

# Andover Congregational Church News

**Sandra Miller**

Happy Easter to all! Our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held at 6:15 AM on Maple Street at the Graves' homestead overlooking Highland Lake and the village of East Andover. This will be followed by an Easter breakfast held at the Grange Hall at 7:00 AM. There is no charge for the breakfast, and we encourage you to come regardless of whether or not you attend the sunrise service. A special resurrection celebration will be held at the Church at the regular service time—9:30 AM. All are welcome.

We recently enjoyed a "Game Night" at the Grange Hall with several people attending. Light refreshments were served and games from cribbage to chess were played. It is hoped to continue doing this from time to time.

"2nd Saturday for Guys" continues to be held – the next one being April 14, beginning with a delicious breakfast at around 8:00 AM. This is followed by a guest speaker who gives an uplifting message. This program is free and open to all men. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Call Bob Grover at 470-7248 for further information.

The Missions Committee collected almost \$400 for "LOVE 146" in February. This organization deals with the abolition of child trafficking & exploitation. For the month of March, we will be collecting for "Give A Goat" which comes under "Samaritan's Purse". Monies collected will be used to purchase cows, goats, chickens, fish, etc. to make people in third world countries more self sufficient by raising their own food.

I would like to acknowledge that we are very fortunate to have our Praise Band and choral group with us every Sunday. Don Towle is our musical director and he and his group of 8 to 12 people do an excellent job of providing worship music for the services held at the Church. Thank you one and all!!

You are always welcome at the Andover Congregational Church. Feel free to call 735-5160 to speak with Pastor John Wagner for more information or if you need help in any way. Our Church service and Sunday School begin at 9:30 AM every Sunday.

Thought for the day: "Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life." (Read Galations 5:22)



## Wells from page 9

deductions. It was in 2012 that the NH Legislature established an education tax credit scholarship program.

Businesses do receive an 85% tax credit towards their business profits tax or business enterprise tax. This is clearly not a "tax avoidance scheme" as mentioned by an Andover resident anymore than when a business uses the Community Development Finance Authority Tax Credit Program. This may be a savvy financial decision for any business who feels they should donate to fund children scholarships for lower income families. The two keys: The Supreme Court addressed that if a business donates their own money funds, they don't belong to the State until those monies reach the state coffers. It is also important to note that net state revenues are increased as a result of this law. The law stipulates the size of the scholarships and the number given to students leaving the public school. Some people seem to forget this side of the equation.

Why would anyone think it is a sound business practice for the state to pay for an empty seat? State revenues are not going to private schools. The fact is that business donations are going to parents via scholarship organizations who are held accountable by the State. When the monies are made available to the parents, they can then choose to send their child to any school, public or private or a home school. Wherever the parent feels the student will thrive.

Regarding SB193: This bill in essence allows the state adequacy payments to follow the child to whatever school is the best fit for that child. I can't imagine how anyone would want a child who is bullied and tormented by his/her peers to be forced to stay in their public school and not be allowed to use the adequacy monies to attend a safer school. One just needs to hear the stories from the parents.

Let's be clear, I think on the whole, schools in New Hampshire are doing a great job. I personally know many elementary schools are spot on. However, there will always be those few who are going to fall thru the cracks if they don't get the help they need. Teachers will admit they would be happier if they could just do their job and not be burdened with so much paperwork that must go with the process. We need to create opportunities to allow teachers to practice what they went to school for. It's like a business, school administrations need a "customer service center". It's not about dismantling the public school system, but to give families choices for an education that works best for their child. Give parents more say in what goes on in the schools. We have choices in so many other aspects of our lives; why can't we do this for our children?

If it takes 10 years to fix this, a strugg-

ling child, a special needs child, a bullied child can't get those years back. This should not be about politics, or ideology. It should be about the children. They are the future.

As for SB193 it is still in committee. It is still in the formation stages and much can still be changed. Therefore, it will probably be another month before it is ready and hearsay is just hearsay!

In response to David Karrick's opinions on my voting record. Let's discuss them:

HB628. This bill would establish a state-run insurance program in which the private sector employees could choose to participate. While the program sounds great, the rest of the story needs to be identified. As I type this, it is in committee to be changed some more, but here is the basic information. It will cost the taxpayers 14 million dollars to get this program up and running. It cannot help part time workers. It will be mandated for all NH employers to offer this. Employees who are interested must sign the paper and have it notarized that they agree to have x-amount of dollars taken out of their paycheck. If an employee does not sign, they are automatically enrolled in this program whether they wanted to participate or not. So if enough people do not sign up for this, the cost to those who do, obviously will be high. And the only way for one to get out of this program is to leave that company. Does that sound like a good program? This is why I voted NO on the bill. There are local NH insurance companies who can offer this without the state being involved. This program is unsustainable.

HB587 prohibits counseling to engage in Conversion Therapy for persons under 18: Licensed people could be their minister, or rabbi besides an actual mental health professional. As parents and grandparents, do we not have the right to allow our children to talk to these people about their feelings? Who are we to make these decisions? I therefore voted against this bill.

While we are on this subject, let's talk about HB1532 "Prohibiting Gender Reassignment Surgery for Minors". Even WMUR only mentions HB1319- prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. They did not go into the details of 1532. This bill would have prohibited gender reassignment surgery on persons under the age of 18. This bill states a young child could have this surgery. Really? When a child's brain isn't developed until 18-25 years old, you would be willing to gamble on this irreversible decision for your child? I proudly stand by my vote which was to prohibit this.

HB1415: Establishing a Death Benefit for School Employees. This would have been a new state funded death benefit for just one class of public employees. All employees risk death on the job. Article 10 (of the State Constitution) states

See Wells on page 16

COMPARE OPTIONS

REQUEST A QUOTE

354 CENTRAL ST., FRANKLIN, NH | 603-934-3319



**We don't enjoy our job because we think insurance is great.**

We enjoy our job because insurance is confusing, some situations lack transparency, policyholders end up feeling like a number...

**...And we're able to fix all of that.**



HOME

AUTO

BUSINESS

Your local insurance representative, with coverage options from the carriers you know and love.

**Support the Beacon—sponsor a page! Call (603) 735-6099 for info.**