

STATE REPORTS NEW ENGLAND

September 2008

State Reports are given by a variety of reporters from around New England to provide a snapshot of the "state of the Kingdom" — what has happened in the past year and what we look forward to in the coming one. They have become a tradition to the Gander Brook Men's Retreat.



New Hampshire

The DOVER CHURCH OF CHRIST meets at the lower level in the condominium at 660 Central Ave. in Dover. Our numbers are 25-35 on Sunday mornings no baptisms, but three ongoing Bible Studies, and 7 transfers in '08.

Our services are:

Sunday
10 AM Bible Study
11AM Worship
6 PM Worship
Wednesday
7PM Bible Study

We are planning a Gospel Meeting with Jerry Sullins of the Bible Institute of Missouri on Oct. 26th - 29th on New Testament Christianity.

We are planning to have a booth at the Apple Harvest Day in downtown Dover on October 4th from 10AM to 7PM.

Dover has a Full-Time minister, Paul Bullock who will present several lessons at the Lakes Region Lecturship on October 11 and 12.

THE HAMPTON CHURCH OF CHRIST meets at 21 Hackett Lane in Hampton, NH and has services at the same times as Dover. There are 20 members in Hampton, and they as yet have no scheduled special events for the latter part of this year. Responding for the Hampton church of Christ was

Full Time Minister, Terry Morris of Seabrook, NH.

THE NORTHERN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST is located on Rt 3 North, on the left next to Lancaster Fair Grounds. (about 1/2 mile past McDonalds and intersections of Rt. 2 and Rt. 3 North.) The numbers at the Northern Valley church were 12, but are now back to 8.

Meeting times are:

SUNDAY:
10:00AM Bible Class
11:00 AM Worship
THURSDAY
6 PM Bible Class

Specially scheduled events include "Lectureship on Christian Communications" by Rusty Dawson of Seminole, OK on:

THURSDAY, 9/25 at 6 PM,

SATURDAY, 9/27 from 9:30 AM to Noon (with light lunch), and

SUNDAY, 9/28 10 AM "God has Spoken" and 11 AM "Ring out the Message"

THE WEST KEENE CHURCH OF CHRIST is located (still) at 12 Arch Street at the corner of Blossom Street in Keene, NH. Keene numbers are 25-35 on Sunday mornings and Keene has experienced some 19 transfers, and one baptism in '08.

Services include:

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7 PM

The Full-Time preacher is Eric H. Willeke who just began at Keene this year and formerly preached for the Darien church of Christ in Darien, Georgia.

The MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST is still located at 66 Mammoth Rd. in Manchester. It continues to have Park Linscomb as their pulpit minister (now 34 years in service to the congregation here), and has recently added a new associate minister (6th in



the church's history) Ryan Lloyd, a graduate of Harding University's Harding School of Biblical Studies (HSBS). Ryan started in December 2007 and

is actively working with the youth program, the 20-something adults, and the evangelism program. The Manchester congregation now has 4 elders (Barry Fogal, Lee Davis, Larry Glass, and Duane Coss) and 5 deacons (Peter Steffensen, Doug Paul, Mike Moser, Tony Cassella, and Stuart Peacock).

In the past 12 months we have been delighted to see 10 baptisms. Our average Sunday morning attendance is 180-190. The congregation has hosted a "Marriage Toolbox Seminar" by brother Charlie Jackson in October 2007, the annual Manchester Youth Rally in March (helped by Harding University students on Spring Break), and our annual VBS in August (always a good source of evangelistic contacts).

Plans for the near future include an expanded small group ministry (in part spurred by rising gas prices), an emphasis on surfacing evangelistic contacts in the community through the internet (mhtchurch.org), and a refurbishing of our auditorium (carpeting and seating).

The church in Manchester offers two morning worship assemblies, due to auditorium overcrowding; one at 8:30AM and another at 11AM with Bible classes between at 10AM. Sunday evening services are at 6PM; and Wednesday Bible study is a 7PM.

The DERRY CHURCH OF CHRIST continues to meet in the Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway. The congregation here has no full-time minister serving it, but has 25-30 in regular Sunday attendance. Their complete contact information is: PO Box 138, 39 W Broadway, East Derry, NH 03041, (603) 437-2253

www.greaterderrycofc.net

The NASHUA CHURCH OF CHRIST continues to meet at 97 Farley Rd. in Nashua. Their full-time pulpit minister is Paul Clark and he was joined this year by Scot Poirier. Four elders round out the leadership of this congregation (no deacons) and the average attendance is about 90.

