During December, Bobby worked with the narrators for the Christmas pageant. Due to his coaching, they did a great job with the readings for the pageant!

Many thanks also to the church school shepherds – *Chris Taylor, Calley Milne, Sarah Duffley, Becky Boisvert, Nancy Lachance, Lisa Brock, and Jennifer Trecartin* – for their dedication during this time. They were the ones who worked with the crafts that the children had each week, and helped fit costumes for the dress rehearsal.

Next Up: Starting on **January 8** we will begin a new Unit, “Who is Jesus.” The Bible gives many examples to help people discover who Jesus is. This unit is based on the text that is found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke where Jesus asks, “Who do people say I am?” They answer him and then he asks them, “Who do you say I am?”, and Peter answers, “You are the Messiah.” In this unit, the children discover the meaning of the word Messiah, and will be given the opportunity to explore who Jesus is to them.

Something for Everyone: On **January 15**, Martin Luther King holiday weekend, we will have an intergenerational workshop where everyone will attend a workshop. Your bulletins will indicate what workshop you will go to (note: all workshops will be the same). As we have done in the past, we will have a bag of questions and each person will answer one question that they pull from the bag. This has been a fun way to get to know the people in our church family in a new way.

Here are the questions that are included:

- What was your favorite thing to do when you were little?
- Who was your favorite teacher? Why?
- What do you miss most from when you were little?
- Who is/was your best friend at school? Why?
- What is the most exciting place you have ever been?
- What was your favorite game to play when you were younger?
- What is the best story you ever read?
- Tell about something funny that happened in the family.
- What is the silliest thing you ever did?
- What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
- Did you ever have an imaginary friend? If so, who?
- What is the most exciting thing you have ever done?
- Tell about the strangest thing you have ever eaten.
- What was the best joke you played on someone?
- Tell about something that makes you very happy.
- Tell about a special family celebration.
- What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen?
- What is one dream you have for the future?
- When were you really scared?
- What was your favorite toy to play with when you were little?

MLK Day of Service – January 16

Council of Ministries is making plans for a service project for the day, as we have done the past few years. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin and *Brookside Bridge* for more details as they develop.

New Pastor to Join Brookside in Early April

At its special meeting on December 11, covenant members unanimously voted to call the Rev. *Eric Jackson* as Sr. Pastor. Rev. Jackson will start at Brookside on **April 4**, and is looking forward to relocating to the Manchester area. He served as Associate Pastor for six years at the First Calvary Baptist Church and Community Minister at Judson Memorial Church for three years. In May 2014, Eric was called to serve as pastor of the Smith Memorial Church in Hillsborough, NH. Eric serves on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee of the New Hampshire Conference and Executive Committee of the Hillsborough Association. He is incoming president of the Greater Manchester NAACP where he has been a member since 2014. He is currently earning his Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary and completed his M. Div. at the Theological School of Drew University. In his spare time he enjoys being in the company of family and friends, trying new restaurants, going on long scenic drives to appreciate the beauty of nature, collecting fountain pens, and having conversations about the world in postmodern cafes. Eric is excited to be a contributing writer in the forthcoming book *A Child Laughs: Prayers for Hope and Justice* edited by Maren Tirabassi and Maria Rankin.

† On a related note: Pastor Marlayna will be completing her interim time with us on Sunday, **April 2**.

A Reminder from the Stewardship/Pledge Committee

If you have not yet made a 2017 pledge to Brookside, please consider doing so; it's never too late! Pledge certificates are available in the Narthex – or you can call the church office (**669-2807**) – or you can pledge online at the Giving tab at www.brooksideecc.org. Thanks to all who have pledged, and even more so to those of you who rose to the Second Mile Challenge.

For those of you who didn't hear about the Second Mile Challenge described in church on December 18th and the *Bridge* email on December 19th, here's what was said: "**We still need \$20,000 to balance our budget for 2017.** In something like a Christmas miracle, an incredibly generous couple in our congregation has offered to increase their pledge for next year by \$10,000 as a challenge to the rest of us to increase our pledges. **Doing the math, if 100 of us, who are able, either pledge for the first time, OR increase our pledge by just \$10 a month – or \$120 a year – we can meet this challenge and raise the remaining \$10,000.** And this will give us a balanced budget in order to build the kind of Christian Community we are called to build. Thank you!"

