

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

**The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)**  
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

March 2022

www.HollisChurch.org

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“What a rich wisdom it would be, and how much more bountiful a harvest, to gain pleasure not from achieving personal perfection but from understanding the inevitability of imperfection and pardoning those who also fall short of it.” ~ Barbara Kingsolver, *Small Wonder*

(From the Apostle Paul): “... but [God] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV)

Dear Friends,

Have you ever felt like no matter how hard you try, you just can’t get it right? Have you ever found yourself suspecting that others just don’t try hard enough? If you’ve made it through life (much less this pandemic) thus far and never experienced either of these, then you are truly exceptional.

But if you’ve experienced either (or both!), my hope is that you’ll find our Lenten series—“*Good Enough*”—to be very helpful in re-setting your frame of mind for these six-plus weeks when we spiritually journey with Jesus from the wilderness, to the cross, to resurrection.

We’ll be using ideas and liturgy from Dr. Marcia McFee and her Worship Design Studio, along with a book by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie entitled, *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*. You’ll notice a ladder garden at the front of our Meetinghouse sanctuary, which will symbolize the core lesson of the season: “That image of climbing endless rungs through life is such a visceral metaphor for the incompleteness we can sometimes feel, especially when we look around to the ‘rungs’ that we perceive others are standing on. The idea of ‘bloom- ing where you’re planted’ means that we cease striving for some unattainable ideal and instead choose to embrace our current state, even if it’s a little grubby, exposed, or uncomfortable.”\*

\* WDS Project Manager, Jenna Duxbury



(continued on page 3)

# From the Faith Formation Office

## Journey to Confirmation

In March, Confirmands will have a variety of things to keep them busy! A Core class, a Life Lesson, and a Field Trip:

- Sunday, March 13 at 9:30- Core Class: Death and Resurrection
- Wednesday, March 23 at 4:30- Life Lesson: Community
- Sunday, March 27 (time TBD)- Field Trip to Crossway Church in Nashua



### News from the Flock:

In March, Flock students will be busy learning all about Jesus and his teachings, as well as a lesson on Baptism. Kim and Kim also have some fun ideas in store for Lent and preparing for Easter!

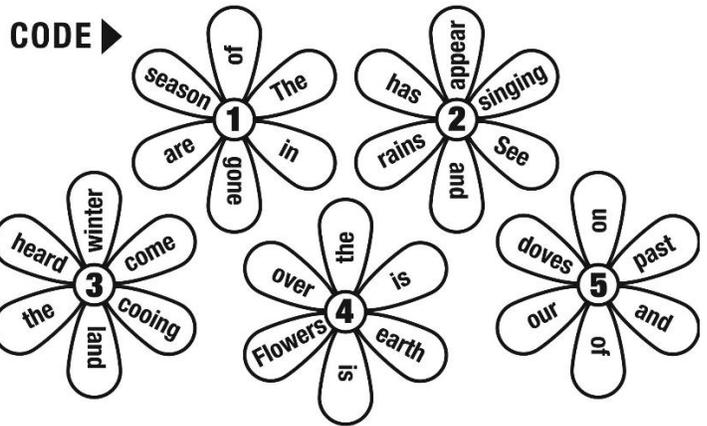
### Blessing Bag THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all who donated items for the Flock Blessing Bag project! The students were able to fill more than 20 Blessing Bags for Nashua Soup Kitchen due to your generosity. The kids learned so much completing this project and really enjoyed filling the bags knowing that they were helping to make someone's day a little brighter.

### Just for Kids...

### Spring begins on Sunday, March 20!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.



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SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

(From the Pastor – continued from page 1)

Covid prevented us from holding an **Ash Wednesday** service last year, but this year **we will hold an in-person only (i.e., no remote streaming, sorry!) service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.**

**Lenten Study group** will hold hybrid meetings most Wednesdays **at 7 p.m. on March 9, 16, 22** (NOTE: *Tuesday this week because Church Council meets Wednesday!*), **30, and April 6 and 13.** We have 15 copies of the hardcover book (\$15.00) in the church office if you'd like to purchase a copy. And, because the book is *not* Lent-specific, I'll have a list of devotional readings corresponding to each week as we move through the holy season that we'll use to guide our weekly discussion group.

