



# The Witness

Fall 2011 Edition  
October/November/December

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364  
Tel: (207) 377-2063  
E-mail: [wccucc@fairpoint.net](mailto:wccucc@fairpoint.net)  
Webpage: [www.wccucc.org](http://www.wccucc.org)



## Pastor's Reflections

### Sacred Places

One of my favorite artists is Vincent Van Gogh who often painted places that for him were sacred and holy. He wrote about nature. "All nature seems to speak . . . as for me, I cannot understand why everybody does not see it or feel it; nature or God does it for everyone who has eyes and ears and a heart to understand."

We meet God in many places and spaces. Wherever we meet God is sacred and holy. Where do you meet God? Recently I asked some people this question and here are some of the holy places and sacred spaces where they meet God.

- † In the hospital where I meet people who share their faith
- † In the presence of an elderly person who is stalwart and courageous
- † At Ocean Park I see the water and waves and know God is there.
- † A small child opened the church and welcomed me. I met God in that young one.
- † In the Canadian sunsets I see the artist God.
- † Walking in the woods and working in flower and vegetable beds I know God is with me.
- † When I hear music.
- † While sitting in the cemetery and remembering loved ones.
- † When I visit Holy Ruins, I connect with the saints and with God.

In these places and in our own holy spaces we can approach God and even talk to God. Marcus Borg in his book *The Heart of Christianity* calls these places thin places. Thin places are where the "visible world of our ordinary experience and God, the sacred Spirit, meet and intersect. They are places where the boundary between the ordinary and the sacred becomes very soft, porous and permeable. Thin places are where the veil momentarily lifts and we behold God, experience the one in whom we live, all around us."

A sacred place can be one special place or it can be many. The sacred and holy can be with us wherever we are –in many places and spaces. Our church has many sacred places. Of course we experience God's presence as we gather in our sanctuary on Sunday morning. We also have a beautiful camp and a renewed chapel where we can connect with God.

I love going to our camp and sitting by the water or walking on the new meditation trail that starts near our worship area and goes along the water. I like to stop and sit on a rock and look at Lake Maranacook, listen for the loons and watch them play on the water. Our camp is a wonderful place to experience the wonder of our Creator. For me our camp is a sacred place – a thin place where I can meet God and experience the wonder of creation.

I also look forward to times of mediation and prayer in our newly restored and renewed chapel. The light and colors of the room bring me into a calming and peaceful presence of God.

A special thanks to all who have worked hard so we can have two new and beautiful sacred spaces where we can experience the love and power of God.

May these holy places, where we speak to God and where God speaks to us; where God recreates us and sends us to love as Jesus' and the Father's love transform us.

Blessings,  
Alice

---

---

### FALL EVENTS

(More information and dates will follow)

- † **Church History Sunday: Remembering Dr. Thurston:** We will worship using liturgy that would be similar to liturgy at the time of Dr. Thurston. After worship Donald Beattie will give a talk about Dr. Thurston.
- † Roxanne French will lead an **adult study** after church.
- † **Oct 9:** Rev. Ed Jones will be our guest preacher; Joe Dressler will be liturgist while Rev. Alice is on vacation.
- † **Dedication of the Chapel:** We will dedicate our newly restored and renewed chapel
- † **Advent Meditations** “Preparing for the Christ Child” - Tuesday or Thursday in our chapel during Advent.



---

---

### From the Deacons

We had several events at the Church Camp this summer, two worship services as well as final two study sessions of “Claiming the Promise” and a church retreat. We also had some wonderful special music this summer.

---

---

## WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The Women's Guild is a social group with a mission. Membership is open to all women of the church. We usually meet once a month, on the fourth Thursday, at member's homes or at church.

We support the needs of the church by coordinating altar flowers for worship, by purchasing paper goods for the church, by sending cards and caring notes to people in need. We also coordinate receptions for funerals and special occasions. During the winter, hats & mittens are collected for area school children; Prayer shawls are made with love, Material Aid Kits (school, health & clean-up) are assembled for the Church World Service program. We sponsor a child named Hussam from Jerusalem. Most of our funds are raised through our sales of RADA cutlery and Sangamon Mills dishcloths, which are available at our chowder luncheons and church fairs.

Speaking of RADA Cutlery, we recently discovered that RADA offers dishwasher safe handles! Cyndi has just placed an order for popular items with the **new** handles, but we need to make room for the new items.

So, the Women's Guild will have a **HOT SALE** on items in our current inventory. The sale of **20-40% off the retail price** will be **available to our church family after church worship on October 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Be sure to stop by the table then to catch some wonderful deals! The sale price won't last long.

At our September meeting, we donated \$100 towards the Honduras project goal of \$3500, and we hope that this donation will spur others to donate as well. The Honduras Mission Trip Planning committee is interested in fundraiser ideas and people to help coordinate the events-Fiesta Public Supper, Dessert Social, Mini-Golf tournament. Any willing hands out there?

Our next meeting is Oct 27, 2011, location to be announced, once a hostess and co-hostess has been confirmed.

