

July 3, 2009

In keeping with the ancient covenant of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, Sanbornton, NH: "For the worship of God and the welfare of all," their Mission and Senior Outreach Committees try to help others in many areas of need and in times of disaster. To accomplish this they use their time, talents, money and selves. *Some of the church projects include:* preparation and serving of meals at the "Bread and Roses Kitchen," contributions to area food pantries, working on Habitat for Humanity homes, donating clothing to and volunteering at The Thrift Clothes Closet. With their neighbors at the First and Second Baptist Churches, they organize, prepare and serve Sunday dinners for Seniors that provide elderly citizens with opportunities to socialize as well as good food twice a month in return for a small donation. They sponsor Twin Rivers Community Volunteers: an agency of the church that supplies drivers who use their own cars to take elderly, disabled persons to medical appointments and shopping as well.

Series 1—2 Samuel 3:1-12 Abner pledges support to David

2 Corinthians 10:7-11 Paul's bodily presence is weak

Series 2— Jeremiah 7:16-26 Walk in the ways God commands

2 Corinthians 10:7-11 Paul's bodily presence is weak

Our Church's Wider Mission: It's Who We Are

July 4, 2009—Independence Day

An Independence Day Prayer from an online worship resource "Worship Ways"

"Common Prayer"

Our Father-Mother, who lives in and beyond all of creation, may your name be made holy. May your commonwealth thrive, may your justice be done, may your loving compassion reign in every season. Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; in every trial strengthen us, in the midst of evil deliver us. For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Series 1— 2 Samuel 3:31-38 David mourns Abner's death

Matthew 8:18-22 The cost of discipleship

Psalm 48 God our guide

Series 2— Jeremiah 7:27-34 Disobeying the voice of the Lord

Matthew 8:18-22 The cost of discipleship

Psalm 123 Our eyes look to you, O God

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2009 A Calendar of Prayer for the United Church of Christ

Healing Powers

June 28, 2009

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper-8



Parkinson's disease is a slowly progressive movement disorder, characterized by tremors of the arms and legs, stiffness of the muscles, and slowness of movement. There is no known cause or cure for the illness, though constant advances in medicine and surgery have helped many to live and cope with the Parkinson's symptoms.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Little Tokyo is a community outreach program of the Union Church of Los Angeles and welcomes all regardless of faith or ethnicity. The group meets on the fourth Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Meeting in the church fellowship hall, persons with Parkinson's disease, their caregivers, and families gather together to learn more about the illness and of new developments in its treatment. They also find out how to cope with disorder by sharing common experiences and relationships with family and friends. Meetings activities include; guest speakers, low-intensity exercises, group discussions, information on upcoming Parkinson's events and of course refreshments.

Series 1

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Lamentation over Saul and Jonathan

Psalm 130 Out of the depths have I called

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Excel in generosity, following Jesus

Mark 5: 21-43 Christ heals a woman and Jairus' daughter

Series 2

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 Humankind made for immortality or Lamentations 3: 23-33 Great is God's faithfulness

Psalm 30 You have lifted me up

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Excel in generosity, following Jesus

Mark 5: 21-43 Christ heals a woman and Jairus' daughter

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June 29, 2009

The Center for Enriched Communication, located in Mesa County, Colorado, is a mission partner of the United Church of Christ Rocky Mountain Conference and is supported in part by the Rocky Mountain Conference OCWM giving. The Center provides professional outpatient mental health treatment on a sliding fee scale for low-income, under/uninsured families and individuals. It also provides two therapeutic support groups for children in elementary school. The first program is the Power-Aid program, for children who have witnessed or been the victim of domestic violence, helping children to "break the secret" of abuse, by teaching them how to stay safe, along with strengthening their self-esteem. The second program is the Gold COIN program that serves children whose parents are incarcerated as well as dealing with the issue of domestic violence and abuse. Through the Centers many programs healing powers are felt by all.