Finally, don't forget to rest well on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>, because on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> we lose an hour of sleep when we turn our clocks forward. Very soon, the crocuses, snowdrops, and daffodils will be proclaiming the glory, grace, and splendor of our Creator!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely prayer shawl and the prayers that come with it. I also appreciate the many cards and well wishes. Blessed with good care, I am feeling better each day.

Barbara Amos



### **From the Church Office...**

My grateful thanks go to Nancy Bell, Sue Burton and Deb Shipman for preparing your February *Chimes* for mailing.

## **AV Ministry Team Thank You One More Worship Service Operator Desired**



Thank you and welcome to the five church members who have volunteered to be AV operators for Sunday worship services: Diane Fallier, Chris Hyde, Jessica Marchant, Cindy Ryherd, and Phillip Stephenson. With the giving of their time and talent, we are able to ensure that virtual/streaming worship services will continue uninterrupted.

**We would like to have ONE MORE volunteer** for a total of six in the rotation, especially since Cindy will likely have to step out of the rotation much of the time come September of this year. What knowledge is needed will be provided with training, as well as documentation. The AV operator needs to arrive at the church 60 minutes before the start of the worship service and typically is done within 10 minutes after the service.

**Please consider volunteering your time to be a part of the AV ministry team as a worship service operator. Contact [HollisChurchIT@gmail.com](mailto:HollisChurchIT@gmail.com) for more information.**

### ***Christmas Fair News!***

The 2021 Christmas Fair was yet another successful event! The proceeds from the fair were \$6,207.43. A huge thank you to all who played a role in making this year a success.

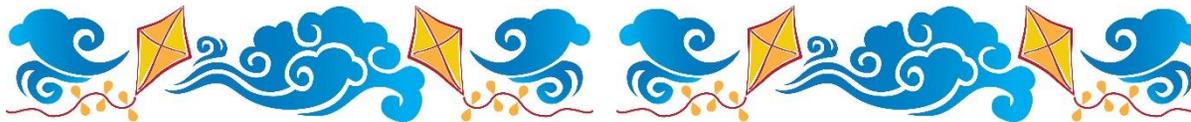
The fair committee has decided to donate the proceeds as follows:

- \* Mission & Action - \$2,000.00
- \* Audio Video expenses not previously covered - \$599.88
- \* Re-glazing of windows in the back hallway and Saunders Room not budgeted for - \$1,000.00
- \* Remaining Balance to FOV - \$2,607.55

Thank you again to all who participated!

*The Christmas Fair Committee*

# March 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mission Items of the Month: Cleaning and paper products for Brookline Food Pantry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-purpose spray cleaner, floor cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner</li> <li>Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues</li> </ul>		<p>10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting 6:30 pm – Music Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>7 pm - Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>
<p>9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>7 pm – CE Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>1 pm – Staff meeting 7 pm – Mission &amp; Action Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 5 pm – Facilities Committee meeting 7 pm – Lenten Study #1/6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>6 pm – Pastoral Care Team meeting 7 pm - Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>Our volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>Daylight Savings Time begins tonight!</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>
<p>9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock / Confirmation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>7 pm – Deacons meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting April 2022 Chimes deadline</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Lenten Study #2/6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	 <p>Blood DRIVE</p> <p>10 am - 3 pm in Hardy Hall</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>
<p>9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>7 pm – Trustees meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>7 pm – Lenten Study #3/6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 4:30pm – Confirmation Life Lesson 7 pm – Council meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>
<p>9:30 am – Worship (In Person / YouTube) 9:30 am – The Flock Confirmation field trip to Crossway Church - time TBD</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>7pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>7 pm – Lenten Study #4/6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>7 pm – Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>		

