

Andover Congregational Church New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Evans

Andover Congregational Church

Spring is here, and we are seeing and hearing sounds of nature that have woken from the winter, although it wasn't much of a winter! Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, breakfast, and morning worship were enjoyed by many.

Trip to the Dominican Republic: Linda McGrail, her daughter Elizabeth, Lorna Rogers, and her daughter Tricia were able to raise enough funds so that they went on a mission trip, traveling with an organization in Laconia called Open Arms Outreach. During their 10-day venture, they brought much-needed medicines to the Ebenezer Clinic in the Dominican Republic and visited orphans.

Open Arms Outreach is developing a site for a future orphanage. Each team member carried \$2,000 or more of valuable medical supplies. Thank you to those who helped make this trip possible.

National Day of Prayer: Thursday, May 3 at the State House, beginning

with a 7 AM breakfast, followed by opportunities for prayer and fellowship and then a program in front of the State House.

Annual Plant and Bake Sale: This will take place from 8 AM to noon at the Highland Lake Grange Hall on Saturday, May 12, just in time to buy flowers for Mother's Day! There is always a nice supply of perennials from local gardens as well as annuals. Plenty of homemade baked goods will be available including pies. Many items can be frozen for later use.

Community Meals and other events: This month we wanted to support the benefit breakfast on Saturday, May 5, and the spaghetti supper on Saturday, May 19, being held for our friends Paul "Benny" Benson and Gary Peters. I am happy to be organizing a table of homemade baked goods at the breakfast which will include muffins, breads, pies (How about a piece of pie after breakfast?), cakes, cookies, brownies, and

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By Judy Perreault
NHCHF

A wee visit to Ireland was on the agenda for our March meeting. Since St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, it was a perfect time for learning about Ireland and its culture and sampling some Irish cuisine.

West of Great Britain, Ireland is the third largest island in Europe. It is divided into the Republic of Ireland (about 5/6ths) and the rest, Northern Ireland (a part of the United Kingdom). Due to its mild climate and frequent rainfall, its lush green landscape has earned the title of "The Emerald Isle."

The Great Famine of the 1840s killed over a million Irish people and forced a million more to emigrate to other countries. During this time, the Irish accounted for half of all people immigrating to the United States. Massachusetts has the most Irish of the US states. Thirty-six million Americans claim Irish ancestry.

In the 1990s Ireland experienced an economic growth spurt referred to as the "Celtic Tiger." Now they are experiencing the same recession as other countries.

If you should visit Ireland, as four of our members have, some places to see are Bunnatty Castle, The Rock of Cashel, The Cliffs of Moher, Holy Cross Abbey, and Blarney Castle and The Blarney Stone. Dublin is also a popular tourist area and features the Guinness Storehouse and Book of Kells.

Riverdance has introduced us to tra-

ditional Irish dancing, but Ireland has a rich heritage in other arts. Gaelic football is the most popular sport.

The shamrock (actually a three-leaf clover) is a symbol of Ireland and found as a logo on many businesses, clubs, and products. It is believed that St. Patrick used it a symbol of the trinity. First mention of this appears in the 1700s.

The cuisine was influenced by crops and animals raised. Numbers of cattle determined your status. A milk-producing cow would not be killed for meat, so pork and lamb were the more commonly eaten meats. Black pudding was made from blood and grain and seasonings and is still a popular breakfast food. When potatoes were introduced to Ireland, they became a dietary staple.

Ireland is famous for its whisky. It is the base for cream liquors such as Bailey's Irish Cream and is an ingredient in Irish Coffee. Guinness, a type of beer, is also associated with Ireland. Pubs are very popular meeting places for friends to gather and visit.

We took the opportunity to prepare an Irish meal, which included potato soup, Guinness meat pie, coddle (a sausage, bacon, and potato casserole), Irish soda bread, Irish whisky brownies, Irish liquor, and Irish coffee. It was a great meal, and we were feeling mellow by the time we left.

Our next regular meeting will be in May, and we are planning a plant swap and some gardening tips. If you would like to join us or for more information, call 735-5493.

ANDOVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On the hill, beside the road in East Andover
(Corner of Chase Hill Rd. and Rte. 11)

All members, ministers

Rev John J. Wagner, Pastor

603-735-5160 • AndoverChurch@tds.net
AndoverCongregationalChurch.org

Worship and Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Tuesdays, Growth and Discovery – 6 PM in the Grange Hall
Other Bible studies, women's groups, prayer; please call for details.

Plant and Bake Sale: Sat. May 12 - 8 AM to Noon

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Andover Democrats

Andover Democrats press release

News flash: Come see a candidate for governor! Be informed! Get ready for November!

Former state senator Jackie Cilley will be coming to Andover on Tuesday, May 15, to share her vision for New Hampshire as a gubernatorial candidate. Jackie embodies the American dream: education, hard work, raising a family, and achieving success.

Jackie graduated from Berlin High School, having grown up poor, the daughter and granddaughter of mill-workers. She made her way to the University of New Hampshire, where she eventually graduated with an MBA from Whittemore School of Business and Economics as an adult student. It was such a good match that she taught there for 20 years before running her own marketing research firm, and, in

2006, she won a New Hampshire Senate seat.

Ousted in 2010, Jackie continued a newsletter to interested Democrats; she had already had one term's experience in the State House as a representative. Jackie and her husband live in Barrington; they have five sons, 12 grandchildren, and two dogs.

Jackie wants to create jobs for working families and create an economy that makes business sense. She wants public and private employees to be seen as part of a valued labor force and be regarded with high esteem by employers and government alike.

As of this printing, Jackie will be speaking in the Community Room at the Andover Firehouse on the Tuesday, May 15, starting at 7 PM. She is the first of several candidates invited by the Andover Democrats.

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