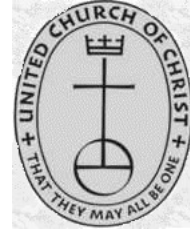




UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
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Date: January 6, 2008  
**PRESS RELEASE**  
*for immediate release*

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## Union Congregational Church Honors Retiring Church Clerk

PETERBOROUGH, NH – More than a hundred members and friends of Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hosted a celebration on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> in honor of retiring clerk Doris Heckbert. “For more than 40 years she has faithfully recorded our decisions, actions and vital statistics,” notes the Rev. Polly H. Shamy. “And without fail, she has always lightened that weighty job with love and laughter.”

During a special presentation of a memory book and honorarium that followed the dinner given in Mrs. Heckbert’s honor, emcee Dick Sanders summarized highlights from her career. She was elected clerk on January 26, 1966. Over the years she has worked with many different leaders including: six pastors; three interim pastors; one associate pastor; at least a half-dozen administrative assistants; and twenty-five moderators. Looking back, she took minutes for: more than 400 council meetings (with only a few absences noted); 42 annual meetings; and many special congregational meetings. Every year she counted the number of members; listed those who have died; kept track of baptisms, weddings, and funerals; sent transfer letters for people who have moved or changed churches; reviewed and updated bylaws; and sent a complete report to the conference regarding our church’s statistics. She recorded each entry by hand in a one-of-a-kind book that she kept under her bed!

Expressing her appreciation to everyone who participated in the event, the guest of honor said: “This is such a friendly church. I received more hugs tonight than I had in all my life.” She added, “I particularly enjoyed the original songs written to some of my favorite tunes.”

Mrs. Heckbert was born in Independence, KS on January 24, 1922, the daughter of Roy and Lura Kriehagen. She moved to Louisville, KY in 1947 to work as a secretary at Fort Knox where she met her future husband, Paul Heckbert, on her first day of work. They married in 1948 and moved to Dublin, NH after he was discharged from the Army. They are the parents of two daughters, Vicki Haley of Peterborough, and Judi Miller of Frankestown, NH. After being a full-time Mom for seven years, Mrs. Heckbert became a nursery school teacher for a few years at Mrs. Broyles’ Jack and Jill Nursery School on High Street. She then went to work at the American Guernsey Cattle Club as secretary for several years. Since then, she has been employed by the Bellows-Nichols Insurance Agency where she is still working after 43 years. Mr. and Mrs. Heckbert first joined Union Congregational Church in 1955. She has remained an active member since her husband’s death in 1979. While she has stepped down as clerk, Mrs. Heckbert plans to continue singing in the choir, an activity she has enjoyed for more than fifty years.

Now that she has more free time, Mrs. Heckbert wishes to spend it with her family, including four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She also hopes to catch up on her sewing projects. “Maybe now I can finish the quilt I started for my daughter’s 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary,” she said, “just in time for her 40<sup>th</sup>!”

Union Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC).  
Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM during the school year and at  
9:30 AM during the summer. Union Congregational Church was built in 1839. In  
addition to being a historical landmark and a place of worship, the building is regularly  
used by a number of community organizations. For further information, please visit the  
church's website, [www.uccpboro.com](http://www.uccpboro.com), or call 603-924-3272.

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