

THE WITNESS



SPRING 2011
April/May/June

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UCC

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PASTOR'S ARTICLE

I just returned from vacation in Madison Wisconsin where we visited our daughter Rachael, son-in-law Brian, and grandson Ben. We had a wonderful time with our family even though the weather was not exactly great. Ben, who is 2 years and 3 1/2 months at this writing, is so excited about words and everything around him. He talks up a storm, sings, and asks questions. Most of his questions (and there are many) are just one word, "why?" He is lucky to have two scientists as parents for they take his whys very seriously and try to answer every question. One time when we were traveling in the car, Ben sitting in his car seat in the back seat of the car, lifted up his head and with a wonderful smile on his face started to sing; "Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?! Why? Why? Why? Why?! Why? Why? Why?" He is happy and excited as he explores the world and asks his whys.

We all ask our whys. I have been more aware since our visit with Ben how many times I ask why and often don't have the answers to my whys. There is so much going on today in our world that is not easy to understand. And we ask why? Why? Why?

As we near Holy Week when we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem with people lining the streets and shouting hosanna, Jesus' anger at the temple when he found the porch full of thieves and cheaters, Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples and how he shared bread and wine with his disciples and told them this is my body and bloodshed for you, how Judas betrayed Jesus and turned him over to the authorities and how Peter denied that he knew Jesus. We remember Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane asking God to save him from suffering and death, Jesus death on the cross on Good Friday and his burial in the tomb. As we remember we ask our whys. All this does not make much sense and I'm sure we wonder why his disciples could let this happen or why the Jews didn't get it or why people turned from praising him to condemning him. As we walk through Holy Week it doesn't make much sense. And then on Easter morning it all comes together as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and new life. Finally we have some answers to the Holy Week whys.

I invite you this year to join us as we walk through the events of Holy Week together and then to the celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning. Listed below are special events for Lent and Easter. Some of these events are at our neighboring churches.

May you all have a blessed Lent and Holy Week and a joyous Easter! Alice

LENTEN AND EASTER EVENTS

April 10: Seder Supper sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, the Confirmation Class and the Board of Deacons after Winthrop Congregational worship.

The Seder Supper is a reenactment of the Jewish Passover Meal. That is the meal Jesus ate with his disciples on the Thursday of Holy Week before he was betrayed. The Seder, which means order of service, is a traditional service of joy and thanksgiving to God remembering the Exodus of the Hebrew people from their slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. Symbolic foods are eaten during the meal to help all remember and experience the Passover. We will eat the symbolic foods and take part in the traditional liturgy, then share a covered dish meal together. Please bring a covered dish with you. The deacons and CE Board members will provide the symbolic foods.

April 17, 10:00 am – Palm Sunday Worship

We will remember Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem and then walk with him through some of Holy Week. After Worship, join us for soup and bread at the Lenten Study "Claiming the Promise" Open and Affirming Study after worship in the Vestry. After this week these Open and Affirming Study Sessions will take a break until summer.



April 21, 6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion.

This service takes place in the Vestry. Through the liturgy, we will share the Last Supper together, with a light meal provided by the deacons. At the end of the service we will drape the cross in black and leave in darkness and silence.



April 22, 7:00pm – Good Friday Service at Winthrop Methodist Church

April 24

7:30 am Ecumenical Sun Rising Service

Winthrop Friends Church invites us to start our Easter Day at Winthrop Center Friends Church. We will gather outside, as weather permits, moving inside in case of April Showers. Music, Scripture and Readings will draw our souls into this celebratory day, honoring the resurrection and new life in the Christ of history, and our own journeys as followers. Begin this day of joy in reflection, song and community with other area disciples.

April 24

8:00 – 9:00 Easter Breakfast

A local foods Easter breakfast is scheduled to happen at the Winthrop Center Friends Church from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at a cost of \$5 per person. Winthrop Center Friends Church is located on Winthrop Center Rd, (Rte. 135 south)

10:00 am Easter Sunday Service of the Resurrection

Join us for Easter Service at Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC. Pick up your Easter plants after service.



WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The Guild has held three meetings this quarter with good attendance.

In January, the Guild hosted a reception following the funeral service of Pete Edwards.

A mitten and hat tree placed in the back of the sanctuary collected many hats, mittens and scarves for the Winthrop school children who sometimes are without on cold winter days.

Bright yellow daffodils decorated the Altar on March 20 with the promise than spring will soon arrive. \$235 was sent to the American Cancer Society from the sale of the flowers. You can order Easter plants now. See Marie Hatfield or contact the Church Office

Guild members are currently sewing bags for school kits. Items will be purchased by the Guild to fill one clean-up bucket. Material Aids kits will need to be delivered to the Woodfords Congregational Church on May 4.

Cards continue to be sent to those who are experiencing illness or loss. Prayer shawls are given for those needing comfort.

