



A Week's Donation to the Food Pantry! Thank you!

## August 2026 Newsletter (and more)

It was a blessing to have everyone gather around Sue Miner and Chuck Neff to pray for their move to a new home and life together in Pennsylvania. And it was a blessing to have you all pray for me to as I start my two month sabbatical leave this coming Friday. I had a couple of people again ask about sabbaticals this past week. So let me briefly re-iterate what I wrote last month as well as who all is doing what while I am gone.

Both sabbaticals and vacations are opportunities to take a break from work. But there is a distinct difference. Think of the word “sabbath”. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, God established the sabbath day not because God needed to physically rest after working all week creating the world, but to simply be. To step back and take delight in it. To have fellowship with human beings (and perhaps other critters too!) “And God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

So the sabbath is a sacred time. A time when one intentionally detaches from the day to day grind and the worries and pressures that weigh on us, to simply be. To be content in the moment. To take time to pray and reflect and broaden our perspectives. To enjoy the beauty of nature and to share joyous meals and time with loved ones. Sabbaths – whether one day a week or for several months, help reset our compass. I am planning to do all those things – to sit outside with a cup of coffee in the morning and listen to the birds. To walk in the woods and do some paddling on the lakes and ocean. To visit some family and friends I haven't seen for a very long time. To read and reflect on some of the books piled on my end table. And yes, to rest.

I can take this time, thanks to you all, and especially Michele and Miriam, confident that all will be well and if challenges arise you will face them together supporting one another.

So let me reiterate some essential notes:

Unlike my regular days off, *I will not be checking or responding to parish related calls and emails*. So it will be important to take note of who is doing what and what help is still needed:

Michele Quinn and Miriam Acevedo will be leading Sunday morning worship.

- **Michele will be drafting up the Sunday bulletins** for each week. *If any announcements need to be made, email or put in writing to her two weeks in advance* to make sure the word gets out to everyone. (Sunday verbal announcements only reaches a portion of the congregation.) This includes any announcements about the craft fair, group meetings, outreach efforts, tasks that need volunteers.
- **For pastoral emergencies, or just general pastoral care, contact Miriam.** If people would like a visit, home communion, or could use a card or phone call, you can also contact Elaine Clark who is heading up the Prayer and Care team.
- **Carla Boucher will be checking office emails and phone calls**, running off the Sunday bulletins, and getting the mail.
- **Opening and closing the church**  
Dianna Chamberlain (or Miriam) will be opening up the church on Sunday mornings. The Ogins and Yunkers will be setting up tables and chairs for coffee hour during August, but we'll need folks to do that in September. If it is easier for you, you can set up the tables and put the chairs on top (so person who cleans can mop the floor late Saturday afternoon or evening) either Friday or Saturday, or grab someone to help you before church Sunday morning!  
*We also need people to make sure the church is closed up* (ie: lights and AC off, doors locked. It only takes a few minutes. If you are the last one to leave, please do this!  
There is a check list on the hallway table you can use that also tells you how to unlock and lock the doors, making it quick and easy.
- **Getting into the church:** Since the church will normally be locked, Sunday mornings will be the best time to drop off raffle ticket stubs or pick up more, or drop off raffle baskets or food for the pantry. But if you need to get into the church during the week you can take home the check off list with the code to get into the key box for the door or contact one of the wardens.
- **Property issues**, contact Richard Boucher.
- **Financial issues:** George Ogin
- **Craft fair:** Mike Brady and Marion Amber
- **Other parish related matters:** your wardens – Elaine Clark and Richard Boucher.

Hang onto this newsletter so you know who and how to contact for various needs.

Thank you so much for granting me the gift of a sabbatical leave! I'll be back Sunday October 4!

Peace and all good,

Carolyn

**OUTREACH**

**August outreach – TBA.** Normally during August we supply Lancaster and Soule schools with whatever supplies they feel they need for kids. So far Diane Kay has not been able to reach them (staff are often out during July). If there are needs, Diane will let you all know! So keep tuned.