Antrim Church of Christ
PO Box 51
100 Main St.
Antrim, NH 03440
(603)588-6178

The CONCORD CHURCH OF CHRIST still meets at 141 Fisherville Rd. Concord, NH 03303 (603)224-0370. They have no full-time minister, but do have elders and deacons. About 50 meet here each Sunday.

The CONWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST has recently hired Leland King as their evangelist. Approximately 80 meet there in Sunday mornings. Their contact information is as follows:

PO Box 346
348 E Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
(603)447-8855

They hosted their annual youth rally in late February, which hosted about 100 teens and chaperones over the weekend.

The DOVER CHURCH OF CHRIST has Paul Bullock as their minister now. Their contact information is as follows:

PO Box 901
660 Central Ave.
Dover, NH 03821
(603) 742-8210
dovernhchurchofchrist.org

The NORTHERN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO Box 267
N Main St.
Lancaster, NH 03584

(603)778-3278

The **LEBANON CHURCH OF CHRIST** can be contacted through the following; PO Box 1078, 10 Campbell St., White River Junction, VT 05001, (802)674-2917

The **ROCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST** has

Lyle Duell as their minister. They continue to meet at 336 Salmon Falls Rd. Rochester, NH 03866 (603)332-7193. Approximately 80 meet here.

The **SEABROOK CHURCH OF CHRIST** has Bruce Pierce as their minister. They meet at 867 Lafayette Rd. Seabrook, NH 03874 (603)474-2660. Approximately

40 meet here.

The **LAKES REGION CHURCH OF CHRIST** meets at 1 Mill St. Tilton, NH 03276 (603)286-7878. Dave Coombs (one of three elders) preaches along with others of the congregation. The other elders include Robert Blouin and Robert Monts.

Connecticut

The **DANBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST**; Attendance of 85. Preacher: Doug Vile (9 months). Three Elders.

The **SOUTH ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Farmington. Attendance of 50. Preacher: Andre King (2 years). No Elders.

Ministry Highlights:

- They running a Sunset Bible Institute Evening Program.
- There is a pre-school program at the church building five days a week.
- Life Groups are starting.

The **GROTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Attendance of 84. Preacher: Michael Landon (3 years). Two Elders

Ministry Highlights:

- “Friends Speak” Teaching English as a second language.
- “Heart To Heart & House to House” mailed out several times a year

The **SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST** (Hartford). Attendance of 45 to 50. Preacher: Melvin Jones (4 years). No Elders:

Ministry Highlights:

- Teach the gospel at homeless shelter
- Teaching Life Skill Program (like computer skills etc)

- Annual Community Day planned soon.
- Weekly TV on local access called Inspirational Insight.

The **NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST** (Hartford). Attendance of 100. Preacher: Don Bennett (12 years +). Two Elders

The **WHITNEY AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST** (North Haven) Attendance of 35 to 40. Preacher: Stan Baldwin (9 years). No Elders. Recently secured an Intern for the school year from Yale Divinity.

The **NEW MILFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Attendance of 40. Preacher: Tim Tarbet (4 years) No Elders.

Ministry Highlights:

- Bible Based Carnival is planned soon.

The Stamford Church of Christ. Attendance of 110. Preacher: Dale Pauls (25 years +). Elders.

The **TORRINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Attendance of 40. Preacher: Steve Bastin (5 years). No Elders.

Ministry Highlights:

- Friend Day planned for 2nd Sunday in October.

The **MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Attendance of 280+ Preacher: Arnie Holmes (10 years) Bryan Gray Youth Min (2 years) Anthony Melakian Outreach (1 year) 4 Elders.

Ministry Highlights:

- Just beginning a World English Institute classes to teach English as second language.
- On going Evangelism classes.
- Harvest Carnival Saturday October 18th.
- Movie Night offered free Friday Night October 17th.
- Bring Your Neighbor Day Sept 21st.
- Youth Rally in conjunction with the Wallingford Church in November.
- Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) Tuesday Evenings starting Sept 16th.

The **STORRS CHURCH OF CHRIST**. Attendance of 50. Preacher: Tom Yoakum (Interim Minister) 3 Elders. Looking to hire a minister.

Ministry Highlights:

- Conversation Club that meets at the building to teach practice English skills. This past Sunday evening first meeting for the fall. There were 15 present. Bible studies are offered 3-6 are currently studying the Bible.

The TRUMBULL CHURCH OF CHRIST. Attendance of 120. Preacher: None. Elders Ron Saracino part time outreach minister.

The WALLINGFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST. Attendance of 130. Preacher: Bud Fenner (3 years). 3 Elders.

Ministry Highlights:

• With some recent growth (6 baptisms and four families placed membership) having

some growth problems (running out room).

The WATERBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST. Attendance of 160+ Preacher: Jim Crisp (18 years +). Five Elders

Ministry Highlights:

• Waterbury hosted a “We Care” campaign Oct 07. There were 36 baptisms approximately.

• The church has been working with the new converts and going out once a month

door knocking.

The CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, Windsor. Attendance of 80 to 90. Preacher: Sam Garner (2 years). Four Elders.

The NEW HAVEN CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gem St.). Attendance of 175. Preacher: Hi Jackson. No Elders.

Massachusetts

The BROOKLINE CHURCH OF CHRIST continues to meet at 416 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02446, (617)277-2452, led by Bob Randolph.

The BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST, 344 Cambridge St., Burlington, MA 01803, (781)272-6430. Tony Thompson is the preacher here and Lynn Wooley and David Kinzel are elders.

The CHELMSFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST moved into a new facility since last year, though at the same location: 205 North Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824; (978)256-8901. Currently, however, they have no full-time minister, though the elders (Scott Renner and Rich Cascio) are looking. This congregation also has deacons: Charlie Dismuke, John Gerstenlauer, Bob Smith.

The GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 284 Montgomery St., Chicopee, MA 01020, (413)592-3050

The NORTH SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST is on “life support” from the White Rock Fund of Dallas TX, who

is seeking a full-time worker to resuscitate this work. The church building is located at 352 Andover St., Danvers, MA 01923, (978)777-1800. Contacts in interest of filling the pulpit can be made to the Blue Hill church ((617)295-5882), Park Linscomb (603.623.5559), or David Tarbet (214-324-8978)

The FALL RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST, 840 Rock St., Fall River, MA 02720, (508)672-8538. Mike Mullen and Ron Burnett work as the ministers of this congregation. It is also led by elders and deacons and is the site for the Sunset International Bible Institute Northeast, training preachers and other workers for the church in the northeast through distance learning technology.

The GREENFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 341 Conway St., Greenfield, MA 01301, (413)772-0500

The GROVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST, 366 Center St., Groveland, MA 01834, (978)373-5342

The KINGSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 371, 50 Pembroke St., Kingston, MA 0236, (781)582-

9319

The LAWRENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 63 Coolidge St., Lawrence, MA 01843, (978)685-6995

The LEOMINSTER CHURCH OF CHRIST has Aaron Tremblay as their full-time evangelist and three elders, Decker Clark, Gordon Daly, and Scott Delbaugh. They continue to meet at 592 West St., Leominster, MA 01453; (978)537-0837

The EDGEWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST — PO Box 869, 26 Edgewood St, Mansfield, MA 02048, (508)261-2871 — has added Johnny Lloyd (pulpit) and Peter Clark (young adult and family life) to their staff this year. Their leadership, beyond the staff, includes elders - John Morrish, Unique Michaud, Mike Bailey, Tom Zahar, Mike Murphree; and deacons - Alex Brown, Dave Eberhart, Matt Linden, John McCormack. Attendance is about 200 per Sunday.

The CAPE COD CHURCH OF CHRIST, still meeting at 493 Race Ln., Marston Mills, MA 02648,

(508)428-8799; and has Artie Schaffer as their evangelist.

The BLUE HILL
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Herschel Walker has been the minister here for about 18 years and they are currently meeting at 1505 Blue Hill Rd., Mattapan, MA 02126, (617)295-5882. This congregation is also served by both elders and deacons.

The MATTAPAN
CHURCH OF CHRIST, 49
Wellington St., Mattapan, MA
02126, (617)268-0151

The MELROSE
CHURCH OF CHRIST, 409
Upham St., Melrose, MA
02176, (781)665-7877. Terry
Christopher preaches here,
while Ken Koon and Joe St.
Clair serve as elders. This con-
gregation is heavily involved in
foreign missions.

The NATICK CHURCH
OF CHRIST has about 45
people that meet with them on
Sunday, and they are 324 N
Main St., Natick, MA 01760,
(508)996-3513. Billy McGuig-
gan preaches here but they are
challenged with the lack of el-
ders at present.

Ministry Highlights:

- Highlights of the last 12 months: Spiritual growth in members, Financial Seminar, several baptisms.
- Anticipated New Christians, Marriage Seminar, Parenting Seminar.

