



PILGRIM CHURCH



November 2017

From the Pastor...



At the end of this month I will be blessed to host my family and extended family for Thanksgiving, this year upwards of 14 people (maybe more!) gathered around one very long table, stretching end to end in the parsonage dining room. Five families will be represented. The youngest diner will be 14, the oldest 82. There will be mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes, turkey and gravy, carrots and brussell sprouts, fresh baked rolls and pecan pie, to name but a few of the delicacies gracing our feast. As in years past we will pray before the meal: give thanks to God for how much we have, remember with gratitude the folks and friends we have lost in the last year since we gathered. Pre-meal we will always worry about if there will be enough! Post meal there always seems to be more than enough and we often forget to trust in that truth, in abundance and God's sufficient grace. And it will be a great meal, not because it is out of the ordinary, or extraordinary, or some high falutin' gourmet extravaganza. It will be a good meal because we all chipped in, we all helped, we all feasted and we all sat at just one table.

Thank you God.

This month at Pilgrim Church we will be blessed as a church family and extended family to gather for our Thanksgiving meal, our season of Stewardship, when we all gather, 300 of us or so around one common table, and set the table for the year ahead. Set it with the gifts of time and talents and money each of us brings to this our community, to ensure we have enough to do God's work

"Let [us] thank the Lord for steadfast love, for wonderful works to humankind. For God satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry God fills with good things."
--Psalm 107

right here at 25 South Main Street and out in the world. Upwards of 180 families sit at our table, some having come to Pilgrim for 60 years, some for six months. The oldest among us approaches 100, the youngest just under one year. The table we set is overflowing! Inspiring worship and beautiful music; caring youth groups and committed church school kids and teachers; enthusiastic confirmands and longtime Bible Study friends; seniors who visit shut-ins and volunteers who house the homeless and feed the hungry. And always we pray, give thanks to God before our weekly feast and Sabbath. We remember the saints we've lost in the past year. And yes, we worry about whether or not we will raise enough money to do God's work and find the workers to do that work and yet: every year, somehow, God's grace is sufficient. It is a good meal because everyone chips in and helps, and we all sit at just one table called Pilgrim Church.

Thank you God.

Stewardship: it is as simple and basic as providing a meal for friends and family. Ensuring there is enough for everyone, that those who have more give more, that those who have differing gifts contribute in their own ways. And always we do it together.

Let the feast begin. Rooted In Faith. Connected Through Community. Called to Serve.

See you at the Table!

Peace, Pastor John

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

BY ANDY MEYER, MODERATOR

For those of you who were unavailable to join us for the recent Special Congregational Meeting, I thought I might summarize for you what was a very lively, very productive meeting.

Our first agenda item was discussion regarding a proposal to initiate a church accessibility project. Jim Campbell walked the congregation through the project which will include a new elevator, an improved drainage plan for the base of the elevator shaft area, and a power ramp for individuals travelling from the sanctuary to the 2nd floor classrooms.

Later, Steve Solomon described the fund raising program that will make the accessibility project possible. There is an anonymous matching family grant available which will provide up to \$150,000 for the project, provided the match is in place by the end of December. Steve shared his confidence with the congregation that while most of these matching funds have been raised, the balance will most surely follow. After the annual stewardship drive concludes in February, the congregation will hear from Steve regarding a fund raising effort for the balance of the project.

Last, Pastor John informed the congregation of his desire to include a mission component to these fund raising efforts. In this case, he proposed an amount of \$25,000.00 be raised to be expended by the Missions

Committee. After a fair amount of congregational debate, the main motion was amended so that these funds would be set aside only if and when the full amount of the project funds have been secured. The final motion to undertake this accessibility project passed with an overwhelming majority vote.

The second agenda item was discussion of the new Pilgrim Church welcoming statement. Frank Villa lead the congregation through the process that researched and ultimately drafted the new statement. After minimal discussion, the motion to approve the statement passed with a unanimous vote.

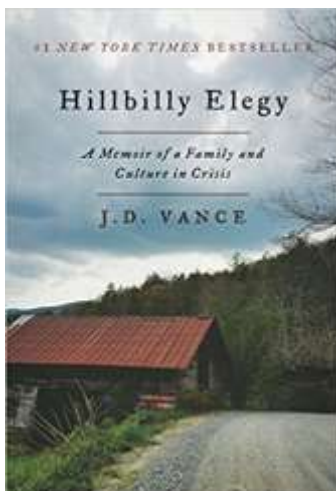
It would be safe to say that members of the congregation in attendance were grateful for the efforts of all of those who were responsible for these two initiatives.

