

The Village Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk:
Why Local Mission Matters.



This Week's Lectionary Texts

12th Sunday after
Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

Sometimes people ask me whether or not it's okay to announce an event or need at a local organization. In the case of local non-profits, the answer I give is always "yes". I've always believed that church needs to support local groups that are doing good work in our community.

And, judging by the participation of members of our church in local non-profits, you feel the same way. This week I have had the chance to see three local organizations in action, and I was proud to see members of our church community active in all three places. It tells me that you all truly take the Gospel seriously.

First, in church last Sunday we all heard about the great need the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry has for food this summer. In most communities winter is the hardest time for food pantries. But, given our winter economy, summer is when our neighbors need the help the most.

So, what can we as West Dover Congregational do to help? The answer is actually pretty simple. As those who volunteer at the pantry have told us, they are most in need of canned soup, chili or tuna fish right now. If all of us who could brought even a can or two to church on Sunday, we'd be able to give the food pantry a significant amount of food. (continued)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 5 – Harriette Hamilton

July 5 - Mikie Schwartz

July 27 – The Kuruczs

July 29 – Chuck & Jill Gentilin

July 31 - Marge & John Thurber

Pastor's Note (continued)

Then, on Wednesday night, I went to a board meeting for Habitat for Humanity, an organization to which some of you have given great time and energy. I heard the story of how that organization has already built three houses, and is working on a fourth.

What can we do to help? Habitat is on site at the fourth house several days a week. One thing they need is adult volunteers. We might not all be master carpenters, but you don't need to be to help out. If you can carry some boards, help a carpenter out as they work, or paint, you can help this faith-based organization to make home ownership a reality for a deserving family.

On Friday morning I took a trip with other members of our congregation up to Kurn Hattin Homes. Originally founded by a Congregational minister, Kurn

Hattin is both a home and school for children who can not live with their families of origin. I was impressed by the work being done there, and by the obvious care that everyone there has for the residents. It is truly a remarkable place.

So, what can we do to help Kurn Hattin? Sally Mundell, one of our members, is a librarian there. One program she has started is to give kids who achieve a reading goal a book as a reward. For some of these kids, this will be the first book they have ever been given to keep. If you have a new, or nearly new, children's book you can bring it by the church and a child will be given the gift of reading.

Sometimes we ask "What difference can I make?" We can all make a difference. Here are three easy things you can do. To us, they may not cost much. But to the people benefitting, they are worth more than we'll ever know.

This Week's Link:

**DEERFIELD VALLEY
FOOD PANTRY**



We all know what great things Deerfield Valley Food Pantry does for our neighbors. But, did you know they have a website? Check out this site for more information on this great local organization and what you can do to help, or to receive help:

<http://www.vermontfoodpantry.com/>

Calendar

Sunday, July 18

Worship at WDCC, 9am
Coffee Hour, 10am
Bible Study, following coffee hour

Wednesday, July 21

Coffee Hour, 8-10am

Saturday, July

A.A., 8pm

Upcoming Events

Book Study, starting Tuesdays in August

A Reminder:

The Deerfield Valley Food Pantry needs donations in order to supply the growing need in our area. We have designated the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, as a canned food drive day. Please bring soup or tuna if you are able.

**STAYING
CONNECTED**

If you or a loved one are sick, hospitalized or in crisis please call the Rev. Emily Heath at (802) 258-1143 at any time.

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