Prepared to Serve: Saturday, February 25 in Pembroke

2017 Theme: "I Planted, Others Watered, but God Gives the Growth."

Prepared to Serve is a special training event that welcomes participants with fellowship, inspiring worship (*in which our Confirmands have been invited to participate this year!*), and educational, faith-building workshops on a wide variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education. Over 50 unique workshops are offered on a wide range of topics. The day also includes a delicious catered lunch and refreshments throughout.

This annual event is designed for all church members in the NH Conference, UCC. To learn more, go to <http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/PreparedToServe/> or log on to www.nhcucc.org.



Diaper Drive Extended into January

This church-wide "baby shower" helps Families in Transition and New Horizons for NH. We are collecting diapers (size 3 and up) and wipes. Collection spots are in the Narthex and the back hallway (near the office) – you may place your donations there any time. Monetary donations are also welcomed; Mission will purchase diapers/wipes with any monetary donations earmarked for the drive. Thank you.



Loaves and Fishes

On the first Sunday of each month Brookside gathers a *Loaves and Fishes* food offering to support the work of New Horizons for New Hampshire through their food distribution center and soup kitchen. Items can be dropped off in the designated boxes near the church office during the week, or inside the front door on any Sunday morning. This month's "official" date to receive this monthly offering was **January 1**.

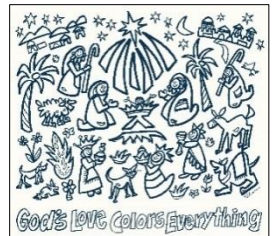
New Horizons Volunteers Needed

We need a team of willing helpers from Brookside to serve supper at the Soup Kitchen on **Tuesday, January 31**, from 4:15 to 6:00 pm.

To sign up, or to learn more about opportunities to serve at New Horizons, please contact Nancy Popp at 755-4880 or popplaw@live.com.

Christmas Fund Offering Gratefully Received

Total amount received, including 50% of our Christmas Eve offerings, was \$720.23. This offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. Thank you to all who donated.



BCC Receives Another Letter from Sponsored Youth

Dear Friends,

How are you? I am now at 9th grade in junior high school. I still following the activity at school and on Saturdays I join the boy scout, we go camping. Do you ever been in the activity like this?

On Saturday, date 3 until 4 September 2016, we the PPA's children at age 15-18 years old will have the evangelical event in Umahapi. Please pray for the event to run smoothly and many souls can be saved, and many more will believe in Jesus.

I hope you are having fun. I hope you will always pray for me and me and my family are always pray for you and your job. ☺ Jeferens Umbu Tamu from Indonesia, age 16



Losses in Our Church Family

Leonard Newell died on December 3. A Brookside member since 1994, he is survived by his wife, Shirley, children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren, and siblings.

Michael Goodman, a Brookside member since 1999, died on December 16.

Survivors include his wife, Gail, his mother, a son, two step-children, a brother and a sister. Pastor Marlayna officiated at his memorial service in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 31.

Please hold these families in your prayers during their time of loss.

Holy Communion

The sacrament of Communion was celebrated by intinction on **Sunday, January 1**, served by: *Brian Brady* and *Kira Morehouse*.

Please note, we use gluten-free bread for Communion, so that those who have a gluten intolerance may participate fully in the sacrament.



Membership Opportunity Coming Up ☞ How to Schedule a Baptism

☞ New members will be received into the congregation on **Sunday, January 29**. A class for those interested in joining will be held at 6:30 pm on **Thursday, January 12** (snow date January 19). If you would like to be included (or if you have questions about what it means to become a member), please speak with *Pastor Marlayna* (**669-2807, ext. 101** or pastor@brooksidecc.org).