Maine

The AUGUSTA
CHURCH OF CHRIST is
served by Danny Campbell as
their full-time minister. They
meet at 91 Eastern Ave.,
Augusta, ME 04330, (207)622-
4031.

The NEW BEDFORD
CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO
Box 50081, 1167 Phillips Rd.,
New Bedford, MA 02745,
(508)996-3513

The NORTHBORO
CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO
Box 633, 456 W Main St.,
Northboro, MA 02745,
(508)393-7988

The PITTSFIELD
CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO
Box 1251, 826 Valentine Rd.,
Pittsfield, MA 01202, (413)499-
4700. Russ Moody and Chuck
Young continue to minister to
this congregation

The QUABBIN VALLEY
CHURCH OF CHRIST. James
Chaisson is the evangelists here,
working part-time in that capac-
ity. Contact information is...

P.O. Box 174, Ware, Ma.
01082-0174

www.quabbinvalleychurch.net
goodnews@quabbinvalleychurch.net

508-867-5123

Ministry Highlights:

They average attendance
on a Lord's Day assembly: 12

We have been planning this
church plant and using our
Wednesday night Bible study in
our home to get things going.
We have just started to rent
space from the Ware Senior
Center and have been having
evening services for the past
four weeks.

We are planning to start
morning services come Sep-
tember 7th 2008 and plan on

using newspapers to advertise
the new church plant. I am
planning on spending as much
time as I can evangelizing and
reaching out to the lost in this
community.

We are small and a new
plant so we don't have much in
the way of finances or mem-
bers. I receive some support
from individuals and congrega-
tions to help but this is not
enough to quit my job and work
full time evangelizing.

The QUINCY CHURCH
OF CHRIST. This church plant
congregation began about 2
years ago, currently meets in
homes in Quincy, and is com-
posed of a team of Harding
graduates.

The CHURCH OF
CHRIST IN ROXBURY, 81
Walnut Ave, Roxbury, MA
02119, (617)442-5826

The SOUTHBRIDGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ian McGuiggan preaches
here. They meet at 6 Dupaul St.,
Southbridge, MA 01550,
(508)764-4314

The WEST SPRING-
FIELD CHURCH OF
CHRIST, 61 Upper Church St.,
West Springfield, MA 01089,
(413)736-1106

The WORCESTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO
Box 20087, 89 Beaverbrook
Pkwy, Worcester, MA 01602,
(508)754-8625

- Prison Ministry
- Home Bible Studies
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Ministry (Weekly Bible Class) in Senior Housing Apt.
- Vacation Bible School

The PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, 866 Hudson Hill Rd., Hudson, ME 04449, (207)884-7800

The BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 331, 266 Pool St., Biddeford, ME 04005, (207)384-7123

Ministry Highlights:

- Members – 66 (our directory, including children)
- Average attendance – 45-50
- Established shepherds & deacons as well as a ladies ministry.
- We presently help support the a work in Russia & India.
- Recent events – Free Car wash; Clothes Give Away (about 54 people served)
- Our Vision Statement:
- A community of believers with a renewed belief in God's community – His church.
- Caring like Christ/
Bearing like Christ/Sharing the Christ
- All for Christ

The BRUNSWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1 Jordan Ave, Brunswick, ME 04011, (207)725-5294

Ministry Highlights:

- 25 Sunday attendance
- Challenging community due to in-and-out from military population. More change coming due to the close of Brunswick Naval Station
- Charlie Harrison, serves as the pulpit minister here.

The CARIBOU CHURCH OF CHRIST , 104 Bennett Dr., Caribou, ME 04736, (207)496-5361.

Ministry Highlights:

- Attendance – avg 15/ Sunday
- SIBI Satellite School – also teaching in Houlton for the Southern Aroostook Church of Christ
- Campus Ministry –
Umaine Presque Isle

• Northern Maine Comm. Coll.

• Jay is chaplain at both places

Bob Payne preached Meeting in July

- Jerry, Margaret Humphreys (Leadership & Church Growth Intl) coming up in October to do Leadership & Church Growth Seminar
- Home Bible Study Starting in Limestone in October

The DANFORTH CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1678 US Route One, Hwy 169, Orient, ME 04471, (207)448-2672

The FARMINGTON FALLS CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 122, Hwy 41, Farmington Falls, ME 04940, (207)778-2093

The HOULTON CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 313, Houlton, ME 04730, (207)532-3730. Gary McDonald continues to preach for this congregation of about 30.