As moderator, I am also grateful for these individual and collective efforts. There is most certainly an interconnection between a project that literally assists individuals of all abilities to enter into our cherished church, and a statement that extends to everyone a holy invitation from God to do so.

May God richly bless you all,

Andy Meyer
Moderator

Hillbilly Elegy Discussion Group: November 2, 7:30 pm



"...that is why I wrote this book. I want people to know what it feels like to nearly give up on yourself and why you might do it. I want people to understand what happens in the lives of the poor and the psychological impact that spiritual and material poverty has on their children. I want people to understand the American Dream as my family and I encountered it. I want people to understand how upward mobility really feels. And I want people to understand something I learned only recently: that for those of us lucky enough to live the American Dream, the demons of the life we left behind continue to chase us."— J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

But wanting to justify himself, [the lawyer] asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" --Luke 10

So much can separate us as children of God: class and race, religion and family type, sexuality and politics. Yet above this is One power who seeks always to unite us in love and peace as neighbors: Christ. Join us as we discuss the best selling book, "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis", about the Appalachian values of JD Vance's upbringing and their relation to the social problems of that small town. We'll gather on the 2nd, at 7:30 pm, at the home of the Bethel/Sirris at 100 Nason Hill Road, Sherborn. Join us. Who is our neighbor? Let's pray on this, think on this, act on this!

DEACONS' CORNER...

BY JIM HARTMAN

This past Sunday was the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time according to the church calendar. What is Ordinary Time? Not to bore you with a long church school lesson but here is a quick refresher. The Christian Church is divided into six "seasons": Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time (twice). The first of the two Ordinary Times in our church year is between Christmas and the start of Lent and the second from Easter until Advent in December. At the moment we are in the second marathon run of Ordinary Time following Easter. For me (and maybe you), **this certainly seems like anything but "ordinary" time** and very much like a marathon. From multiple natural disasters, to the threat of nuclear war, to a constant barrage of political wrangling, to social concerns, we are truly left wanting for some ordinary time. The dictionary suggests that ordinary is "of no special quality or interest; commonplace; unexceptional". For me, nothing seems commonplace any more. Reading the news or listening to the radio can cause angst and fear or worry.

However, a look at the church calendar reminds us as Christians that for a brief window in time, we will **soon exit "ordinary" and return yet again to the season of Advent, a time of anticipation of Jesus joyous birth in that stable in Bethlehem.** (Don't panic, Christmas is still some 60+ shopping days away.) This is the gift we have been given as Christians. The world will **not stop during the church's non-ordinary time**, but we have the opportunity to think and pray and rejoice at the good news, our Savior Jesus Christ will be born. Then, after a brief return to Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter follow the good news of Jesus' birth and yet another time of reflection, which gives us the space to focus on something other than what we hear in the world through media and conversation. This is a great opportunity to take a step back, take a deep breath, and refocus our minds on something else.

The Pilgrim Church staff, Deacons, and many other volunteers have already started thinking about the next time in our church calendar and are busy preparing some exciting and fulfilling opportunities. Let's finish this round of Ordinary Time strong and prepare for the next season of Advent. It's just a few weeks away and I'm looking forward to the change.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

BY JANET WALSH, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

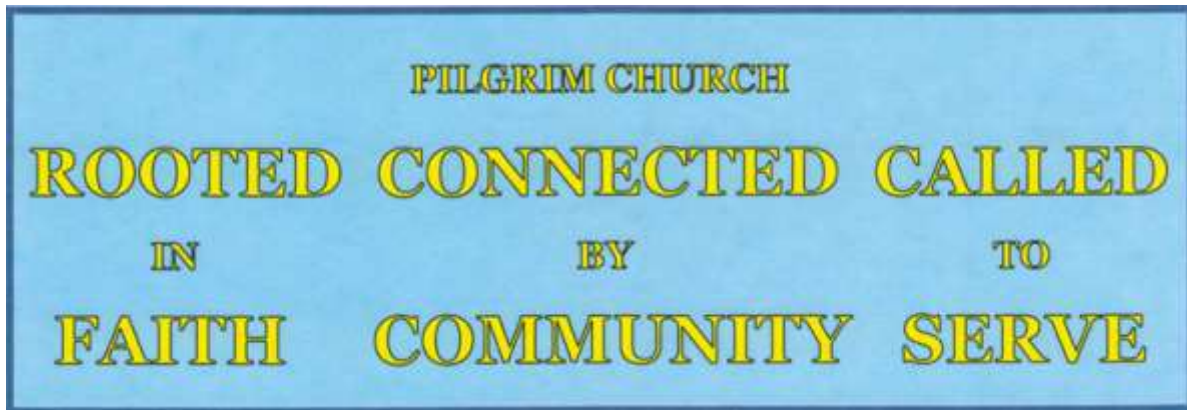
Are you looking to be more involved, find community, make a difference? We have many opportunities and we are always looking for people who would like to jump in and go deeper at Pilgrim Church and in the wider community. Committees and small groups at Pilgrim Church have a wide range of talent and experience: from helping with Hospitality or Missions work to becoming a deacon, to joining the choir or just helping with a one-time event - all are welcome! Do you have technical **experience you'd like to share**, do you like to fix things, or are you good with numbers? Reach out and let us know! If you have interest or want to know more about our committees or small groups and ministries, please contact Janet Walsh, dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org or call the church office. We will be happy to help you make a connection!