☞ Pastor Marlayna is also the person to contact to make arrangements for baptism.

Faithful Stewards Corner

Our thanks to:

- *Sally Sederquist, Sarah Merrill, and Linda Fleming*, for learning how to make the ornaments for the Christmas Tree and then helping people at the Advent workshop to make ornaments so once again we have a beautiful tree in the Sanctuary.
- *Bob Merrill*, for making a folding tool that helped people make the folds on one ornament and make a pattern for another ornament.
- *Women's Union*, for decorating the Manning House for Christmas.
- *Bill Hoysradt*, for conducting a church tour for the staff and thrift shop volunteers.
- *Heath and Bobbie Auger*, for the carillon prelude and hot cocoa (respectively) before the December 18 Christmas concert.
- *George Abbott, Doug Dixon, Bob & Sarah Merrill, and Ellen Tourigny*, for setting up and taking down the manger scene at Stark Park in the snow!
- *Fran Hakenson*, for organizing costumes for the living nativity; *George Abbott* for narrating; *Lisa Brock* for leading singing; and all “actors” (children & adults) for braving winter weather to share the message of Jesus’ birth with our community.
- All who participated in and helped with the Christmas Eve Pageant.

If any ministry member has someone to mention for the “Faithful Stewards Corner,” send their names to the church office by the 15th of each month for the Chronicle.





Men Are Invited to “No Green Bananas”

This group of retired Brookside men meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9 am at Blake’s Restaurant (Maple & Webster Streets) to enjoy breakfast and discussion. Join them on **Tuesdays, January 3 & 17** for good food and company. For more info, call *Herb Pence*, **624-1287**.

Women’s Union Goes on Hiatus for Two Months

Just a reminder that we don’t meet in January or February... but plan to come to our next gathering on **Saturday, March 18**: a corned-beef and cabbage supper, teaming up with the Youth Groups to raise money for their activities. Stay tuned!

Say It with Flowers

Help Wanted – Quick and Easy ❖ We are looking for someone to help out with monthly flower donation communication. Each month, Donna Moody calls families and gathers information regarding flower donations and dedications for the florist and church office. However, she does not have a computer, so a person is needed to gather the information from Donna (can be done by phone or direct pick up), enter the information onto forms on the computer and then forward that information to the florist and Nicole in the church office. This can all be easily be done from home and takes less than an hour each month. If you can help, please contact *Denise Forest* at denfor@comcast.net.



Church Tour Offers Chance to Explore Nooks and Crannies

January has a 5th Sunday, and that often means a tour of the church facility is given to those who are interested. Please meet *Bill Hoysradt* near the Coke machine in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 29** around 11:15 am, and you may learn some interesting bits of Brookside’s history that you never knew!



Keep Tabs on Your Health

The Parish Nurse has hours here every week, on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am in Room D. Avail yourself of free nurse consultation, blood pressure checks, health information, referrals and more. Learn more about this program by logging on to www.catholicmedicalcenter.org/community-health/parish-nurse.aspx.

Weather Policy: when Manchester Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Parish Nurse Office will be closed – and the nurse will not be here.

If You’re Hospitalized...

Remember to call the church office (**669-2807**) if you want the pastor to know that you’re in the hospital. Due to federal law, hospitals are not permitted to provide us with this information.



Due Date for Annual Reports Covering 2016

Please submit all Annual Reports by **January 4** (if via email, please send as a Word document to nicoleg@brooksidecc.org). Financial reports should be submitted as soon as the data is available. *This timeframe is necessary to have the booklet ready by January 13.* The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 22**, at 11:30 am.

15 * 15 * 15 * 15 * Chronicle Deadline * 15 * 15 * 15 * 15

Please submit all items for the February *Chronicle* by **Sunday, January 15**. You can deliver them in person, send them by mail, or e-mail them to: nicoleg@brooksidecc.org. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The objective of *The Brookside Chronicle* is to disperse church news; inspire people to a new awareness; and interpret the ministry of our church. We will be faithful to the truth, honest and caring, and strive for accuracy.