From the WOV Team (email [WOV@hollischurch.org](mailto:WOV@hollischurch.org) with questions or comments)

## SOGIE and LGBTQ+ ... That's A Lot of Letters – What Do They All Mean?

At the moment of birth there are three people (the person giving birth, the newborn, a medical professional/midwife) and the first question: “Is it a boy or a girl?” This question reflects the gender binary system in which most of us have been steeped. But gender isn't quite so simple; it's not really binary. That's where SOGIE comes in.

**SOGIE** is the acronym for **S**exual **O**rientation, **G**ender **I**ntity and (**G**ender) **E**xpression, each of these being a range or continuum rather than a binary ‘this or that’ option. Think about the SOGIE scale as an abacus where people can identify in a variety of ways on each scale to equal a beautiful and whole person.

**sexual orientation** – noun : the type of sexual, romantic, emotional/spiritual attraction one has the capacity to feel for some others, generally labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to.

**gender identity** – noun : the internal perception of one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be.

**gender expression** – noun : the external display of one's gender, through a combination of clothing, grooming, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors, generally made sense of on scales of masculinity and femininity. Also referred to as “gender presentation”.

**LGBTQ+** is an acronym meant to encompass a whole bunch of diverse sexualities and genders. Folks often refer to the Q (standing for “queer”\*) as an umbrella term, under which live a whole bunch of identities. This is helpful because lesbian, gay, and bisexual aren't the only marginalized sexualities, and transgender\* isn't the only gender identity. In fact, there are many more of both! \*The “Q” sometimes stands for “questioning” and “transgender” is often thought of as an umbrella term itself (sometimes abbreviated “trans”; or “trans\*” in writing). Lots of asterisks, lots of exceptions, because we're talking about being inclusive of lots of different folks with different lived experiences.



**lesbian** – noun & adj. : women who are primarily attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women.

**gay** – 1 adj. : experiencing attraction solely (or primarily) to some members of the same gender. Can be used to refer to men who are attracted to other men and women who are attracted to women. 2 adj. : an umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who is not straight.

**bisexual** – 1 noun & adj. : a person who experiences attraction to some men and women. 2 adj. : a person who experiences attraction to some people of their gender and another gender.

**transgender** – 1 adj. : a gender description for someone who has transitioned (or is transitioning) from living as one gender to another. 2 adj. : an umbrella term for anyone whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not correspond in the expected way.

**queer** – 1 adj. : an umbrella term to describe individuals who don't identify as straight and/or cisgender. 2 noun : a slur used to refer to someone who isn't straight and/or cisgender. Due to its historical use as a derogatory term, and how it is still used as a slur in many communities, it is not embraced or used by all LGBTQ people.

**questioning** – verb, adj. : an individual who or time when someone is unsure about or exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

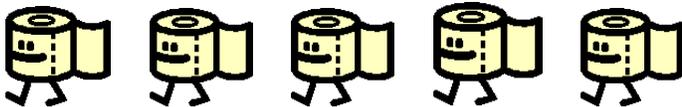
Sources: *Building an Inclusive Church* toolkit at [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org) and [www.thesafezoneproject.com](http://www.thesafezoneproject.com)

# Mission & Action News

## March Items of the Month:

### Cleaning products and paper products for Brookline Food Pantry

- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Floor cleaner
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Tissues



## Mission and Action Supports ...

### Engineers Without Borders at UNH

At the December 14<sup>th</sup> Mission and Action meeting Megan Cramton was invited to speak on behalf of the Engineers Without Borders program at UNH and their work on installing a well to supply clean water to a village of 8,000 in Tanzania. She offered photos of the progress on the well system and photos of similar wells that have greatly improved the quality for these villages. The challenge is now to make the water more easily accessible to the village. We have asked her to prepare a similar presentation for the congregation in the coming months as it will increase awareness and possibly help fund their ongoing work. Mission and Action made a donation in December to Engineers Without Borders. The wonderful thank you we received from Megan with photos (posted on the M&A bulletin board outside the church office) is a reminder of how our church supports both local and international charities.



