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The Spire

**Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ**

February, 2014



Hygiene Kits (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

Every year, in various parts of the world, people are struck by natural disasters, war, or other hardships. In the face of these disasters, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for those affected. During the first 6 months of 2013, 4800 hygiene kits were distributed within the U.S. in response to tornadoes, wildfires, homelessness, and the continued effects of Storm Sandy. Also, in the first 6 months of 2013, Church World Service disbursed a total of 26,700 hygiene kits internationally. Internationally, kits were provided to countries that struggle with sanitary living conditions and hundreds of thousands of refugees. While the numbers are not yet available, CWS provided a large response to the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. Please give generously as we never know when or where the next disaster will strike.

Each kit includes:

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16" X 28")
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 wide-toothed comb
- 1 nail clipper (no emery boards or nail files)
- 1 bar of soap (bath-size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 band-aids (3/4" size)

Our goal this year is 250 completed kits. Donations of either individual items or completed kits will be greatly appreciated. If assembling a complete kit, insert the above items into a one-gallon zip lock plastic bag. Please place all donations in the box marked 'Hygiene Kits' located in the social room. Monetary donations to be used to purchase needed items at the end of the collection will also be accepted by any member of Ladies Aide. Also, some items such as combs, toothbrushes, and nail clippers can be ordered online in bulk at a huge discount. Three or four people joining together could purchase some of these items in bulk. Please see me if you are interested in this option. The last day of collection will be Sunday, April 6 as kits will be assembled on Tuesday, April 8.

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hopefully you were able to attend our annual congregational meeting on January 25th. I love the annual meeting for at least two reasons:

- 1.) The pot luck dinner is always great! No one in my house is a chef (far from it!), but fortunately our church has a bunch of great cooks and our pot luck dinners are always a real treat. I sample one scrumptious dish after another. I should stop eating long before I do, but for some reason I just can't help myself when I am at one of our church potlucks...
- 2.) When I read the reports prepared for the meeting, hear board and committee members speak about their work and watch the election of a new slate of willing candidates, I am always moved to give thanks for the many important ministries in which we engage. The annual meeting should be a celebration of our ministry in support of Christ's mission; hopefully it had that feeling for others of you who were there, too.



Now that the annual meeting is behind us, we are charged with embracing another year of challenge and opportunity as we seek to minister in the name of Jesus Christ in Somersville and beyond. First, I express my gratitude for all those who agreed to an elected position when they were asked by the Board of Nominating. Your contributions of time and talent are immeasurable for the advancement of the gospel. Second, I am moved to express thanks to all those who give generous financial contributions and other donations in order to keep the lights on, the fuel tanks filled and salaries and insurances paid up. And to all the others who sign up to lead worship, teach Sunday school, provide for fellowship hour, knit prayer shawls and on and on and on... thank you, too! I know that, working together, we will enjoy another powerful year of big ministry at our little church. May God bless the Congregational Church of Somersville (UCC) and may we be a blessing to all those with whom we come in contact.

Yours in Christ,

Graham Van Keuren

Thanks to ..

- .. all who served as greeters, ushers, readers and fellowship hosts in January.
- .. everyone who supported the 2nd Mile Mission collection to benefit Fisher House.
- .. those who served as officers, board or committee members during the past year.
- .. all who contributed to the success of the January ham supper.
- .. our Sunday school kids, teachers and members of Christian Education for the fine pageant.
- .. Sue Comparetto-Wavada for posting a video from the pageant to the church's facebook page..

Thanks from ..

The Wood's .. "Dear Church family – Thank you for your prayers, thoughts and cards at the time of Nick's brother, Jim, passing. Thanks to all who helped put up and take down the set so many times for the pageant due to the funeral. All of the family really appreciated everyone's work."

