



January & February 2012

The Mountain View

A Newsletter of Monadnock Covenant Church

2012 Budget and Congregational Meeting

January 22, 2012

- Proposed Budget available for ALL members and friends of MCC to review

January 29, 2012

- Budget Information / Discussion Meeting, 9:00-9:45 am, Monadnock Room – ALL are welcome

February 4, 2012

- Annual Meeting gathering. ALL members and friends are invited to an evening of fellowship around a shared meal, a time of worship, and decision making of our stewardship of our resources – time, talent and treasure – for the ministry of 2012. All are welcome to contribute ideas and comments. Only members may vote on the various items under consideration.

Pastor's Pen

One of the unique and welcome characteristics that is often identified by people who visit with us on Sunday mornings is that people in our church seem to be "authentic." The word that is most often used in their comments is "real." I suspect that one of the reasons that our church has this reputation is that we have always welcomed questions... especially tough questions. In keeping with that character trait, the series of messages given on Sunday mornings from now until the beginning of Lent, will focus on some of the toughest questions that people have asked over the years about the Christian Faith. Among them are the following: If God is 'good' why is there suffering in the world? Can I believe in God without totally rejecting the evidence of science? Is Jesus really the only way to God? Since Church History is littered with acts of violence and oppression, why would I want to be a Christian?

Hopefully, the answers to these and other questions will strengthen the faith of people who are already followers of Jesus. But they also have the potential to connect with people who have been resistant to the gospel because they've never heard a biblical response to them. If there is someone in your circle of relationships who might benefit from the series, please consider inviting him or her to join you for a worship service on Sunday morning. And, if you have a question that you've always wondered about, but have never felt free to ask, please send it to me via e-mail (gmcgrath@ne.rr.com) or call me on my office phone. I'd be delighted to take your question into consideration as I prepare for Sunday mornings.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Respectfully,

Garth McGrath

Council Members

Mark Pride, Chair

Bob DeJong, Vice Chair

Nancy Karlson, Treasurer

Karen Williams, Financial

Secretary

Annalee Timmer, Secretary

Hannah Arvidson, Children's
Ministries

Jim Condap, Worship

Ken Cook, Missions, Outreach &
Evangelism

Alice Funk, Prayer & Care

Jim Funk, Finance

Steve Gustafson, Property

Nate Manlove, Youth Ministries

Cheryl Stinson, Hospitality

Steve Toegel, Adult Christian
Formation

4th – 6th Graders to Attend Trailblazer Winter Retreat

On January 20th – 22nd, a group of 4th through 6th graders will participate in the Trailblazer Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Pines. There will be times of worship (the band includes adults & middle-schoolers), connecting with God, and fun as the group goes sledding, ice skating, and plays broomball.

The registration deadline is Sunday, January 15th. Contact Hannah Trombley at 831-0672, or at hannah_a719@hotmail.com for more information or to register.

CHIC 2012



July 15th-20th at our denomination's triennial event named CHIC (Covenant High In Christ), where there will be engaging gatherings with nationally known bands and teachers. You will have the opportunity grow in your faith, be trained and empowered to be change agents for the kingdom of God, all while connecting with others from around the nation and having new experiences. This will be a week that you do not want to miss! For more information contact Kevin Kokx at kevinkokx@gmail.com or visit the website www.chic2012.org.

by Kevin Kokx, Youth Pastor

Parents and High School Students: Join us for an exciting gathering on Sunday, January 15th beginning at 11:45 am, where you will hear about this summer's big trip to Knoxville, Tennessee. Thousands of High School students will be gathering this summer on

Junior High Winter Retreat

Pilgrim Pines will be the setting for the Junior High Winter Retreat, from Friday evening, February 24th through Sunday, February 26th. Come and celebrate winter at Pilgrim Pines! Students will have a chance to connect with God and to have a great time with friends.

The weekend will feature a great speaker and a great band leading us in worship. We are hoping the ice will be frozen and there will be some snow then so that we will also be able to enjoy ice skating, broom ball, sledding, tubing and snow sculpting.



Look for more information about the retreat and an opportunity to register to attend soon.

Stephen Ministry Training Nears Completion

by Ken and Sharon Cook

Nine lay persons are completing 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian Care. Your Stephen Ministers will be commissioned during the latter part of February. Your Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who will listen, encourage, understand, accept, keep confidence, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or a tough time.

In Stephen Ministry, a care receiver is someone who needs a Christian friend, a Stephen Minister, someone to care for them, someone they can trust, and someone who listens and cares and shares Christ's love.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, take the courageous step of seeking friendly help through a Stephen Minister. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through a confidential relationship with someone who will listen and be a presence for you. Please contact Pastor Garth or Pastor Ron or Ken and Sharon Cook.

We look forward to sharing the gift that Stephen Ministry will be to our church fellowship.