**Saturday, March 19**  
**10am – 3pm in Hardy Hall**

Go to  
[www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org)  
to sign up for an appointment.

## Blanket Sunday coming April 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Blanket the World with Love*

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference! That's why the Church World Service, CWS Blanket program was created – to give a kind, loving, tangible response to someone in need, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way!

Please plan to support the CWS Blanket program on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a generous, monetary donation. Coming later will be a link for online donations. Checks made out to Congregational Church of Hollis with *CWS Blankets* in the memo line, can be included in the worship offering on April 3<sup>rd</sup> or mailed in by the following Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Let your response be one of love, by giving to our neighbors in their time of need!



## Ash St Shelter Dinner Chefs Needed



**Volunteer  
Chefs  
Needed**

Our church volunteers to provide dinner for the Ash Street Shelter on the second Friday of every month. 2022 dates are still available. You just cook the meal and deliver; we provide you with a gift card to pay for the food. Please call Lee Harper at 603-320-1500 or [blharper@tds.net](mailto:blharper@tds.net) if you would like to help.

## Addendum to the 2021 Annual Report book

The following report from the Kitchen Ministry team was unfortunately omitted from the 2021 annual report. Apologies to Lee Harper and Kimber Harmon!

### Kitchen Ministry Annual Report 2021

The year 2021 was a busy one for the kitchen ministry team in spite of the pandemic. Following the construction phase of the BOV, we were tasked with unpacking the items that were in the former kitchen space, sorting through all of the kitchen supplies and stowing them in the new space. We also consulted with Michael Buckley and the people at Trimark to discern what new equipment and supplies should be purchased. The new equipment was then purchased, received and stowed in the new space. Training on the new equipment was provided, and then we jumped in and started using the new kitchen. This has been a learning process which will continue. We are pleased to report that even with the pandemic the church kitchen has been in use for many events and here are some of them:

- Yard Sale bake sale
- Grand Opening
- Scouts Spaghetti Supper
- Christmas fair Luncheon
- Luminaria Chili Supper
- Ash Street Shelter Dinners
- Fellowship and Hospitality after Service
- Pie Baking for Food Baskets
- Women's Club Pie Baking and Cookie Baking for Santa Visit



#### Why are we forming this new ministry?

Although we already have well established and successful Fellowship and Hospitality, Funeral and Coffee Hour teams, we wanted to explore new ways of using the church kitchen. We feel we have been called to use our new kitchen facility to support our church's ideals of welcome, worship, learning, service and our common commission.

#### What is our VISION for this new kitchen ministry?

*Our vision is to live and to practice service to others through our kitchen. To prepare, delicious, healthy, and safely prepared food for our congregation and the local community.*

Some of the potential kitchen ministry ideas we want to explore include the following:

1. Prepare and offer ready to heat to-go meals for the sick, housebound and elderly in our congregation and our community.
2. Prepare and offer ready to eat meals for the homeless and needy in the community. Like the Spring Street Shelter, (Ash St. Shelter).
3. Use the kitchen facility to prepare food and baked goods to raise funds to pay for kitchen operations.

4. Offer culinary classes to foster an environment of knowledge sharing and learning. Potentially attracting new church members.
5. Partner and collaborate with other boards and committees in the church to plan and prepare food for our congregation.
6. Pop up events that serve the community.
7. Pop up events that nourish the congregation and fund raise
8. Farm to Table events
9. Or any events that you feel would be a wonderful addition

We are also committed to ensuring food is prepared in an environment and with methods according to all applicable health and safety standards.