Pat Scully .. "On behalf of the Christian Education board I would like to thank all those that contributed to this year's Christmas Pageant. We could not have done it without the many hands that helped with music, set up and break down and set up and break down of the set, singing ,parents making sure the children attended practices, the creation of programs and video and scripts and more! All the effort is worth it!"



Christian Education (submitted by Pastor Graham)

Wednesday Bible Study

This group continues to meet Wednesday mornings in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Silver Lake Summer Conferences

Registration for summer conferences at Silver Lake is now open. Follow the links for information on the various conferences and to register or pick up a brochure from Wood Chapel.

www.ctucc.org/new/newsbriefs.php

www.silverlakect.org/register

Opportunities in February

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
2/02		Donna P. Patrick F.	Angela C.	Bobby B.	
2/09		Donna P. Patrick F.	Cathy M		
2/16	Scully family	Donna P.	Angela C.	Tom & Elaine H	Michaela S.
2/23		Donna P.	Laura E.		

Report of the Treasurer (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

	December 2013	Monthly Budget	YTD	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$7,048.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$80,613.00	\$90,000.00
Income	\$20,017.14	\$10,485.00	\$124,925.82	\$125,820.00
Expenses	\$8,999.51	\$11,256.00	\$130,906.67	\$135,550.00

YTD pledge totals show almost \$10,000 less than we had budgeted. Our income for December was higher than usual due to endowment input, which in turn increased our total YTD income. On the expense side, our monthly expenses were lower than budgeted, as well as our YTD total.

Collections for December

Flow through Missions Collections

- Christmas Fund- 609.00
- KIVA piggy bank- 30.00
- Solar Cooker project- 30.00 total 234.00
- UNICEF- 361.00- total 454.30



Flow through Disbursals for December

- Property Fund- 900.00- final payment for the work done on the back stairwell.
- KIVA piggy bank- 30.00
- Neighbors in Need- 142.50
- Solar Cooker project- 234.00
- UNICEF- 454.30

Missions (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

The Super Bowl is just around the corner which means that our Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday will soon be here too. On



February 2, a few of our children from Sunday School will be holding large soup pots after the service to collect your contributions. This year donations will be given to Champs Place, the food pantry at Somers Congregational Church. Champs Place is able to

stretch our dollars by purchasing food through Food Share. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need. There will not be any further collections during the month of February as we urge you to support the Ladies Aide's annual mission of collecting items necessary for assembling 250 hygiene kits. Please check out the Ladies Aide article to see what is needed for the kits.

Non Perishable Foods

Originally, we had planned to leave the boxes in Wood Chapel for non-perishable food items just through the end of the year. Members of the congregation as well as friends of the church were very generous and we made several trips to deliver food to the All Saints food pantry. They were most appreciative of the donations. We have decided to leave one box in Wood Chapel in case anyone wants to make a donation at any time.

Bake Sale

Even though Missions does not plan to hold a bake sale at the various suppers, we have decided to have one at the February 8 supper. Since it is so close to Valentines Day, we thought it would be nice to have sweets available. If you can, please bake an item for this event. (If the supper has to be postponed for any reason, the bake sale will be cancelled.)



St Paulys Clothing Shed

The St. Pauly shed is due to be delivered and set in place on Monday, January 27. It will be located on the north side of the church green parking lot near the water spigot. Please consider donating your usable clothing, shoes, linens, etc. A list of acceptable items and instructions will be available soon.

Kiva Update

The Missions Board has completed making two more loans in January. Our 11th loan went to Dimitri, a young man who lives in a small village in Georgia with his extended family. Dimitri farms the land producing several crops and requested a loan to purchase 4 calves so that he can expand his cattle herd. Our 12th loan was given to Josefa, a mother of five in Bolivia. Her husband taught her the carpentry trade and she has orders for furniture. She needs the loan to buy the lumber to fulfill these orders. She is proud to have crossed the gender barrier and to be working in a man's trade. She is a member of the Vicunitas 2010 Chacaltaya Group. Our KIVA history notebook has been updated so feel free to read about these individuals.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (submitted by Lois Sharpless)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A small group of knitters and crocheters continue to meet to participate in a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Those who receive these shawls are always very grateful for the comfort and prayers that come with them. Anyone who has an interest in knitting or crocheting is welcome to take part in this ministry... you don't have to be an expert – novices are welcome. Bring along knitting needles or crochet hooks; yarn is available. We will meet at the church 6 PM on Thursday, February 6.



