



God Stuff Happenings in Our Churches – January 2016

MISSIONS

- **First Baptist Church, New London, NH**, opened its doors to students from Colby-Sawyer College on December 13-15 from 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. to provide them a place “off-campus” (the college is next door to the church) to cram for their final exams. Food and drink were provided for the students.
- **Third Baptist Church, Strafford, NH**, collected 370 pairs of socks of all colors and sizes for their sock project. They will be shipped to the South Providence Neighborhood Ministries in Rhode Island. That is about 25% of the socks the ministry gives out as Christmas gifts each year.
- **Grace & Hope Community Church, Andover, NH**, was blessed to assist families this season with gifts for their children. Five joyous Advent helpers put together packages for 75 un-expecting children. The church gives endless praises to the Marines *Toys for Tots* program for their assistance and for providing the many toys we received. Through the many weeks, Rev. Karen Heavey added five new families to the Lord’s ministry who continue seeking pastoral services. Rev. Heavey says, “As a church without walls, we seek to have direct contact and outreach to anyone in desperate circumstances. I am so humbled to be able to bring Jesus Christ into the lives and hopes of these new families.”
- **Memorial Baptist Church, Middlebury, VT** has issued a challenge to its members. They are hoping to collect 1,000 toothbrushes and 1,000 small tubes of toothpaste by Christmas to send to Haiti with several church members who will be leaving on a mission trip to Haiti on December 27.

Also, the Children’s Jr. Church worked on a service project for Charter House, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to providing basic food and housing in and around Middlebury. First, the children drew colorful pictures to enclose in the kit. Then they put together twenty packages with soap, a wash cloth, toothpaste, toothbrush in a holder, shampoo and comb.

CHURCH NEWS

- **Advent Announcement** Rev. Karen Heavey, pastor of **Grace & Hope Community Church, Andover, NH**, writes: “When I first started to put this event together, I received many questioning looks, nervous giggles and apprehensive smiles. Even at the Selectmen’s meeting to gain approval to use the Town Green everyone raised eyelids as in unison they made sure we were not putting up a manger scene. In a sympathetic voice, it was stated that nobody would probably be interested and for me not to be disappointed. Little did they know what the Lord had in store!”

“We borrowed a special donkey named Gunner, who was horribly tortured and adopted by them seven years ago. Nervously, Gunner allowed us to adorn him with a blanket and a sign reading: RESERVED – MARY – NAZARETH. This brought Jesus’ upcoming birth into proper perspective in a town that abhors religion.

“A private high school occupies the majority of the town of Andover and does not promote religious beliefs on its campus. This is a new mission area GHCC is seeking to address. Having Gunner standing on the town green and drawing others to him, a number of the teenagers came by and offered Gunner his favorite treat, a baby carrot. While standing, chatting, patting the donkey and talking with us, one young man noticed the sign and read it aloud. For a moment he was puzzled, seeming not to understand what it meant. Then, an instant later he shouted, ‘I got it! That’s great!’ and we gave each other a huge ‘high five.’”



Rev. Heavey concludes: "With all the youngsters who visited, this is the only instance that made this Advent message powerfully personal in this young man's life. He acknowledged and affirmed the reason for the season by responding with great joy! I also believe that this Advent event cracked the door just a bit so, in future events we are planning, others will come to know and join us."

- On Sunday November 22, **The Community Church of Sandwich, NH**, received ten new members into fellowship. They are Jeff & Mary Fleischmann, Rich & Deb Kumpf, Jim & Laurie Norman, Jack & Charlotte Paddleford, and Adam & Kendra Peaslee.

For those of you on Facebook in New Hampshire, check out the following Facebook page and consider "Liking" it: *Wish List NH*. *Wish List NH* is an ecumenical, community outreach that seeks to match severely needy families with the extra clothes, shoes, and gear we all have lying around. In its two years of existence this network has assisted children and adults representing 139 families.