---

---

## CE MATTERS

Sunday School has started!! The Christian Ed Committee now offers two classes: one for our older children (children in Grade 4 and above) and a separate Sunday School class. We are using two different curriculums and they both provide on-line material to assist in teaching the classes. As always we need teachers and helpers to make these classes successful. Please contact Susan Mauro or anyone else on the Christian Ed Committee and let them know that you are willing help.



Worship was held at the Church Camp on July 3, 2011 with a picnic following. Roxanne led the service and we all had a good time even though the weather was not the most cooperative.

Susan Mauro, Chair  
Board of Christian Education

---

---

## **From the Trustees**

Several people have found exterior church doors unlocked or unlatched. Please be careful to lock and latch doors when you leave the church. If you are at the church during the week, take a minute and check exterior doors to ensure that they are locked and latched.

We are approaching another heating season. Please turn thermostats down to about 60 degrees when you leave. Also please ensure that lights are turned off.

We thank you for your assistance.

---

---

## **From the Treasurer**

As of the end of August, income was \$1626 less than the budget. Actual income was \$51,239 compared to the budget of \$52,865. The difference is primarily attributed to offerings.

Expenses for the same period were \$2637 more than budget. Actual expenses were \$56,020 compared to the budget of \$53,383. The difference is primarily attributed to fuel oil.

---

---

## **Hannaford Gift Card Sales**

As of September 18, Hannaford gift cards sales have totaled \$16,275, bringing earnings for the church of \$775.

Carol Ellingwood

---

---

## **Board of Church & Community Concerns Update**

Starting in September, our Board has had a plate full of projects for the fall and early winter months. At last year's annual meeting, it was voted that the Stewardship campaign be held in October thereby providing more time for receiving pledges and preparing the budget for the January annual meeting. Therefore, BCCC has had meetings preparing for the upcoming pledge campaign. The theme is "Count Yourself Blessed" and the letter to be sent to members and friends has been prepared and will be distributed at the October 2nd Sunday service. Those pledge letters not picked up will be mailed the following day. October 16th has been chosen as the date for the special stewardship pledge offerings during the Sunday service.

November has traditionally been a month-long campaign for receiving food stuffs for the Winthrop Food Pantry. Materials will be forthcoming as reminders to the church family of this worthy and much needed local assistance program.



In December, BCCC is responsible for the Domestic Violence project where our church provides much-appreciated support to a family for the Christmas holiday. The Augusta chapter assigns us a family that needs our support and assistance. Our church has been very supportive of this project in the past and we are sure the same will hold true for this coming season. Our thanks to all of you for your past help; we can "count ourselves blessed".

Kay Webster BCCC Chairman

---

---

Rev. Saul Barahona Guifarro's sermon as given to Winthrop Congregational Church on Sunday, September 25, 2011- translation by Peter Coulton

**EL TEMOR DE JEHOVA.**  
**THE FEAR OF THE LORD**  
**PROVERBIOS 1:7**

El mundo tiene urgencia de hombres y mujeres que actuen con sabiduria, los proverbios fueron escritos, con el proposito de desarrollar sabiduria.  
The world has urgent need of men and women acting with wisdom. Proverbs was written with the purpose of developing wisdom.

Salomon nos dice, que no es posible alcanzar lo que nos proponemos, sin una comprension correcta de Dios.  
Solomon says to us, that it is not possible to achieve what we want, without a proper understanding of God.

- Temer no significa: "tener miedo de" mas bien un temor reverencial a Dios, sentir un respeto total ante El, ser realista en cuanto su poder.

Fear does not mean: 'be afraid of ' rather a reverential fear of God, a feeling of respect towards Him, being realistic insofar as his power.

-Principio: es el primer paso, O punto de partida en la senda que tomamos, para alcanzar un destino determinado.

- To begin: it is the first step, a starting point on the footpath that we take, to reach a certain destination.

-Sabiduria : es el intento por comprender loque nos rodea.

- Wisdom: It is the attempt to understand what surrounds us

Salomon reline estos tres terrninos, para informarnos, que la idea que tengamos de Dios depende de nuestra concepcion razonable que nace de un corazon integro hacia EL. El mundo tiene sus propias características en cuanto al tern or por ejemplo: alguien puede tener temor de la oscuridad, la altura, a estar encerrado etc. Pero el temor que menciona el escritor biblico, viene a ser beneficioso a aquel que lo practica.

Solomon lists three terms, to inform us, that the idea we have of God depends upon our reasonable conception that is born from a heart fully integrated with HIM. Our world has its own characteristics in terms of fear. For example, someone may be afraid of darkness, height, etc., or to be enclosed in small spaces. But the fear that the Biblical writer mentions, becomes beneficial to one who practices it.