Food-Share

Food-share's distribution of perishable food happens every other week in the parking lot of Somers Congregational

Church from 1:15-1:45. Distribution dates this month are February 12 and 26. Individuals or families needing food are welcome to come; there are no qualifications. A number of volunteers from our church staff this distribution site.

Ladies Aide Society (submitted by Ardie Carey)

Our Ladies Aide Society gathered on January 14th in the church social room. Officers were elected for the year and will be installed at our February meeting. We moved on to determine our monthly activities and coordinators for the rest of the year ~ fundraisers, charity projects and lunches, along with a few fun activities will be a major part of our programs for 2014. Thank you to

Linda Longueuil for providing a variety of delicious desserts for our enjoyment during our meeting.



Ladies Aide Society would love to see more ladies of the church take part in our meetings and be involved with our monthly activities. It's a fun and rewarding experience, so please join us at our next meeting on February 18th at 12 noon. Pastor Graham and a few gentlemen from the church will be hosting and preparing us a surprise luncheon. Come take part in the fun and comradery.

Historian's Corner (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

Who are we??

This couple is our quiet unsung heroes of the Congregational Church of Somersville. They were both brought up in Milford, Connecticut where they attended St. Mary's Catholic Church. In 1972 they were married in St. Mary's. They were "Best Friends" in high school, but didn't get married until he came back from the Vietnam War. During their married life they lived in various places such as New Haven and West Wardsboro, Vermont. Between them - they figured - they had held 33 different jobs from; running a cross country ski area, sewing at Mary Meyers – stuffed animals, cashier at Grand Union, the Townsend Furniture Store in Vermont, etc. In between they were the parents of three lovely daughters. Because of all these various jobs and experiences, many different talents immersed and developed which made them invaluable members of our church.



After moving back to Connecticut, they realized their oldest daughter who was now 5 years old needed to be baptized. Their inspiration for coming to the Congregational Church of Somersville was Beverly Hannan, who had joined the church in 1967. They became members in 1978 when the church had a part time minister and no church during the summer. Because they are people who love the outdoors, this was an added plus.

They continue to come to this church because of the many great people, the feeling they get of belonging, their grandchildren, and Graham - whom they consider an exceptional minister. "He is very inspirational and ministers spiritual healing."

Her favorite part of church is the services, which she gets a great deal out of them. His favorite part is working on the up keep of the church and property. Her fondest memories are teaching Sunday school and working on the Christmas pageant. His fondest memories are the group canoe and hiking trips. He is happy with the way the church is going but she would like to see a more active youth group.

She would like to honor Mavis Collins and Pat Pinney because of all the things they do for the church, especially their work with the Sunday school and choir. (Pat, especially for all the extra singing she does for the church.) He admires Spiderman Carey for all the work he does with repairing and maintaining the church; his variable personality as he teaches a Sunday school class and inspires the younger kids; and his great sense of humor.

This couple has contributed so much to this church but you would hardly know it because of their quiet unassuming manner. Their many talents have been a "Godsend". We are so lucky to have them as part of our church family.

If you have not already guessed the name of this couple, turn to the back of the SPIRE for the answer.

Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

The weather the evening of January 11 turned out to be rather rainy and some of older folks who normally attend have difficulty driving on a rainy night, so there were a number of cancellations. Volunteer help for the supper was plentiful – special thanks to the "friends" of the church who assisted this month: Cathy M., Phil B., Martin A., Rose P., Tim K., Gwyn H-R, and Tom H. Income for the night and sale of some leftover ham was \$2234.00 and our expenses were \$260.00



Our February 8 Valentine supper features baked stuffed shrimp, baked potato, salad, mixed vegetables, bread/rolls, beverage and brownie sundae.. Cost for this dinner is \$15 per adult and \$8 for children (ages 5-10). Those interested in

attending should make reservations through the church office (860-749-7741) for either the 5 or 6:15 sitting. Take out orders should also be placed in advance to be sure we have enough food prepared.

There are still several items needed for this supper, including

- 2 lbs. croutons
- \$35 for the potatoes
- 6 loaves homemade bread
- 35 lbs mixed frozen vegetables
- 16 lbs. butter
- 5 boxes Ritz crackers
- 9 pans brownies
- 9 pints sour cream
- 3 gallons vanilla ice cream



Help is also needed in dinner preparation on both Friday and Saturday mornings and during the dinner (dishwashers and dining room and take out room)

A sign up sheet for help and donations has been posted in the social room; remember the more donations we get, the less we need to take from the proceeds. Proceeds from the suppers help defray our operating expenses.

2014 Tentative Remaining Schedule

Feb. 8 Baked Stuffed Shrimp (\$15 per adult)

All other dinners are \$12 per person for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10.

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| March 8 | Corned Beef |
| April 12 | Roast Beef |
| May 10 | Celebrate Italy |
| June 14 | Ham & Strawberry Supper |
| July 12 | Chicken Barbecue |
| Sept. 13 | Roast Pork |
| Oct. 18 | Pot Roast |
| Nov. 15 | Turkey |



Do You Like to Sing? (submitted by Pastor Graham)

Whereas several choir members will be traveling in the month of February, our church is looking for some substitute choristers who might like to fill in for a short time and check the choir out. This is just a one month commitment! Anyone who would like to sing (you don't need to read music) is urged to come. Practices are on Sunday mornings in February at 8:45 a.m. during which time the choir will practice what is to be sung that day. Again, we are only seeking a one-month commitment that will help flesh out the choir while its ranks are thin. You'll find that the choir is a great group of people and you may even decide to stay on! But no pressure... just come out this Saturday and help us for a month.



This and That

- Board chairmen whose terms ended are reminded (per our Key Policy) to **turn in their church key** to Ruth in the office so that keys can be reassigned.
- There are a number of open opportunities to serve as a greeter, usher, reader, acolyte or fellowship host. Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the social room.

Fans rely on God, rituals to boost favorite team

January 17, 2014 Religion News Service Cathy Lynn Grossman
WASHINGTON

Most Americans don't think God or the devil will be picking the Super Bowl winner this weekend or any other sports champions.

But some will pray nonetheless, and a few will "religiously" perform little game-day rituals just in case.

A survey by Public Religion Research Institute, released Thursday (Jan. 16), probes the crossover between team spirit and spirituality.

Most Americans (60 percent) call themselves fans of a particular team. Among this group, several will do a little dance or say a little prayer to help the team along:

- 21 percent (including one in four football fans) will wear special clothes or do special rituals. Donning a team jersey leads the way (66 percent). But some admit they get a little funky with their underwear. One fan wears dirty undershorts on top of his jeans. (No word if these are boxers or briefs.)
- 25 percent (including 31 percent of football fans) have sometimes felt their team has been cursed. (No word on how many are Red Sox fans.)
- 26 percent (including one in three football fans) say they pray to God to help their team. White evangelicals are most likely to lean on the Lord on this: 38 percent will pray, more than any other religious group.

Football fans are also more likely than other fans to admit praying for their team (33 percent to 21 percent), performing pre-game or game-time rituals (25 percent to 18 percent), or to believe that their team has been cursed (31 percent to 18 percent).

Although three-quarters of respondents said God plays no role in who wins, Americans are evenly divided on whether God rewards faith-filled athletes with good health and success, with 48 percent saying yes and 47 percent saying no.