Ministry Highlights:

- 38 kids at VBS; 60 total inc adults
- Attendance holding at 30 ea. Sunday
- House-to-House going to 2500 residences every other month.
- Gary MacDonald – Minister (pray for health)
- Jonathan Busby – Youth Minister

The KITTERY CHURCH OF CHRIST is served by Bernie McGrath as their part-time evangelist. They continue to meet at 48 Love Lane, Kittery, ME 03904, (207)439-0720

Ministry Highlights:

- McGraths moved into the residence on church property in January of this year
- In October 2004 this congregation had dwindled to less than ten folks.

• Now they are up to 40 – 50 in attendance on Sunday mornings,

- Easily making budget of \$600.00 per week.
- This is up from less than ten folks in October of 2004.

The LEWISTON-AUBURN CHURCH OF CHRIST is served by Leo Woodman as their part-time minister., They meet at 415 Main St., Lewiston, ME 04240, (207)576-2134

Ministry Highlights:

- 25 on Sundays
- 4 years – started with 9
- Despite moving 4 times in 4 years
- Great Location

The OXFORD HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST is served by Jack Birckholtz as their full-time minister. They can be contacted at PO Box 107, Paris Hill Rd., South Paris, ME04281, (207)743-8414

Ministry Highlights:

- Attendance 80-100
- Just finished series of lessons/small group workshops aimed at equipping individual members to study the bible, in depth, for themselves.
- Currently starting series to promote skills in personal evangelism
- Ladies collected money to send 50 Bibles to China.

The GREATER PORTLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 2245, 684 Highland Ave, South Portland, ME 04116, (207)799-6451

Ministry Highlights:

- Elders – Albert Durgin and Ken Murch and Bob Cook
- Preaching done largely by Al Durgin and Richard Davies
- Attendance 40-50 on Sundays
- Mission Outreach – Portland Wayside Soup Kitchen (1 Sunday/Mo)

- Summer Children's Workshop (Afternoon/Evening program) – reaches a lot of kids
- Bible Studies
- Active in local benevolence work with a large extended Sudanese family.
- Jan '08 – prepared a Directory of Maine Churches

The SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK CHURCH OF CHRIST, 217 Hovey Road, Houlton, ME 04730, (207)532-5683

Ministry Highlights:

- Avg. 14 in attendance at the home of Don & Kathy Keiser (Minister)
- Summer Outreach Effort in connection with Silver Springs, MD – following up Summer Contacts – one baptism last Sunday as an indirect result of the campaign.
- Tom & Dorothy Olbricht coming in November to do a 3 day Mini-Meeting – this will be their third time up.

The TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST, c/o Steve Kramer, PO Box 23
49 Myrick Rd, Troy, ME 04987, (207)948-3536

The UNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 443, 59 School St., Unity, ME 04988, (207)948-2563

Vermont

The MONTPELIER CHURCH OF CHRIST, 84 Main St, Barre, VT 05641, (802)476-7945. This congregation is currently without a full-time minister, though their numbers are around 40.

The BENNINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST, 524 South St., Bennington, VT 05201, (802)442-5197

The BRATTLEBORO CHURCH OF CHRIST, 303 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT 05301, (802)254-6906. Lindsay

Carroll has preached here for about 5 years now. Their avg attendance hovers around 90.

The NEWPORT CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 484, Sais Ave & Prouty Dr, Newport, VT 05855, (802)334-2028

The UPPER VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 262, Hwy 4 W, Quechee, VT 05059, (802)295-9631

The SOUTH BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST,

330 Dorset St, South Burlington, VT 05403, (802)864-7939. David Rivoire preaches here.

The SPRINGFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 160, Chester Rd., Springfield, VT 05156, (802)885-3491. This congregation is currently without a full-time preacher, but it does have elder and deacons serving the church. Average attendance is around 100.

Rhode Island

The BLACKSTONE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 7095, 141 Bear Hill Rd, Cumberland, RI 02864, (401)334-3792. Bruce Bates is the minister here.

The EAST PROVIDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 22 Wampanoag Trl, East Providence, RI 02915, (401)434-1526

The NEWPORT CHURCH OF CHRIST, 215 Forest Ave., Middleton, RI 02842, (401)846-1552

The PROVIDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 6032, 100 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02940, (401)421-1980. This Liberian church continues to grow and prosper — about 120 in attendance.

The SOUTH COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 5486, 3510 Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, RI 02880, (401)782-4483

The WARWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST, PO Box 7095, m 934 Greenwich

Ave, Warwick, RI 02887, (401)737-1714. Norm Seiders has been preaching here for many years. Average attendance is about 70.