New Member Sunday will be November 5 during our regular 10am service. This is the day that those choosing to affirm membership with Pilgrim Church are welcomed by the congregation. If you would like to know more about what it means to be a member of Pilgrim Church, or would like to join on November 5 during our service, please reach out to Janet Walsh, DCM@PilgrimSherborn.org.



Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 4.



WHAT IS A “GOOD” PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF YOUR CHURCH?

Here is a simple test Four scenarios
Which is a “good” pledge?

Scenario #1 – A young family, two teenage children, one active at Pilgrim Church. Annual income of about \$95,000. Wrestle with keeping everything in financial balance. Weigh all the competing expenses. Asks “WWJD” “What would Jesus Do”, and decides to pledge \$3,500 to Pilgrim Church.

Scenario #2 – A single parent with one elementary school age child. Income \$57,000 per year. Just about making it without going into debt. Active at Pilgrim Church. Loves Pilgrim Church. Trusts in God. Worries about money every day. Tries to keep everything in balance. Finally decides that he/she can pledge \$3 per week, or a pledge of \$150.

Scenario #3 – A “well to do” family. Two grown children who grew up in Pilgrim Church. Parents still active at Pilgrim Church. Annual income \$185,000. After careful consideration of all the causes they support, they pray, and pledge \$15,000 to Pilgrim Church.

Scenario #4 – An individual, comes to church occasionally and knows that Pilgrim Church is her/his church. Is thankful that the church is always there whenever needed. Wonders how to decide on an annual pledge. After a few days, decides that \$100 per month is the right thing to do and pledges \$1,200 for the year.

I expect you know the answer to “Which is the good pledge?” The answer is all four of them. Why? Because, the Bible, God, tells us it is not the “amount” of a pledge that is important. What is important is how thoughtfully and carefully and prayerfully considered that pledge is made.

There are more than 200 “scenarios” in our church. What is your “story?” How thoughtfully, carefully and prayerfully considered will your pledge be? Will it reflect how important Pilgrim Church is in your life, your family’s life? Will it recognize how important the work of Pilgrim Church is to the community and the wider world? Will it help continue all the programs and ministries the church undertakes every day of the year?

Thank you for your thoughtful, and prayerful, and careful consideration.

Please look for your Stewardship mailing the second week of November.

The Stewardship Committee



Greece 2018: Save The Dates!

Make plans now to join the Pilgrim Church tour to Greece in May, 2018. Thirteen days, round-trip from Boston, the trip is being coordinated by Pastor John Hudson and David Tiedman through the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies (JCBS), the same tour agency that planned the last trips to the Holy Land and Turkey. There will also be an optional three-day extension to Crete. An outstanding agency, JCBS provides customized trips for small groups with top-notch knowledgeable guides. Although this trip is being sponsored by Pilgrim Church, *the tour is open to anyone and there is no limit to the number of registrants*. It will be a sight-seeing trip with an emphasis on history, sites associated with St. Paul, and the culture of the country.

When: The dates are May 6 – 18, 2018, for the Basic Trip and the extension to Crete will be May 18 – 22. The final day of the extension is actually mostly a free day in Athens, after the flight from Crete on the 21st. The return will be on the 22nd.