Football is by far American's favorite sport (39 percent) with nearly four times the fan base of basketball (10 percent) or baseball (9 percent) or soccer (7 percent). And 72 percent of Americans say they are likely to watch the Super Bowl.

PRRI surveyed 1,011 people in English and Spanish between Jan. 8 and Jan. 12. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

About our Members and Friends

Updated Directory of Members and Friends

Now that our annual meeting has been held and new officers and board have been elected, an updated directory of members and friends will be printed.

February Celebrations



Anniversaries are being celebrated by a few of our church members and friends in February; they are:
Nick & Carelse Wood (57th);
Ralph & Phyllis Lumb (73nd);
and Richard & Donna Pendleton.

Happy birthday wishes this month go to Ruth Bruch, Carlese Wood, Jen Hare, David Cohen, Jason Robidoux, Phyllis Lumb, Dave Pinney, Marilyn Hare, Bob Bourque, Lori Arnone, Vic Netten, Faye Gately, Dan Dunn, Shioban Scully. If there are others who are celebrating this month of whom we are not aware, we wish you a wonderful day as well.

Bidding Farewell to the Fosters

Their new address is
36 Old Town Rd.
West Dover, VT 05356



Who Are We??

Doug & Sharon Miller



Officers, Board and Committees for 2014

Moderator	Yvonne Wood
Clerk	Ruth Bruch
Treasurer	Sydney Cohen
Asst. Treasurer	Angela Ceppetelli
Collector	Dave Pinney
Christian Ed	Sue Comparetto-Wavada, Deb Robidoux, Sarah Flynn
Missions	Linda Longueuil, Genny Farnham, Marilyn Hare, Carol Webb
Nominating	Judy Liberty, Johanna Karbonic Plus a member of deacons, missions, trustees and christian ed.
Stewardship	Sharon Miller, Pat Pinney
Property	Everett Morrill, Rich Carey
Deacons	Allison Matczak, Mavis Collins, Elaine Hancock, Chuck Elwood, Donna Pendleton, Patrick Forbes
Finance	Jack Collins, Dan Scully, Debby King

Congregational Church of Somersville

Vision Statement

We will be a faith-based church welcoming diversity, empowering the individual, growing in faith and doing God's work in the global community in unity and love.

