



# Gospel Truth

Newsletter of the Alexandria United Methodist Church • 12 Washburn Road Alexandria NH 03222 Oct. 2015

## His Hands and Feet By Debra Blouin

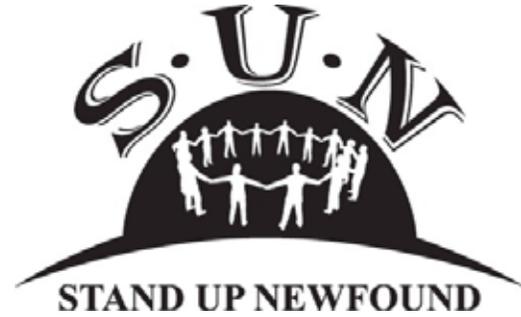


Our Mission Team is in full swing! Our meeting time has just changed to the first Sunday of the month directly after church services at the church ~ 10:30am. All are welcome!

First off, a HUGE **Thank You** as The Fair was a great success! You all increased your giving at our fair and that helps us to be the present and effective Hands and Feet of Jesus in our community and beyond! Thank you so much to all of you that made this event such a fun filled, loving and successful day!!

Over the last handful of months we have been quite busy. Some of our local children were able to attend Christian summer camps and participate in youth events through your generous support. Our monthly dinners have been well supported, thank you so much! Come on out the first Saturday of the month for a scrumptious meal! We have also been able to help our local children by collecting and providing items for the elementary school such as undergarments and footwear. Thank you so much to all that gave! We are currently underway helping the middle school by collecting warm socks and gloves/mittens for the colder months. Keep your eyes open for those deals! Items can be brought to the church in support of this mission. Our church congregation also battled it out in a "Food Fight"! This "fight" had the different seating areas of the congregation battling to bring in the most nonperishable items for BCS. Our little church also participated in the rotation of supplying meals for the local Habitat for Humanity builds! We are participating in the Laconia Pumpkin Fest too! We have reached out to our NAC family Christian Ed leaders to come help us carve pumpkins on Wed Oct 21st in our Fellowship Hall 5p-7p. We are hopeful that this event will be the first of many ecumenical events to come!! Coming up this month also, is the Fall Festival on the 30th to benefit Stand Up Newfound! So many things going on!

AUMC Missions will also be working with the schools, Bristol Community Services, and Century 21 with the Secret Santa program. Please let us know if you are aware of someone that needs help through this upcoming holiday season. We will also be working with our Sunday school on a Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Christmas Mission!



**Be the Change You Want To See In the World**

Stand Up Newfound is a grass roots coalition striving to work together to eliminate substance misuse in our community through community awareness, prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. SUN urges anyone who wishes to be part of the coalition to join. Your ideas, resources, hopes and dreams for this community are important! Join the vision of working together to eliminate substance misuse for a healthy, prosperous, and connected community. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 8am at the TTCC, and the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the TTCC. Check out their Facebook page too!

## Helping Hunger \*Reminders\*

- The first Saturday of the month at 5pm you can enjoy a great meal and fellowship right in our own Fellowship Hall.
- The **TTCC** also sponsors the Food for Friends meals provided at the BUCC from 5-6 pm the first Thursday of every month.
- We continuously collect non-perishable items for BCS on one of The Giving Chairs in the sanctuary entrance.

## The Church Tent at our Annual Church Fair

This year we added a Church Tent at our Annual Fair. Our sign, which was crafted by our own Tom Larson, says it all, "Alexandria United Methodist Church—Where we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus".

At our tent, we were able to give away 10 Children's Bibles, 10 Teenage Bibles, 5 Celebrate Recovery Bibles, along with a few others (all Bibles were given to us by the NH Bible Society). We also were able to give away 11 prayer shawls/blankets, with prayers attached, to people to give to their loved ones. We had our Elder/Disabled helps brochure available, Alexandria UMC pens, and personal first aid kits (donated to us by the Senior Center). We felt it was a huge success in reaching out to our community with tangible gifts to enhance people's spiritual journey and we look forward to offering it again next year!