Cost: For the Basic 13-day trip the cost is \$3688* per person, double occupancy, which includes flights, hotels in four cities, breakfasts, some dinners, all entrance fees, tips and surcharges, all other transportation during the trip. The cost of the extension is \$928* per person, double occupancy, with the same inclusions as the Basic Trip. The price for the 13-day Basic Trip is based on 20 or more registrants. The price for the Crete extension is based on 10 or more registrants. **Your only expenses will be some dinners, all lunches, beverages at meals, trinkets and souvenirs you can't live without, and personal expenses.** All tips, including the guide and bus driver, are included in the prices. There is no need to plan extra money for tips. Greece is a euro country and right now the euro is very favorable for Americans travelling abroad; prices will be more reasonable than they were a few years back when the dollar was worth about 25% less against the euro. With fewer than the above-mentioned registrants, the prices *may* be increased. With more than the above-mentioned registrants, in increments of five, the prices *may* be decreased. To receive the quoted prices, registrations *must* be received by JCBS by January 21, 2018. After that, prices *will* be higher. There is a Land-Only price for those who wish to use frequent-flyer miles. However, it is the responsibility of the Land-Only registrant to coordinate arrival, departure and pick-up with the tour group. A single-supplement for the Basic Tour is \$589 and for the extension, \$190. There is an optional Travel Protection Plan available through JCBS.

*The prices quoted are valid if paid by check. Only the initial deposit can be paid by credit card without incurring a 4% increase. If other payments are made by credit card, they will be increased by 4%.

* * * * *

Some of what you will see: *Athens*: Acropolis with the Parthenon and new (2009) museum; the Plaka area (18th- 19th century section full of shops and restaurants at the base of the Acropolis); Sounion, spectacular ocean site near Athens; Mars Hill where Paul preached. Breathtaking site of the ancient oracle of *Delphi*. *Thessaloniki*: traditional site of **Lydia's conversion and Paul's ministry; Philippi; many Byzantine churches.**

Meteora: Absolutely spectacular scenery from the Medieval monasteries 1000 feet straight up. *Nafplion*, "**Greece's prettiest town**", an ocean-side town on the Peloponnese Peninsula. Ancient *Corinth* where Paul walked. *Olympia*, the beautiful site of the first Olympic Games. There will be time at all the four hotel stays for individual exploring and shopping.

Byzantine churches, interesting restaurants, shopping, historic sites – there is much to see and enjoy in Greece. The group will stay three nights in Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece; two nights in the Meteora area; four nights in Athens, the capital and largest city in the country; and two nights in Nafplion, on the coast.

Brochures are available for registration, and a second information meeting will be held to answer questions, go over the itinerary, etc., on Sunday, September 17, 7:30 PM at the parsonage. Plans are to have several events scheduled in advance of the trip to better prepare the group for what they will see. These might include a visit to a Greek Orthodox Church, with explanations of the unique architecture and art; a visit to a traditional Greek restaurant; a visit to the MFA to see their ancient Greek holdings.

For more information or any questions, please contact David Tiedman, 508-655-1667, davetiedman@pilgrimsherborn.org; but above all, *get the dates on your calendar now!*

Christian Education

BY COREY LINCOLN AND JANE RAITHEL

Third Grade Bible Sunday, November 19

Pilgrim Church, through its Memorial and Endowment Bible Fund, has traditionally given a study Bible to all **third graders on Bible Sunday, which will be celebrated this year on November 19. This year's gift is the *Spark Bible*, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), published by Augsburg Fortress. The NRSV is the same as our pew Bibles and the lectern Bible. It is the modern version of the Revised Standard Bible, which many of us remember from our childhoods, and incorporates newer archaeological finds and current linguistic scholarship. The *Spark Bible* scatters helpful sidebars throughout the text that offer more information about people and places, highlight key verses worth memorizing, and point out how Biblical teaching might apply to our own lives. It also contains colorful maps, illustrations and a timeline.**

If you're a third-grade parent, please take some time to sit down and browse through your child's new Bible together. If you're an interested friend, ask the nearest third grader to show you his/her new *Spark Bible*. And we ask everyone to consider a gift to Memorial and Endowment's Bible Fund to continue this long-standing commitment to passing our faith to the next generation.



ANGEL TREE IS COMING!

BY JANE RAITHEL

For the past twenty years, Pilgrim Church has participated in the seasonal Angel Tree program for Metrowest families who are struggling to celebrate Christmas with their children. Our church has spread its wings and found over one hundred and fifty angels in our congregation willing to "adopt" those in need on our list. **Each child has an information sheet listing the age, gender, clothing size, and special requests. You may become an angel by selecting a child and then purchasing items on the wish list for the person listed on the ornament. The Angel Tree will appear in Fellowship Hall on November 12 and your unwrapped gifts, securely labeled (child's name and number), should be returned to Pilgrim Church no later than Sunday, December 3.**

Confirmation Orientation

will be held for all 8th grade students and their families on November 5 from 11:30-12:15 in the Sanctuary.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

BY DIANE ANDERSON

SHYG would like to give a huge THANK YOU to everyone from the Pilgrim Church community who contributed in some way to the Giant Yard Sale fundraiser. We are grateful for everyone who donated items, who helped set up and manage the sale and we are grateful to all those who showed up to shop. It really does "take a village" to put on a giant yard sale!!