Behavioral Covenant

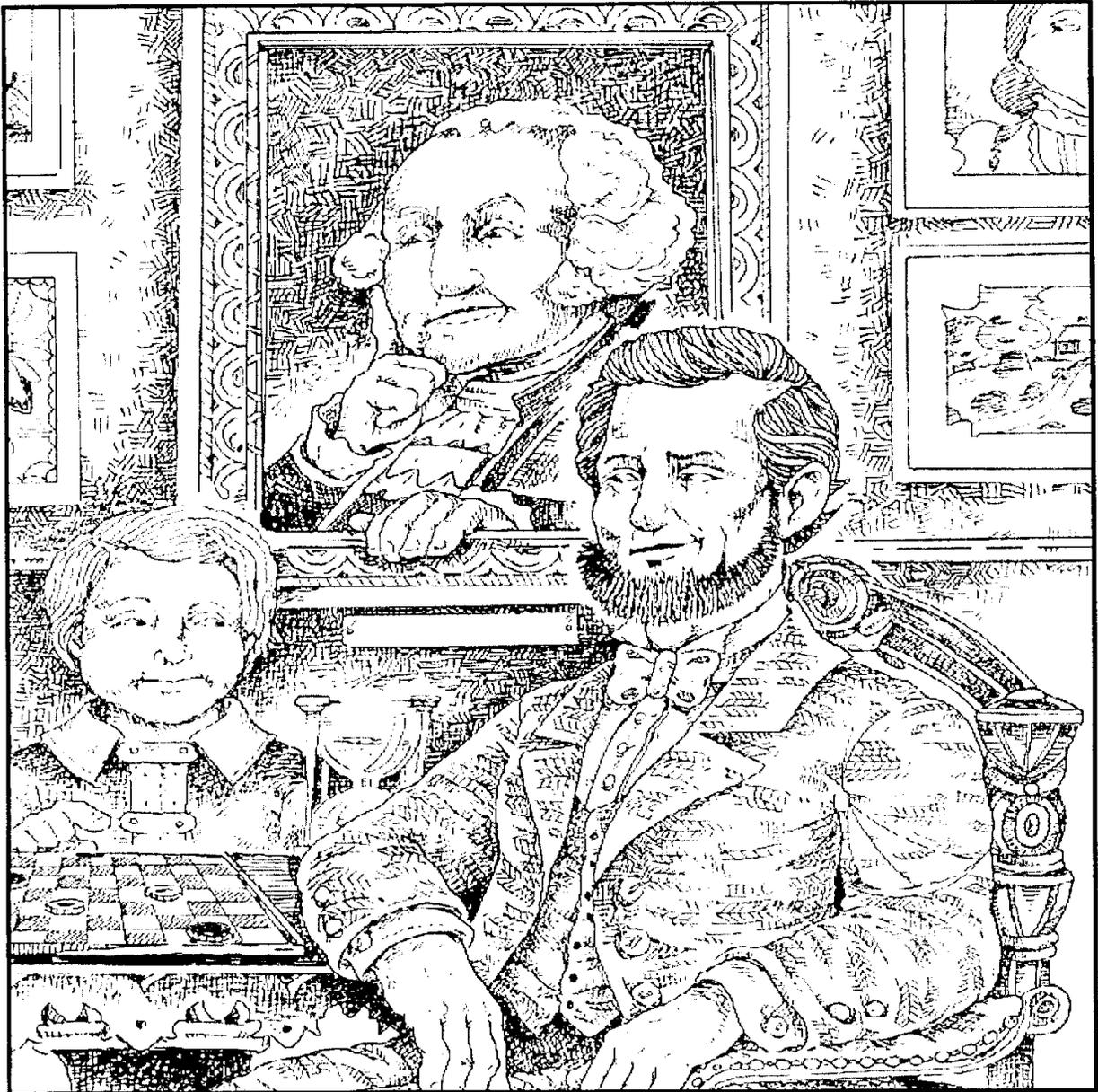
- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- Opinions will be expressed with humility, self-control, gentleness, and kindness.
- We will look for common ground as we search for consensus, and we will respect that consensus.
- We will affirm by our works and actions our common goal to serve God.

February 2014

This month we begin our collection of Hygiene Kit Supplies - please refer to the front page of this issue for items that are included in the kits.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Congregational Church of Somersville 22 Maple St., PO Box I, Somersville, CT 06072 860-749-7741 (860)-749-5132 (fax) somcong@aol.com (email) www.somersvilleucc.org (web site) Worship 10 AM			the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Yvonne Wood, Moderator Sydney Cohen, Treasurer Ruth Bruch, Clerk/Church Administrator Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director Tom & Elaine Hancock, Web Masters			1
2 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring collection	3	4 Evergreen Worship 11 Deacons 7 AA 7	5 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	6 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6 AA 7	7 Supper Prep beginning at 9	8 Baked Stuffed Shrimp Dinner 5 & 6:15 and Bake Sale
9	10	11 Finance 7 AA 7	12 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Food-share 1:15-1:45	13 AA 7	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 Cabinet	17 Presidents' Day	18 Ladies Aide Luncheon 12 AA 7	19 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	20 AA 7	21	22 Choir Practice 10-12:30
23 Spire Deadline	24	25 Blair Manor Worship 10:30 AA 7	26 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Food-share 1:15-1:45	27 AA 7	28	

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart - President's Day



04627

In the big picture, find these objects.