Este temor que habla la palabra de Dios, tiene las siguientes características :  
This fear that speaks the word of God, has the following characteristics:

I. TIENE EL INGREDIENTE DE REVERENCIA.

1. IT HAS THE INGREDIENT OF REVERENCE.

- este no impide el funcionamiento de nuestras actividades diarias.
- impulsa a buscar a Dios día a día, con la certeza que está a nuestro lado.
- nos involucra en el trabajo de la obra de Dios.
- this does not prevent the functioning of our daily activities. - This impels us to look for God every day, with the certainty that He is next to us. - it involves us in the work of the God's work

II. EL TEMOR DE JEHOVA, TE HACE RECONOCER QUE:

2. FEAR OF THE LORD, HE MAKES YOU RECOGNIZE THAT:

-por nuestra naturaleza finita, nos embargan muchos temores  
By our finite nature, we are seized by many fears.

- temores, que solo Dios te puede quitar.
- fears, which God alone can take from you

Como: temor a una enfermedad

As: fear of illness

temor a estar en crisis económica  
fear of being in economic crisis

Temor a ser dependiente de alguien  
Fear of being dependent on someone

-el temor a Dios, crea en ti una dependencia de EL.  
The fear of God, creates in yourself a dependency on Him.

Solamente la reverencia y la fe en Dios, puede darnos las bases, para vivir sin ser consumidos por los temores.  
Only the reverence and faith in God can give us the foundation to live without being consumed by fear.

III. EL TEMOR A DIOS, SE MUESTRA SIENDO MADUROS AL USAR NUESTRO RAZONAMIENTO.

3: The fear of God, it shows us being mature in using our reasoning.

- este no se pone en conflicto con nuestros pensamientos.
- It does not conflict with our thoughts.
- te conduce a vivir una vida quieta y reposadamente en EL.
- Leads you to live a quiet and peaceable life in Him.
- te hace ser diferente.
- it makes you be different.

Los años, no nos hacen ser sabios, es necesario atesorar la palabra de Dios y sus enseñanzas en nuestro corazón para adquirir sabiduría.  
The years, they do not make us wise. We need to treasure the word of God and His teaching in our hearts to acquire wisdom.

El atleta que sigue las instrucciones de su entrenador, rapidamente mejora su rendimiento, si vives una vida en confianza a Dios, le buscas y la honras, entonces experimentarás una vida bendecida por Dios.

The athlete who follows the instructions of his coach, quickly improves his performance. If you live a life of trust in God, seek Him and honor Him, then you will experience a life blessed by God.


CONCLUSION: si queremos ser sabios, debemos ejercer ese temor sana de Dios, debemos reverenciarlo en nuestros pensamientos y acciones, esto sera testimonio para que otros quieran tener esa misma relacion con Dios.

CONCLUSION: If we want to be wise persons, we must exercise this healthy fear of God, we must revere it in our thoughts and actions. This will be our testimony so that others may want to have the same relationship with God.

SI TIENES UNA CLARA COMPRESION DE DIOS, PODRAS COMPRENDER Y DEFINIR TODO LO DEMAS.

IF YOU HAVE A CLEAR UNDRSTANING OF GOD, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND DEFINE EVERYTHING ELSE.

GOD BLESS YOU.

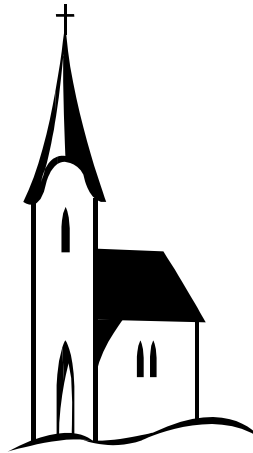
| October Birthdays  |                               | November Birthdays   |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1                  | Sonny Maxim                   | 7  | Roger Hanson    |
|                    | Christopher Martin-McNaughton | 12   | Pamela Hadley   |
| 7                  | Kara Hiendlmayr               |  | Caroline Ridley |
| 11                 | Rick McNaughton               | 13   | Ted LaCrone     |
| 16                 | Wendy Dennis                  | 19   | Sandra Smith    |
|                    | Pamela Livingstone            | 22   | Dana Hall       |
| 22                 | Joshua Martin-McNaughton      | 25   | Fred Douglas    |
| 24                 | Wendy Wagner                  | 28   | Melissa deWolfe |
| 26                 | Jamie Martin-McNaughton       | 29   | Justin deWolfe  |
| 31                 | Ginger Smith                  |  | Ginny Webb      |
| December Birthdays |                               |  |                 |
| 2                  | Lois Gibbs                    |  |                 |
| 9                  | Patrice Putman                |  |                 |
| 13                 | Emily Dooling                 |  |                 |
| 15                 | Marja Hatfield                |  |                 |
| 19                 | Nathaniel Smith               |  |                 |
| 24                 | Ann Mitchell                  |  |                 |
| 28                 | Kay Webster                   |  |                 |
| 29                 | Daniel Whittier               |  |                 |



**WCC is now on Facebook**

**Visit us at**

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=lf#!/pages/Winthrop-Congregational-Church/146739145356709>



Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC  
10 Bowdoin Street  
Winthrop, Maine 04364