

FEATURE
SUNDAY SELECT

The Congregational Church of Hollis

How We Spent Our Summer Vacation



Courtesy photo

The church had 22 teens and 6 adults participate in a summer work camp trip in Dexter, ME.



meetinghouse? Those beautiful pillars are symbolic of four fundamental tenets that the church’s mission supports: Welcome (to all), Worship (our Christian faith), Learning (life-long faith education), and Service (demonstrating our commitment to God’s teachings – aka “walk the talk”).

The Congregational Church of Hollis has been a central part of the community of Hollis for over 275 years and remains deeply committed to the tradition of service. The

church plays a critical role in building a stronger community by providing essential services to our church members as well as to individuals and organizations in our community, greater Nashua, the greater New England area, and even beyond.

This has been a very busy summer “vacation” for the church, living our commitment to service. Locally, 24 volunteers, from 7th graders through adults, participated in organizing and running our 5th fun-filled Vacation Bible School (VBS). Held from July 15 – 18, thirty-five kids ages four through 6th grade attended. Capped at 35, we even had a wait list! Each day had a different theme: Joy, Kindness, Love and Patience. That theme was carried out in activities at four stations the kids rotated through each day: STEM, Arts/Crafts, Service, and Outdoor games.

It’s hard to say which activity was most enjoyed, but the

Monarch butterfly rotation (including live caterpillars at all stages of growth) was VERY popular, and of course, outdoor games involving water or the parachute generated lots of laughter! In keeping with our tradition of “Service”, the kids made cards for soldiers as well as gifts and cards to be handed out to those in nursing homes or hospitals. One boy said on the last day, “I’m so sad it’s over; I wish we had it next week, too!”

Within greater Nashua, ten volunteers participated in a Habitat for Humanity house build in Wilton, NH on July 20th (in temperatures of 97 degrees!). This is the 3rd time the church has helped with a Habitat for Humanity build, having worked twice on the Chestnut Street, Nashua build. For this build, they constructed and raised walls as well as did some finishing work on the foundation walls.

'Congregational Church'

FROM PAGE 8

A great appreciation for “barn raising” was realized as it took the team working together to raise the surprisingly heavy walls from laying to vertical position and be anchored correctly! This summer also resulted in a new form of helping greater Nashua organizations: the church reached out to Bombas and they generously donated 1,500 pairs of Bombas socks to our church to be distributed to local charities in need. So far, the church has given socks to Nashua Children's Home, Marguerites Place, Harbor Homes and different areas of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, with more to be distributed.

Finally, within greater New England, the church had 22 teens and 6 adults participate in a summer work camp trip to Dexter, ME from July 21 – 27, painting and/or doing carpentry jobs on 27 homes of local residents. At work camp, hundreds of teenagers from youth groups across the country come together to serve individuals of a selected community. In six short days, they repair and transform homes while making lasting friendships and growing in their faith.

This is the 19th such work camp that the Congregational Church of Hollis has participated in. Now, some of the adults that attended this year originally attended as teens, and over half of the teens that attended are multi-year attendees! In addition to the six days of time donated by each of the 28 work campers, prayer shawls were hand-knitted by congregants and given to each resident we helped, and many boxes of non-perishable food were donated by church members to stock the Dexter, ME local food pantry.

Next time you pass by the Congregational Church of Hollis, located at the very heart of the community, take note of the four pillars and what they represent. Remember that one pillar stands for our very strong commitment to serving others with our time, talent, and financial resources. If that is appealing to you, we would love to have you come in to visit and learn more! Stay tuned as we will be publishing more information soon about our plans to further improve welcome, worship, learning and service, including the construction of a community patio on the east lawn! We are proud to be the community church of Hollis and look forward to serving the community and beyond for another 275 years!

Submitted by Cindy Ryherd



Courtesy photos

TOP: Ten volunteers participated in a Habitat for Humanity house build in Wilton, NH.

TOP RIGHT: Prayer shawls were hand-knitted by congregants.

ABOVE: The Monarch butterfly rotation (including live caterpillars at all stages of growth) was VERY popular.

RIGHT: Outdoor games involving water or the parachute generated lots of laughter!