We are looking for more church members to help create these opportunities to serve. We want your participation, your enthusiasm and your joy of serving others through food. ***Come join us and be part of the Kitchen Ministry Team.***

Kimber Harmon and Lee Harper

\*\*\*\*\*



## ...And the Rest is History

### *Our Church's History Highlights*

**Room Names, Part VII** by Cindy Ryherd

This month, the “Room Names” series ends with Hardy (Parish) Hall. **There are MANY pictures of the events discussed in this article.** Please go to <https://hollischurch.org/history-hardy-hall/> to see the pictures.

### **Hardy Hall**

Hardy Hall (originally called Hardy Parish Hall) was dedicated in 1925 upon the completion of the construction of our current church building (the previous Meetinghouse having burned down in 1923). It is named in memory and honor of Phineas Hardy, one of the earliest settlers of Hollis (living in Hollis from 1751 until his death in 1813), who was an important early member of the church. The **March 2021 ...And the Rest is History** provides a detailed and interesting history of Phineas Hardy and his descendants all the way through the current day with the Hardy family who owns and runs Brookdale Fruit Farm. For those who missed the March 2021 edition or would like a refresher, go to <https://hollischurch.org/and-the-rest-is-history-march-2021-edition/> to read it.

### **BOV Renovation Changes to the Hardy Hall and the Kitchen:**

Hardy Hall and the kitchen underwent some of the most major renovations as part of Building Our Vision (BOV). Those renovations included addressing safety issues, fixing some significant maintenance issues, upgrading the AV system, creating a commercial-grade kitchen, improving traffic flow, and more.

Hardy Hall and the kitchen were both “gutted”. This involved asbestos abatement, replacing the 100-year-old grease trap and removing the unfinished vent in the kitchen, removing the stage platform and curtain, removing the hazardous east- and stage-staircase egresses, removing the large closets flanking the stage, removing the old windows, and moving walls/ceiling support to eliminate the narrow entry into Hardy Hall.

The new kitchen has almost everything new: appliances, cabinets, racks, sinks, cookware, etc., and is now commercial-grade allowing for an expanded role in supporting food ministries. Hardy Hall has been revitalized as a bright, large, and airy functional space suitable for a variety of uses. Changes to Hardy Hall include:

- New windows, doors, flooring, lighting, cabinets, artwork, and piano
- Stairs directly from the Meetinghouse and a much wider entry from the hallway
- New AV system providing assistive hearing improvements for hearing-challenged members. This includes a large TV/monitor for streaming, Zoom, and presentations.
- The old stage area is now a flexible storage space/additional seating space with large rolling doors to hide stored tables and chairs (all on new roller carts for setup and teardown ease).
- Opens directly to the new Squires Community Patio, creating an indoor/outdoor gathering space. The doors and windows looking out to the patio provide significantly more light in Hardy Hall as well as a fire safety approved exit for the lower level of the church without installing a sprinkler system.

### **If the Walls Could Talk (Hardy Hall Through the Years):**

While Hardy Hall has been relatively quiet over the last two years due to COVID-19, during the years since its dedication in 1925, it has bustled with activity. Hardy Hall (combined with the kitchen) has been the home to so many church-related activities, filled with laughter and fellowship, sometimes debate and even tears, depending on the event. Take a trip down memory lane... Close your eyes and try to imagine Hardy Hall FILLED with people: hear the sounds of people talking, laughing, giving presentations, and debating; sounds of music – singing, piano, band instruments; sounds of dancing – a square dance caller and feet shuffling, sounds of kids high-pitched screams of joy and laughter during youth group games, smells of food cooking and/or being served, tastes of garlic bread and spaghetti, chili, warm apple crisp. I visualize the welcoming sights and feel the sensation of warmth, fellowship, happiness, and love...