SHYG would also like to express appreciation to everyone who supported their other annual fundraising dinner at California Pizza Kitchen. It was wonderful to arrive at the restaurant and see so many Pilgrim Church families there!

All of the funds raised at the Giant Yard Sale and the CPK Event will go to support SHYG's Work Camp trip in April which will be in New York City. Work Campers will be serving with an organization called YSOP (Youth Service Opportunity Program) that focuses on helping those who are experiencing homelessness and who are food insecure. You can read more about this wonderful organization by going to <http://www.ysop.org>

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The members of MSYG had a chance to put their artistic skills to work when they decorated their Love Note jars. It is an MSYG tradition to decorate these jars at the beginning of the year. Then, at each subsequent meeting, a quote about love is given to each member to add to their jar. The very first love quote was, "You are loved". This quote is a reminder that each of us is a beloved child of God. The second note was a quote from Mother Teresa, "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."



MSYG also reflected on the issues surrounding homelessness by watching a wonderful movie called, *The Little Red Wagon*, about a boy named Zach Bonner who used a beat-up red wagon to collect water, food and clothing for families who were left homeless by Hurricane Charley in 2004. He went on to navigate bureaucratic hurdles and form his own charity, *The Little Red Wagon Foundation*. This was such an inspirational story - The perfect thing to watch as MSYG gets ready to help with the *Miracle on 25 South Main St.* event next month!!



SALVATION ARMY "MIRACLE KITCHEN DINNER"

BY DAN MARPLE

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU!!

Special thanks & appreciation to all the Pilgrim Church volunteers who helped deliver, prepare, & serve casseroles, salad, & dessert at the Salvation Army facility in Framingham on October 25.

Sue Anderson
Pam Alexander
Judy Cranshaw
Barbara Koman
Michelle May
Sally Tipton
Josh Hartman
Jean Rosseau
Peter Liffiton

Heather Dragsbaek
Lee Hanna
Kitty Sturgis
Serena Hall
Carol Ann Oliver
Lynda McQuillan
Dawn Borden
Megan Hall
Jose Muri

Rae Dearborn
Betsy Rigby
Judy Costello
Tom Hunt
Donna Hosmer
Charlie Williams
Donna Moore
Phyllis Braun
Dan Marple

Sandy Spadi
Janet & Dominic Walsh
Peg Robinson
Beth & Frank Villa
Betty Schlenker
Jacque Lewis
Norma Parrish
Cindy Maguire

Thank you all very much for your help & support. It was very much appreciated & was truly "FAITH in ACTION"!

Our next Pilgrim Church Salvation Army "Miracle Kitchen Dinner" is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2018.



Dear Pilgrim Church,

I am writing with heartfelt thanks to the entire Pilgrim Church congregation for your contributions to *A Place To Turn*. We were so grateful to receive the beautiful fresh garden produce, 255 pounds, donated throughout the summer. Our client families are always so happy to have such fresh, nutritious foods.

There are so many neighbors among us who need a helping hand. *A Place To Turn* has been consistently providing emergency assistance to such families for decades. Each month, we provide hundreds of families with the provisions they need to survive the hard times they are facing. We are so grateful to the many area businesses, schools, religious and civic organizations, individuals and families for their donations of food, clothing, toys, personal care items and volunteer hours. We would not be able to serve as many clients as we do without the support of the Pilgrim Church congregation.

On behalf of the staff and clients of *A Place To Turn*, I thank you for your commitment to helping us serve our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

Joanne Barry
Executive Director

November 2017

November 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4
All Saints Sundry New Member Sundry Stewardship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Confirmation			All Saints Day 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Who Is My Neighbor?		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Saints Sundry New Member Sundry Stewardship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Confirmation		10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Faith on Tap	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	Veteran's Day Holiday Observed	Veteran's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Angel Tree Begins 10:00am Worship 6:30pm Human Sexuality 6:30pm SHYG	5:30pm MSYG 7:30pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg	8:45am Caring Committee 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Deacon's Mtg	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
3rd Grade Bibles 10:00am Worship 6:30pm Human Sexuality 6:30pm SHYG		10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Parish Board Mtg	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	Thanksgiving		
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
10:00am Worship 6:30pm SHYG	5:30pm MSYG	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		

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United Church of Christ Website
www.ucc.org

For Pastor John's column in the DS Press:
www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED

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This is a monthly publication. Please submit comments, articles to the church administrator by email or written copy. Submissions will be edited for length and clarity.

Articles for the NEXT issue are due by the 15th of the month.