**September outreach – Lazarus House Ministries**

Lazarus House's "Walk for Hope" (used to be "Hike") will be September 19. Lawrence as we know is a very impoverished city. Lazarus House provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, a thrift shop, and in 2025 served over 7,000 meals in their soup kitchen and handed out 85,000 bags of groceries out of its food pantry. The needs are enormous! Denise Lebreque and Micki Lablanc both worked there for many years. So let's again generously sponsor them as they "Walk for Hope"! (Make your checks out to St. David's.)

**October outreach – ChIPs (Children of Incarcerated Persons)**

Every year the diocese of NH provides a book and a toy for children whose parents are in prison. For now I'll post the information on the hallway bulletin board (please check before buying anything – lots of restrictions apply!) I'm letting you know this now since the diocese will be collecting these items earlier this year, on Saturday Oct. 24. So all the gifts need to be at the church no later than Thursday Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Bread of Life Food Pantry:** Keep the donations coming! A current list is on the table in the hallway.

**Sweet Paws Rescue:** Sweet Paws is a pet rescue agency that Carla Boucher is familiar with. The agency is hosting a collection drive for gently used sneakers with shoelaces. The funds generated will help animals in need. A collection box is in the front hallway.

*HAPPENINGS coming up August into the fall*

**Ham and Bean Supper** - Thank you for all your help making the dinner a success in every sense of the word – good food, good fellowship, and about \$700 raised for the church thanks to your generous donations of food. Special thanks to Bob Habeeb who coordinated the dinner!

**Chili and Cornbread Supper**

A while back we had a congregational meeting about two possible additional fundraisers and set up dates. The Chili Supper is tentatively scheduled for Sat Nov 7. What is needed is a "coordinator" to get things rolling (asking for a team of volunteers to help with menu planning, food prep, set up tickets and advertising). This should be a fairly easy meal for the congregation to put on, but having that point person and some others to help with planning and ideas should be in place no later than immediately after the craft fair. Please let the wardens know if you'd like to help. Otherwise we'll find ourselves scrambling to put something together at the last minute or not having it at all. Thank you!

### **St. Nicholas Chocolate Fest**

The other event the congregation chose to explore possibly doing is a St. Nicholas Chocolate Fest December 5<sup>th</sup>. Same need as the above but will take more advance planning since this would be something totally new for us to try.

**Zoom Bible Study:** There will be no meeting August and September.

**Book Club** – The Book Club meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 AM in the small meeting room. All are welcome to attend!

Upcoming books are:

Aug 27 – The Alice Notebook by Kate Quinn

Sept. 24 – The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

Oct. 22 – A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

**Craft Fair:** Now that we are in July, preparation for the Craft Fair goes into full gear.

- Solicitations: If you would like to help solicit donations from area businesses, speak with Mike Brady. Please do not go to a business to ask for a donation without checking with Mike first, so that we don't accidentally approach a business twice!
- A sign up sheet with suggested gift baskets for the raffle is posted in the upper hall. If you make a basket, on a Sunday you can give it to Judi Habeeb or leave it in Carolyn's office for Judi to pick up.
- 4 packets of Raffle tickets have been given or will be coming in the mail for you to buy or sell. Money and stubs can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings. There are also plenty more packets available! Lots of prizes!
- Marion reported we currently have 25 crafters! We need another 15! We need to apply now through the first week in September. Post on social media, put up flyers, go to craft fairs and collect crafters business cards so Marion can send an invitation and/or invite them to check out our website for information [stdavidsalemnh.org](http://stdavidsalemnh.org).
- When we get into August, our two great chef's – Eric and Richard will also be looking for people to prepare and serve food. We'll be looking for people to bake lots and lots of cookies for our famous cookie walk! Finally all hands on deck to help with set up, take down, and during the fair itself.

**Kid's Day** – Saturday September 26

**Blessing of Animals** – On October 4th, my first day back, Michele and I will be presenting the story of St. Francis for the sermon, and at 4PM we'll have our annual Blessing of Animals in front of the church.

### *2026 Officers and Vestry*

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*Other important contact information for sabbatical:*

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