Here is a list of **some church-related Hardy Hall activities** over the years (I’m sure there are more):

- **Receptions:** Confirmation Sunday, Ordination (Charity Jean Omartian), Farewell to leaving ministers, Welcome to incoming ministers
- **Mission Trip Work Camp:** Info meetings, Spaghetti supper fundraisers, Yard sale fundraiser
- **Christmas Fair:** Luncheon and entertainment/caroling, raffle baskets, shopping
- **Sunday School/Youth Group:** Sunday School classrooms, Confirmation/Pre-Confirmation classes/meetings, Youth Groups (Pilgrim Fellowship, JYG, SYG), God Times Drive-Ins, Youth Group Lock-Ins, Youth Group Service and Lenten Projects, Cookie and Pie baking for food boxes and shut-ins, Ash Street Shelter dinner prep, Caterpillar/Monarch Butterfly lessons of rebirth, Bell choir practices, Children Sunday and Christmas Tableau rehearsals, Funky Winter Olympics, “Refresh the Creche” project, Youth Choir rehearsals
- **Vacation Bible School**

- **Meetings:** All-board meetings, Annual meeting, other church meetings (joining UCC, BOV)
- **Fellowship/Celebrations/Dinners/Breakfasts:** After-worship fellowship, Travel slideshow presentations, Lenten soup suppers and video classes, Labyrinth, Advent celebrations/service projects, Chili suppers, Easter breakfasts (after sunrise service), Family Bingo nights, Mardi Gras celebrations/pancake breakfasts, Rally Day picnics (during inclement weather), the 1920s-1960s monthly potluck suppers (often followed by talent shows, singing, dancing, and skits)
- **Church band lessons:** The Hollis Town Band actually was started as the Hollis Congregational Church School Band and lessons for brass and woodwinds would be held in Hardy Hall.

**In addition to countless church-related uses, there have been many other town organizations as well as town families that have used Hardy Hall for meetings, celebrations, and activities.**

**Scouts and Hardy Hall:** The Congregational Church of Hollis has been the sponsor of Hollis Boy Scout Troop 12 since the troop began in 1921. As such, other than church activities, they are the organization that has used Hardy Hall the longest, right from its opening in 1925. In addition to their regular meetings, over the past nearly 100 years, Boy Scout Troop 12 has held spaghetti suppers, ham and bean suppers, and Eagle Scout receptions. Hardy Hall was even the beneficiary of a scouting project: Gabe Lewis (Charles and Nora Lewis’ son) did his “Life Project” (the step before “Eagle Scout Project”) by repainting the Hardy Hall stage area. The local Cub Scouts and the Girl Scouts also have used Hardy Hall for their meetings, celebrations, bridging ceremonies, and fundraisers over the years. Late church member Thelma Pollard was extremely active in leading the Girl Scouts of Hollis, and if alive today, I’m sure could tell many-a-story about the Girl Scout activities in Hardy Hall.

**Other Organizations and Individual Use of Hardy Hall:** Hardy Hall has served the town well for its nearly 100-year existence, providing space for these many activities:

AA Meetings	Red Cross Blood Drives
Hollis Women’s Club Meetings	Hollis Historical Society Meetings
Strawberry and Apple Festivals	Harold Hardy’s 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
Funeral Receptions	Wedding Receptions including Nancy Parkhurst Bell, Phyllis Simonds King, and Susan Spellman [daughter of Thelma Pollard]
Fashion Shows	Veterans Day Receptions
Summer Plays	Luncheons/Socials
Anna Keyes Powers Daughters of the American Revolution centennial gala celebration luncheon	Hollis preschool and kindergarten before public kindergarten offered
Couples Club (1950s – 1970s?) – included square dancing, line dancing, and dinners in HH, plus activities outside the church. THE town social club!	

