

# Light carries a message to NH from Bethlehem

◆ **Peace Light:** Boy Scouts accompany beacon throughout the state.

By **KATHY REMILLARD**  
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**BEDFORD** — More than 100 people came to the Bedford Presbyterian Church Saturday to celebrate the first arrival of the Peace Light to New Hampshire.

Each year, a child from Austria retrieves the light from a grotto in Bethlehem. It made its way to the United States

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Bradley Ewing, left, and Joseph Aiello, of Boy Scout Troop 414, share the peace light with a local Girl Scout troop Saturday at the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

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## Peace Light

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via Austrian Airlines, and was picked up by Bedford resident Gretchen Osgood and her son, Joshua, at JFK Airport in November.

Osgood has become New Hampshire's first Peace Light Coordinator.

The goal is to get the light to travel to as many locations as possible, spreading a message of peace wherever it goes. It's transported by Boy Scouts throughout the U.S. and Canada, but had never reached New Hampshire.

Those bringing lanterns and candles to the church were

greeted by Boy Scouts from Bedford Troop 414, who lit their lanterns and recited the Peace Light Challenge with them.

"I gladly receive this light as a sign of my willingness to be a channel of peace through my words and actions," the pledge read.

According to Osgood, the light will spread throughout New Hampshire, from Laconia to Antrim, Rochester to New Ipswich, and even beyond.

"The Rev. Dennis Hett will be leaving for Nebraska with his Peace Light, where he will

share it on Christmas Eve with the Laurel and Belden Presbyterian Churches, where he is the new pastor," Osgood said.

Visitors expressed a sense of awe as they received the light, recognizing its importance during the holiday season.

"This is from Bethlehem! It doesn't get any better than that," said Janet Caza of Pinardville.

Sharon Coughlin of Bedford, whose son is a seminarian, came to say the prayers with her husband Jim.

"It's a beautiful message," she said. "With all of the con-

flict in the world, peace is what we all hope for."

The Boy Scouts also recognized the scope of the project.

"It means a lot to me because it's something that came all the way from Israel," said Joseph Aiello.

Bradley Ewing, who assisted Aiello with the transfer of the light, agreed.

"We feel honored — it's traveled a long way, and we get to share it with a lot of people," he said.

Osgood said she plans to make the sharing of the Peace Light an annual event.