

Andover Congregational Church Old Time Variety Show Planned

By Judy Evans

Andover Congregational Church

The annual Labor Day Flea Market sponsored by the church was a huge success. Special thanks to Sue and Tom Hartwick for all their hard work in organizing it. A variety of very nice items was available, and we also sold local produce, hot dogs, drinks, and baked goods. Appreciation is extended to everyone who helped in any way.

During worship time on September 16 a donation in the amount of \$3,000 was received from the Blackwater Grange. A check was presented to David and Irene Jewett of the Grange Hall Restoration Committee by Bernice Nowell representing the Blackwater Grange. This is deeply appreciated.

Sunday School is in full swing with Amy Wagner and Bonnie Wesley as head teachers. Child care is also available for little ones during worship time.

Our bake sales have started again on the third Sunday of each month. If you would like to put in special orders of homemade baked goods, please call me at 735-5331. Sales are on a donation basis, and the proceeds are going towards the renovation of the Grange Hall which is used as the vestry for the church.

On Sunday, September 16, Donna Thompson of Alexandria confessed her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and following morning worship she was publicly united with Christ in Baptism in the waters of Highland Lake at the beach. Yes, it was a very chilly morning, but the brightly shining sun helped to warm Pastor John and Donna as they left the frigid water temperature!

A women's growth group for married women will begin soon on Monday nights led by Kathy Winkfield. A Bible discussion group led by Pastor John will meet on Wednesday mornings at the home of Irene Jewett. A women's group (WOW for Women of Wisdom) is meeting at the home of Muriel Hichborn. This is for women who are home during the day and able to meet at that time. Men's breakfast at Mr. D's Restaurant in West Franklin is held on Saturday mornings. Other opportunities for spiritual growth will be announced



Irene Jewett (l) and Sandy Miller helped staff the church's bake sale table at the Labor Day Flea Market.

Photo: Charlie Darling

soon. These programs are available for everyone. Call Pastor John at 735-5160 for more information.

Also, we will be having an adult Christian education class starting soon led by Pastor John on Sundays after worship and coffee and fellowship time (approximately 11:15 to noon). It will be held for one to two months and will revolve around "End Times - Truths and Delusions."

Praise and Worship is held on the last Friday of the month - evening services of celebration with area Christians through contemporary praise music, a message from God's Word, and prayer. Music is led by the Living Stones and the Sunday Worship Team in the Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 PM.

Upcoming events include the Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 17, in the Grange Hall. Please contact me at 735-5331 if you would like space to sell items. Our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service will be Wednesday, November 21, at 7 PM.

Linda Craigie is the new editor of the newsletter, *Belfry Notes*. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call the church office at 735-5160. You can also access the church calendar online at Calendar.Yahoo.com/AndoverCongregational.

Everyone is invited to worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Sunday School along with child care also start at that time. Come as you are!

By Don Towle

Andover Congregational Church

An Old-Time Variety Show will be held for the Andover community and friends on Saturday, November 3, beginning at 7 PM at the Andover Congregational Church in East Andover. This show follows upon a very successful show that took place last spring.

Prior to the show, there will be a pot-luck dinner in the Highland Lake Grange Hall next to the church. Bring something to share and eat free. Otherwise eat for the price of a donation. Admission to the show will be by donation, and all proceeds will go to the Grange Hall Restoration Committee.

The grange hall was built in 1850 by members of the East Andover community as a facility for educational and social purposes. In the early years it was known as "Academy Hall" and was home to the Highland Lake Institute and eight other short-lived academies that provided elements of a post-elementary education to aspiring young people. The building also

provided meeting space for a local literary society, a grange, singing schools, and entertainments that enriched the life of the community.

Improvements in 1893 included a small stage and an upstairs kitchen and dining room which rendered the "Union Hall" even more serviceable for local organizations and functions.

Responsibility for the building was turned over to Highland Lake Grange in 1938. When the grange went out of existence, the Andover Congregational Church took the old structure into its care.

For several years, members of the church and community have been concerned for the future of the historic structure, giving rise to a restoration committee which has been actively soliciting funds. Work to stabilize and improve the hall begins this fall.

If you have any questions or have a talent you would be willing to share (musical, dramatic, comic, etc.) which is entertaining and family-friendly, call Judy Evans at 735-5331 or Don Towle at 744-5494.

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Reverend Emily Burr, Minister

Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy, Andover

11 AM Worship

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ANDOVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On the hill, beside the road in East Andover

All members, ministers
John J. Wagner, Pastor
735-5160

Sunday morning worship at 9:30 AM,
followed by fellowship and refreshments.
Childcare provided.

Bake Sale at 10:30 AM on the third Sunday of every month
to benefit restoration of the Grange Hall.
Call ahead at 735-5331 to place special orders!

Come as you are! All are welcome!