## A Note from Pastor Deb



Last year, when the Newsletter came out around this time, I was still "new"...new to the area, new to the church. It has been a wonderful year, and I no longer feel "new", but rather, I feel at home. I thank the Alexandria UMC commu-

nity for this, as they have welcomed me with open arms. That's not to say that we agree on everything, but who does? :) But we are able to work together, sharing our diversity, our differences knowing we are united in Jesus Christ. It has been a year of change, not just for me and my family, but for the church as well

as we dove into some new ministries like starting up the Prayer Shawl Ministry, providing lunches for the Habitat Humanity build in Bristol, providing rides to people in Alexandria to their appointments, adding a Church Tent to the Fair, and now most recently, offering a community Fall Festival where all donations will be given to Stand up Newfound, a new coalition in the area to help educate and bring the community together around the substance misuse issue, focusing on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

It is my prayer that we continue to ask God what God will have us do and who God will have us be in this community. It is my honor and privilege to be a servant leader at Alexandria United Methodist Church, working with all the other servant leaders to build a stronger community of faith that strengthens its own Spiritual journey while inviting others to strengthen theirs.

## Women's Aid

All women are welcome to join us.  
the **2nd Tuesday of each month**  
(except July) at 10am.

Bring a bag lunch and we'll supply coffee,  
dessert and fun!

We are actively making  
things for our upcoming  
**Christmas Fair December 12th.**

**If you have any handmade items you'd  
like to donate for the fair (or cookies)  
please contact anyone of the ladies.**



### **Election of officers was held Oct. 13.**

The new slate of officers are as follows:  
President: ..... Deb Braley  
Vice President: ..... Margaret Clayman  
Treasurer: ..... Merry Ruggirello  
Assistant Treasurer: ..... Sandra Hutchins  
Recording Secretary: ..... Linda Locke  
Assist. Recording Sec.: ... Sandra Hutchins  
Corresponding Secretary: ... Liz Flanders  
Devotional Leader: ..... June Flanders

## Skip's New Book

Our own Skip Vaccarello has written a wonderful new book. **Finding God in Silicon Valley** is about how God is working in the lives of people in Silicon Valley—venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, leaders of major companies, innovators in non-profit start-ups, scientists, and technologists. You will be inspired and challenged as you read the very personal stories.

We can help promote it by purchasing it online at Amazon on Oct 30!



## Annual Church Conference Upcoming

This year our annual church conference will be on October 28th at 6pm. Please come and join us to learn about the future of the United Methodist Church and how it relates to Alexandria. This is often a time when we all discuss the future of the church in the coming year and our visions for it. We have some new and exciting mission activities in the community such as the 'Prayer Shawl Ministry' and some continuing and improved older ones such as community suppers and bible study. We also support several or-

ganizations in the community. This year's church conference will be a little different since we will not be having District Superintendent David Abbott with us but an elder named Rebecca Girrell. Pastor of Lebanon United Methodist Church, Becca is active in the United Methodist Church and New England conference. Please come and join us at the church in this worship style business meeting. All are welcome.

## Visit Our Website

For more information on church activities and happenings, visit our website. Please note that our website domain alexandriachurch.org is no longer in service but our

**NEW website domain alexandriachurchnh.org** has all the same information including our church events calendar, and help resources, bible study.





The Sunday School is enjoying a wonderful ministry of teaching and learning this autumn season. Our teachers and students are now engaged in the fall curriculum.

On Wednesday, October 21st at 5pm we will be carving pumpkins for the Laconia Pumpkin Festival. Come join us!

The holidays will soon be upon us! Come join us for fun, games, costumes and snacks on Friday, October 30th from 5-7. A wonderful music festival will follow at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Look for Christmas shoeboxes as part of "Samaritan's Purse" mission in and around the programs at our church. We will be delivering them to the collection location in Plymouth during the week of November 16-23. Stop by and see what we are doing! Let's spread the good news together!

Sunday School is held every Sunday at 10:15. We hope to see you there!