Thanks for Giving More

by Mark Pride, Church Chair

At the beginning of December, I expressed my appreciation for the increased giving we were experiencing in response to Pastor Garth's encouragement in October and our need to no longer depend on reserve funds to supplement our ministry budget. Here we are at the end of our church budget year and WOW!!...December may have been the highest monthly giving we have ever experienced here at MCC, exceeding \$62,000 dollars! The Lord has once again confirmed His blessing on the ministry of MCC for Christ and His Kingdom. In addition to this great giving, the Finance Committee, led by Jim Funk and Nate Alexander, has been working with National Covenant Properties to combine our two building loans and refinance at a lower interest rate, resulting in a substantial long-term savings and a substantial reduction in our budget expenses in this area. We are looking forward to sharing details during the budget presentation on January 29th and at the Annual Meeting on February 4th. Please make an effort to join us for both as we ponder the balance between avoiding a presumptuous and flippant attitude about God's provision and moving forward boldly in faith in God's ability to provide as we are good stewards of all that he has provided. Thank you for investing – practicing costly generosity – for Christ and His Kingdom.

Missionary Updates

Randy and Cheryl Bevis (Thailand) report that their camp project in Chiang Mai got a big boost in November when a team came to help with the construction of the meeting hall. The cement floors were poured and the deck was laid in place.

The other big project Randy will be working on in the coming year is setting up a fish feed mill at the hatchery. The mill will allow them to save up to 30% on feed costs. Proceeds from the sale of the fish feed will go to supporting their after-school project for underprivileged children who live in villages near the camp.

Daughter Elsie is developing her gift of leadership, and son Noah was able to travel to Chicago with Randy in October and visit aunts, uncles & cousins. The Bevis family is still in the process of adopting son Daniel, and ask prayer that it will be completed this year.


Grant and Miho Buchholtz (Japan) hosted two family Christmas events in December. They were also greatly encouraged by a visit from the pastor of their church outside Boston.

The Buchholtzes and their daughter Allie are currently in Boston. Please pray for discernment of how God is leading their ministry life, particularly in regard to their radiation concerns, as well as for rest from the stress of ministry.

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship, 10:15 am	2	3	4 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	5 Men's Group, 6:30 am	6 Senior High Students leave for Winterfest	7 Senior High Students at Winterfest
8 Worship, 10:15 am	9 Women's Study, 6:30 pm Red House	10 Mom's Bible Study, 9:15 am	11 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	12 Men's Group, 6:30 am Sacred Rhythms Study, 6:30 pm	13	14
15 Worship, 10:15 am CHIC Info Meeting, 11 45 am Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	16	17	18 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	19 Men's Group, 6:30 am Church council, 6:30 pm	20 4 th – 6 th Graders leave for Trailblazer Winter Retreat	21 4 th – 6 th Graders at Trailblazer Winter Retreat
22 Baptism Class, 9 am Worship, 10:15 am Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	23 Women's Study, 6:30 pm Red House	24	25 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	26 Men's Group, 6:30 am Sacred Rhythms Study, 6:30 pm	27	28
29 Budget Mtg, 9 am Worship, 10:15 am Salt & Pepper gathering, 1:30 pm Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	30	31				

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	2 Men's Group, 6:30 am	3	4  Pot Luck Dinner & Congregational Meeting, 5 pm
5 Worship, 10:15 am Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	6	7	8 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	9 Men's Group, 6:30 am Sacred Rhythms Study, 6:30 pm	10	11
12 Worship, 10:15 am Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	13 Women's Study, 6:30 pm Red House	14 Mom's Bible Study, 9:15 am	15 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	16 Men's Group, 6:30 am Church council, 6:30 pm	17	18
19 Worship, 10:15 am Youth Group, 6-7:30 pm	20	21	22 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm	23 Men's Group, 6:30 am Sacred Rhythms Study, 6:30 pm	24 Junior High Students leave for Winter Retreat	25 Junior High Students at Winter Retreat
26 Worship, 10:15 am Salt & Pepper gathering, 1:30 pm	27 Women's Study, 6:30 pm Red House	28	29 Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 pm			

**Monadnock
Covenant Church**

Phone:
603-352-6816

**We are striving
to become
genuine followers
of Jesus Christ
in our personal
lives,
our homes,
our church,
and our world.
Please join us on
the journey.**



**Annual Meeting and Budget
Reminders**

by Mark Pride, Church Chair

As Chair of MCC, I would like to ask you to note the dates of the budget discussion, January 29th, 9 am, in the Monadnock Room, and the Annual Meeting, February 4th, 5 pm for dinner, worship, and business, and make every effort to attend both.

We will have some important decisions to make concerning final budget numbers, compensation for our pastors, and the expansion of our Youth Ministry using monies from the Covenant Foundation Grant and a recent, designated gift for the Youth Pastor's work of \$6,500. We will also be presenting a number of people who wish to become members of MCC and voting on Council members for 2012. This is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company, give praise and thanksgiving to God for all He is doing here at MCC, and consider the ministry opportunities before us for 2012.



**Thanks to December Meal
Providers**

by Alice Funk

A big thank you to all who stepped up, or should I say "cooked up," and provided a meal for the families who were in need during December. I was overwhelmed with the generosity that our church provided. Thank you from each person who received a meal – they were more than filled with your warmth of food and spirit.



MCC Office News

We welcome Sheryl Duncan as the new Administrative Assistant. She and her husband, Reuben, and three sons, Trevor, Christopher, and Patrick have been worshipping with us for about a year and a half now.

Please note the new church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm and Friday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The office phone is (603) 352-6816 and the office e-mail is mccoffice@ne.rr.com.

**Monadnock Covenant Church
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