I had the privilege of exchanging emails and speaking on the phone with several members of the church who shared some of their Hardy Hall memories. Here is a collection of some of those exchanges:

**Nancy Bell:** *“Some memories from the early 1950s include Church Suppers and Easter Breakfast. At that time the kitchen was located under Emerson Chapel. I remember going to church suppers with my Grandparents, Hazel and Nelson Parkhurst. These were baked bean suppers. Plus, there were other kinds, like a potluck. My Grandfather liked to have apple cider vinegar on his beans, so he always carried a small bottle of vinegar in his suit coat inner pocket. Easter breakfast was always a big breakfast done by Charlie Dow and other men in the church. They arrived hours before sunrise*

to do the cooking. In the 1950s Hardy Hall was divided into 8 separate cubbies for Sunday School classes with movable partitions. The preschool kids had Sunday school class in the present Deacons Kitchen.”

**Ann Siglin:** *“I remember it [Hardy Hall] was a very busy place. The stage was not used as storage but used for many musical programs and skits and the stage curtains were used. The floor was hardwood and there were curtains at the windows. The wall to the kitchen was wallpapered. During those years the Hollis Pre-school and Kindergarten were located in the church before they moved to their present location. They provided kindergarten before it became public in the public schools. My daughter attended pre-school and kindergarten there. We had more church dinners and many times a table was set up on the stage to give more seating. I think I remember that Thelma Pollard held daughter, Susan's wedding reception in Hardy. I used Hardy whenever I needed to have all three children's choirs meet together. The hardwood floor was covered with carpet, I believe, when the renovations to add the elevator were done. [There was a] stairway through the door, that came down from upstairs, which was the main way to get to Hardy. That [stairway] was removed when the elevator went in.”*

**Marilyn Wehrle:** *“My husband (deceased) headed the board of trustees at the time [when] it was decided to update Hardy Hall, replacing the old-fashioned hanging light fixtures and put in the recessed ceiling with fluorescent lighting, which remained until our BOV changes. The windows were improved, too, from basement-looking windows. My mom and I went to a big fabric store in Keene to purchase the velveteen drapery material to have a new stage curtain made. And wallpaper was chosen for the end wall (kitchen). The hardwood floors remained. Hardy Hall, as you know, was used regularly. It was the monthly meeting place for the Hollis Women's Club. Many a tea party and luncheon took place there. A fashion show for which I played piano comes to mind. For many years, it was the all-purpose meeting or program space. The Anna Keyes Powers chapter DAR held their centennial gala celebration luncheon there.”*

**Carol Birch:** *“As a youth and teenager, I recall attending Girl Scout and Cadette meetings under the leadership of current church members Nancy Birch and Marilyn Wehrle (along with past members Marge Anderson and Jane Hall), and assisting with younger Brownie and Junior troops in HH. The stage was perfect for the step-up/bridging scout ceremonies, church skits, shows, and speakers. Our Junior High "PF" (Pilgrim Fellowship now known as Youth Group) frequently met in HH. In the 1970s & '80s we also had many wonderful church Easter sunrise service full breakfasts and pancake breakfasts (with many cooked by men of the church) pot luck meals, and Boy Scout spaghetti suppers in Hardy Hall as well as Christmas Fairs that extended throughout the church building. I do recall participating in at least one square and line dance event in HH as a teen but can't remember the occasion. In more recent years there have been many other events. For example, Youth Groups gatherings including the extensive "Refresh the Creche" construction project and our Funky Winter Olympics, Youth (overnight) Lock-ins, Sunday School, labyrinths, F&H events such as Ordination celebration, Friday Night Socials ("The British are Here" to welcome the Rasmussens, a Mardi Gras dinner), Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfasts, Advent Celebrations, pot luck meals, talks & slideshows, musical performances, funeral receptions, church meetings, Mission Trip and Boy Scout Spaghetti Suppers, and just before the Covid pandemic, a 60th Anniversary Party for a couple from our church family.”*

**Thank you to all who helped me in my research by sharing their memories and photos, and to the generations before us who had the vision to build Hardy Parish Hall as part of the 1925 construction so the church and town may have a space to create so many wonderful memories!**



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