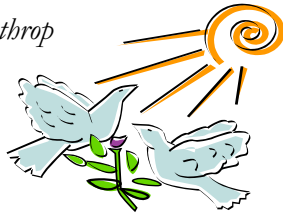


CHURCH NEWS

by Hope Lothrop



Nelson Congregational Church

On May 31st we celebrated the Confirmation of five wonderful young people: Elena Mednick, Eric Bower, Ryan French, Kristofer Olson and Jesse Garrett-Larsen. Throughout the year there were many who taught the Confirmation Classes and each confirmand had an adult mentor. Mentors were Pamela White, Warren Hammack, Susan Peery, Lew Derby, Judi Lang and Sara Shepherd.

We are changing how we do the Farmers Market. The table will be set-up each Sunday down stairs in Henry Melville Hall and will be available during the church service hours. This will make it easier as far as set-up and take-down. If you wish to make a contribution to the table with vegetables, fruits, jams or jellies or flowers.

You are welcome to stop in. Donations for produce purchased will go directly into our Community of Angels jar. These funds are used for needs within our own community so please give generously.

Dawn will be attending the UCC General Synod at the end of June. For the Synod, our congregation participated in a program of creating a "Candle Cloth". This is a quilted block approximately 20" square that has a prayer written on the back. It can be placed under, beside or near a prayer candle. Our cloth will be given to another participating church at the Synod. Dawn will bring one made by a different congregation back for our church. So Candle Cloths will be distributed throughout churches who participate in the program.

June 7 marked the culmination of the Sunday School year with Children's Sunday. The children led the worship service celebrating stewardship of the earth. Recognition was given to all those who helped with teaching this year.

The summer Ice Cream Social and Nelson Town Band Concert will be held on the church lawn July 12 at 5:00 pm. The end of summer Ice Cream Social will be September 6 at 3:00 pm. Don't miss either one!! Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy great ice cream, fellowship and super music!!! The band has

been practicing several new pieces.

The Old Home Day Chicken BBQ will be August 15 at 12 noon. The complete dinner with a half chicken will cost \$9 and the dinner with a quarter chicken will be \$6.

Chapel-by-the-Lake

Worship services are at 10:00 a.m. with Bible Study following the Worship service.

The Saturday morning Knitting Club is taking a break for the summer so that the Learning and Doing classes can be held. These classes are not just for kids!! Call Marlene Leotta 446-7857 or Marion Frazier 847-3231 for more information on the various workshops.

On June 20 we held our annual yard sale. It was a great success and thanks to all who donated items, worked setting up, and organized.

The 4th of July Chicken BBQ will be held as always! Be sure to order your chickens early as there are not very many extras left over. So plan ahead and give your order to Leonard or Marion Frazier by calling 847-3231. Chickens are \$4.50 this year.

If you have not done so already, please check out our website www.chapelbythelakeumc.org. You will find useful information, our calendar, and tips on how to make your worship and faith experience more meaningful. For example, try our Essential 100 Challenge that is a new, more exciting way to read through the Bible. It is based on short Bible passages - 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament - that help you get the big picture without getting bogged down. Check out all the details on how to meet the challenge on our website.



Salamander helpers Kathy Schillemat, Phil Brown & Susan Hansel.

AMPHIBIANS

(continued from page 1)

amphibians die each year crossing roads, and this time of increased activity is especially dangerous. Luckily, they have many advocates looking out for them, and in Nelson these guardian angels are led by Kathy Schillemat.

Kathy, under the guidance of Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO), leads a brigade of amphibian crossing guards on the Nelson/Harrisville Road, covering a hot spot between the gazebo and Tolman Pond Road. Encased in rain coats and armed with flashlights and checklists, this band of hardy volunteers gladly spends a night or two outside in a chilly rain, shepherding frogs, toads and salamanders safely across the road. Each amphibian is tallied and reported to Kathy. Here are the totals for 2009:

April 3: 137 crossings, including spotted salamanders, redback salamanders, newts, wood frogs, spring peepers, pickerel frogs, and one gray tree frog. 16 volunteers participated.

April 21: 119 crossings, including spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers. 9 volunteers participated and were able to witness spotted salamanders 'congressing' in pools right next to the road (congressing is where males court females in an aquatic swarm of salamanders and is a pretty amazing sight).

All in all, the dedicated volunteers of the Nelson Salamander Crossing Brigade assisted in 256 crossings and had a great time doing it. Their effort was in concert with many other groups around Cheshire County, and the combined results are impressive: 120 volunteers crossed 4,300 amphibians at ten sites throughout southwest New Hampshire.

For more information on salamander crossings and the many other great projects AVEO is spearheading, visit their website at <http://keeneweb.org/aveo/>. If you would like to become a member of the Nelson Salamander Crossing Brigade, contact Kathy at kschillemat@yahoo.com.

At five minutes and six seconds after 4 AM on the 8th of July this year, the time and date will be 04:05:06 07/08/09