The *Chronicle* staff appreciates and welcomes input from all organizations, boards, ministry groups, members and friends of Brookside Congregational Church. We reserve the right to edit, cut or leave out articles according to available space, timeliness and priority.



This Month's Scripture and Worship Themes

Each issue of the *Chronicle* features monthly Bible readings. Here is what is planned for January; read passages ahead of time if you wish to have a head start on that Sunday's theme!



January 1 – New Year's Day; Communion – Theme: “Start Anew;” Scripture: Micah 6:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

January 8 – Theme: “Epiphany;” Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12. There will be a story/sermon that focuses on the 3 wise-men and what they discovered when they found the baby Jesus.

January 15 – Theme: “Community Building/All Church Workshop.” Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25a. (Note: Worship will be shortened so that everyone can spend 40 minutes in workshops.)

January 22 – Theme: “What Does It Mean to Fish for People?” Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23. (Note: Annual Meeting follows worship, in Fellowship Hall.)

January 29 – Theme: “What Does It Mean to Be Blessed?” Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes). (Note: New Members join this day.)



NURSERY/CRIB ROOM

January 1
Tim Wickham

January 8
Christina Dotson

January 15
Tasha Ross

January 22
Nan Cates

January 29

ACOLYTES

January 1
Isabelle Whitehead

January 8
Sienna Milne

January 15
Kyra Whitehead

January 22
Audra & Willa Brady

January 29
Alex Medina

USHERS

January 1
Joe Nenni
Bob Dunn
Sis Dunn
David Gates

January 8
Bob Merrill
Sarah Merrill
Richard Rodman
Denise Forest

January 15
Herb Pence
Tricia Lucas
Jeff Rapson
Don Waldrupe

January 22
Bill Hoysradt
Judy Foley
Dave Migliori
David Gates

January 29
Bob Howard
Donna Howard
Joe Nenni
Richard Rodman

READERS

January 1
Brian Brady

January 8
Loretta Brady

January 15

January 22

January 29

Fellowship Hour Clean-up

Thank you to the following, who will clean up after Fellowship Hour this month:

- **1/1:** Mark & Cindy Watts
- **1/8:** Trecartin Family
- **1/15:** Vin Nuthalapati
- **1/22:** Suzanne Pyszka
- **1/29:** Chris Taylor



DEACONS OF THE WEEK

January 1
Brian Brady
Kira Morehouse

January 8
Scott Milne
Denise Forest

January 15
George Abbott
Brian Brady

January 22
Ellen Tourigny
Doug Dixon

January 29
Doug Dixon



Did You Fulfill Your 2016 Pledge?

Any questions regarding the detail of the treasurer's report below may be directed to Dale Trombley at 491-3491, or e-mail her at dtrombley@tds.net.

TREASURER'S REPORT			
For the period ending November 30, 2016			
<u>Actual vs. Budget</u>			
Month	Actual	Budget	Var.
Total Income	34,743	30,878	3,865
Total Expenses	19,800	21,649	1,849
Net Gain (Loss)	14,943	9,229	5,714
Year-to-date	Actual	Budget	Var.
Total Income	287,276	286,523	753
Total Expenses	298,530	310,660	12,130
Net Gain (Loss)	(11,254)	(24,137)	12,883
Total YTD Pledges	Actual	Budget	Var.
	137,817	139,400	(1,583)

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United Church of Christ
2013 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03104
Telephone (603) 669-2807
Fax (603) 668-9041
Web Site: www.brooksidecc.org**

Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 am
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday,
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim Pastor
Office Hours: Wed., 10:30-Noon, in Office
Thurs., 3:30-5:00 at Bridge Café
(Monday is the Pastor's Day Off)
Office tel. 669-2807 x 101;
Emergency tel. 978-807-8310
email: pastor@brooksidecc.org

Note: Pastor Marlayna is in Manchester each week Tuesday – Thursday and Sunday; she is available by appointment if above office hours do not fit with your schedule.



The Wise May Bring Their Learning

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?
We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.
We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;
We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.

—Anonymous

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