Series 1— 1 Samuel 23: 14-18 David will be king

2 Corinthians 8: 16-24 The administration of generous gifts

Series 2— Leviticus 21: 1-15 Dead bodies are unclean

2 Corinthians 8: 16-24 The administration of generous gifts

CENTERING PRAYER (June 25—July 1, 2009)

Series 1— God of hope, you are ruler of night as well as day, guardian of those who wander in the shadows. Be new light and life for those who live in the darkness of despair, for prisoners of guilt and grief, for victims of fantasy and depression, that even where death's cold grip tightens, we may know the power of the one who conquered fear and death. Amen.

Series 2—Companion in life and death, your love is steadfast and never ends: our weeping may linger with night, but you give joy in the morning. Touch us with your healing grace that, restored to wholeness, we may live out our calling as your resurrection people. Amen.

June 30, 2009

Leprosy is a word synonymous with rejection. The fear of contagion was so high, leper colonies were set up in countries all over the world to keep those afflicted separate from the general public. In 1931, the Patronato de Leptosos del Paraguay was started by a Disciple of Christ minister, the Reverend Malcolm L. Norment. The Patronato provided a safe place for leprosy patients who were abandoned by traditional hospitals. Improved medication in the 1960s and 70s brought about the closing of leper colonies and the treatment of leprosy on an outpatient basis. The Patronato, through a different ministry, still offers medical services to its patients and their families. Global Ministries has supported this project during its 75 years of service, however, staff reductions and financial struggles have brought the clinic's future into question.

Series 1—1 Samuel 31:1-13 Saul and his sons die

2 Corinthians 9:1-5 Voluntary gifts, not extortion

Psalms 18: 1-6, 43 – 50 Steadfast love to God's anointed

Series 2—Leviticus 15:19-31 Bleeding women are unclean

2 Corinthians 9:1-5 Voluntary gifts, not extortion

Psalms 88 Prayer for restoration

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2009 A Calendar of Prayer for the United Church of Christ

July 1, 2009

UCC Conferences are discerning strategies to claim and proclaim: "Now Is the Time for New Church Development." From the Southeast Conference's "Nehemiah Initiative: Building Transformational Churches in Our Still Speaking World," to "Make the Vision Plain: Church Development in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference" ... from Illinois Conference's "LEEAP" (Local Evangelism, Envisioning and Planting) to "The 20/20 Vision: 20 New Churches for the New York Conference, UCC by the Year 2020" ... these and others offer bold, strong, Spirit-filled plans to plant new churches where the need is great. Receipts from the Strengthen the Church offering help to provide healing and transformation in communities where there has not been a UCC presence.

Series 1—1 Chronicles 10:1-14 Jonathan's death

Mark 9:14-29 Jesus heals a child

Series 2—2 Kings 20:1-11 God heals Hezekiah

Mark 9:14-29 Jesus heals a child

CENTERING PRAYER (July 2—July 8, 2009)

Series 1- Guardian of the weak, through the teachings of your prophets you have claimed our cities, towns, and homes as temples of your presence and citadels of your justice. Turn the places we live into strongholds of your grace, that the most vulnerable as well as the most powerful among us may find peace in the security that comes in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Series 2—God of grace and powerful weakness, at times your prophets were ignored, belittled, and unwelcome. Trusting that we, too, are called to be prophets, fill us with your Spirit, and support us by your gentle hands, that we may persevere in speaking your word and living our faith. Amen.

July 2, 2009

There is a growing need for trained nurses throughout India, and the Tilda Nursing School is doing its best to keep up, graduating some of the finest caregivers in the country. What they cannot keep up with is the need for hostel space to accommodate nursing candidates. The nursing school is part of the Tilda Evangelical Mission Hospital – a ministry which teaches a holistic approach to wellness. These "angels of mercy" provide care for those who are too often neglected and marginalized in India. Global Ministries is working to supply funds for nursing students. Our prayer, O God, is for the healers of this world. May they find the shelter and care they so freely give.

Series 1—2 Samuel 2:1-11 David becomes king of Judah

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 We are weak, but you are strong

Psalms 48 God our guide

Series 2—Jeremiah 7:1-15 Do not trust deceptive words

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 We are weak, but you are strong

Psalms 123 Our eyes look to you, O God

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