Blessings to you and your families and friends .  
You are loved.  
Warmly,

*Sunday School Staff and the children.*

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

As we got our finances in better order several years ago, a fund was created, at the pastor's request, to allow the pastor to have some wiggle room for helping those in the community who were down on their luck and had immediate needs. The pastor is allowed to give a small set amount (established by the church council without asking permission) to use at their discretion to help out a person or family as the pastor sees a need. Anything above and beyond that amount is to be approved by the council as emergencies come up, or the pastor will look to community resources for help where it may be needed. When we as the church set up this account, we did not specify how the funds would be replenished and when it draws low, as it is now, the council often has to approve money to be added to it. Winter and the holidays are coming and these are usually times when requests for assistance become more prominent. As this is considered a mission in the community, our newly established mission fund is where we are likely to draw from. This is an immediate needs fund so all money added to it is always used for those who are not having their basic needs met.

Please consider next time you are in search of a great cause to donate to, giving to this fund by noting it specifically on your donation "Pastor's Discretionary Fund". Pastor Deb does keep confidential records and notes for herself for her own accountability, safety, and peace of mind. Our 'Hannaford Mission' restricted food cards are also used in conjunction with this fund.

We can never tell how deep the needs are from month to month but they can be great.

## The 'Hannaford' Mission

How would you like to help out local families in need just by doing your grocery shopping? Well, you can and here's how it works. Hannaford has a bulk order gift card fundraising program for nonprofit organizations to help with their budgets and raising extra funds. The primary condition of the program is the nonprofit needs to have an order of more than \$1000 in order to receive the 5% fundraising return in the form of restricted food cards from Hannaford. Every month (although we could do it as little or as often as needed) Alexandria UMC submits an order to Hannaford after the second Sunday of the month. These orders consist of "bulk gift card loads and reloads" for existing gift card holders and/or any new gift cards needed by first time participants. Simply write out a check made payable to Alexandria UMC for the amount you would like loaded onto your card and your order for your paid amount will be recorded and submitted to Hannaford. As soon as it is phoned into the main office and loaded up, do your grocery shopping with at Shop 'n Save or Hannaford stores until it is gone. The specified amount you designated will be put



on your gift card that you then use when you purchase any groceries or household items at Hannaford doing your normal shopping. Yes, even alcohol or cigarettes qualify as long as you didn't charge up a restricted gift card. Lottery purchases are the only exception. It does take about a week for new cards gift cards (initially) to be received in the mail or you can use an existing used Hannaford gift card to avoid the wait. Alexandria UMC receives 5% in extra funds from Hannaford of our total bulk gift card order back in \$25+/- incremental restricted non-alcohol/tobacco gift cards. These cards are used as a local mission tool by the Pastor to help those in immediate need of food. To sum up:

you spend your household grocery money as you normally would using a gift card and Hannaford sends the church a 5% return to help out those who are down and out in our community at no extra expense to the church or the gift card program participants. \$1000 order = \$50 bonus cards ~ \$1200 order = \$60 in bonus cards

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## Special Times of Worship

### **All Saints Day: Sunday, November 19 AM**

This is a time of worship devoted to remembering those who have gone to the next part of their eternal life before us. There will be special music, and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of our loved one/s.

### **Thanksgiving Worship: Sunday, November 22 9 AM**

This is a time of worship devoted to giving thanks to God for all our blessings. There will be a time to write down what you are thankful for...between you and God...and bring it forward to place on a "Thankful Tree".

### **Advent – The 4 Weeks Leading Up to Christmas**

This is a season when we can get especially busy, shopping, baking, wrapping, writing out cards, decorating, etc., and we can miss the joy and peace of the real meaning of this season. We hope you will consider taking time away from the hustle and bustle and worship the God who sent his Son to us for our salvation. There are a couple ways you can do this.

### **You can worship with us on the Sunday mornings of Advent beginning with Sunday, November 29, when we hold our "Hanging of the Greens" worship.**

This is a day when we decorate our sanctuary during worship, while remembering the symbols of the decorations.

### **The following 3 Sundays of Advent, (Dec. 6, 13, 20)**

we will be exploring a series entitled,  
***"Embracing Tradition While Expecting New Birth"***.

All worship begins at 9 AM.

During Advent, the Newfound Area Churches (NAC) hold a special mid-week Advent worship that begins at noon and invites you to share in a light lunch after worship:

Wed. Dec. 2	Our Lady of Grace
Wed. Dec. 9	Alexandria UMC
Wed. Dec. 16	Bristol UCC
Wed. Dec. 23	Hebron UCC

**Christmas Eve** will be a traditional candlelight worship, on Thursday, Dec. 24th at 7 PM.