Flower contact persons for the following months are:

March	Marie Hatfield
April	Jean Doughty
May	Carol Ellingwood & Carol Whittier

New flower envelopes have been placed in the back of the church for those wishing to provide flowers for the Altar for Sunday worship. A calendar has also been placed on the bulletin board in the vestry for people to write in a week they would like to provide flowers.

Plans are underway for the Guild's annual spring outing to be held on May 26 at The Emporium Restaurant in Readfield. We invite all women of the church to join us for a fun evening. Anne Mitchell is organizing the event.

Our next meeting will be held on April 28 at the home of Marie Hatfield.

Carol Ellingwood, Secretary

Confirmation News

Our Confirmation Class led us in worship on March 13. They created the liturgy, picked the hymns, wrote the prayers and meditation. Together we worshipped, sang, and prayed with the leadership of our youth. What a special day it was for all of us. We thank our confirmands for an inspiring worship experience and thank the teachers who worked with them. And we offer a special thanks to all of you for your generous gift of \$500 to go toward the confirmand class' trip to Boston on April 29, 30 and May 1.

Following is a summary of the Boston Trip:

On Saturday morning our young people will bring the food and prepare brunch for those who are formerly homeless and living in one of the homes supported by the Pine Street Inn. These community residents provide the support and services necessary to ensure that tenants improve the quality of their life and reconnect with the community. Our young people will be planning a menu and then will ask us for food donations.

On Saturday afternoon we will help pack up the stuff of the Women's Lunch Place, another program that offers food and nourishment, so that The Women's Lunch Place can move to a new location at the Old South Church.

After volunteering on Saturday, we will walk the Freedom Trail and become tourists for the afternoon and evening.

On Sunday morning we will worship at Old South Church (United Church of Christ) which is an old and historical church in Boston. After worship we will have a tour of the church.

While we are in Boston we will stay at the Walker Center, a retreat center that used to house missionaries when they were home on furlough.

We'll have lots to share with you about the church at work in the city of Boston.

On May 15 is Confirmation Sunday for your young people.

Haddock Casserole (Debbie Burns)

1 pound haddock 3 T. butter
3 T. flour 1/2 c. milk
1/4 c. fish water
1/2 pound grated cheddar cheese

Poach fish. (Cover fish with water; Bring to a boil. Cover and turn off heat.)
Leave for at least 20 minutes; save fish water when draining fish.

Melt butter in another pan. Stir in flour, milk, and fish water until creamy and smooth. Add cheese, stirring until creamy.

Grease a casserole dish. Layer fish and cheese sauce; top with sprinkles of paprika. Bake uncovered at 350° for 30-45 minutes.

CE MATTERS

The Board of Christian Ed has been busy making plans for the Confirmands. The worship service prepared by the Confirmands was great! We wish to thank everyone who helped in the preparation and participation of that service. We visited the Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston on Sunday, April 3rd with Debbie Mihalakis from the Winthrop House of Pizza and a Colby College Student, Evangeline. Evangeline helped answer some questions after the service. The children learned of a few customs very different from ours during the service.

REMINDER: We are still collecting bottles and cans to help provide camperships for Pilgrim Lodge. Please drop them into one of the collection boxes (kitchen or Sunday school room). Thanks for your support!

We are looking for someone to volunteer to provide nursery care during worship service or special church events. If you or anyone you know is looking for some special time with our youngsters please let me know. This could be an opportunity for a person in high school to earn some community service hours.

As always, we need teachers and helpers for Sunday School Classes. Please let us know if there is a week that you are available to teach or help with the children. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Sunday School Room door. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Susan Mauro, Chair
Board of Christian Education

From the Trustees

Efforts to review the items stored in the church are ongoing. The Trustees wish to thank all those participating in this effort. The Trustees have removed items no longer in use from a portion of the crawl space accessed from the Vestry. In the next few weeks the Trustees will schedule a review of the remainder of items stored in this area and will be requesting input from others to assist in this review.

We are also planning to conduct Spring cleanup days at the church and at camp as soon as the snow leaves. Stay tuned for dates and times.

As most of you know, the dock at the camp was irreparably damaged during removal last fall. We are extremely grateful to the Mauro family for the donation of a replacement dock.

We are forming a special committee to investigate ways to improve our use of the camp. Anyone wishing to be involved in this activity should contact Doug Whittier, Joe Dressler, or Wendy Dennis.

From a financial perspective, at the end of the first quarter, expenses exceed income primarily due to fuel oil costs. With warmer weather approaching we

are hopeful that we can bring our expenses back in line with income. Income from our Fish Chowder luncheons was \$1,460 during this quarter.

The Trustees would like to thank Mike Burns for plowing the church parking lot again this year, this year was particularly challenging.

Doug Whittier
Co-Chair Board of Trustees

~Submitted by Lee Gilman~

The Pastors Cat

A pastor had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, but the kitty would not come down.

The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and let the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, 'Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping,' and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, 'Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?'

She replied, 'You won't believe this,' and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it.' She told the pastor, 'I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. Suddenly a kitten came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her.'

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor.

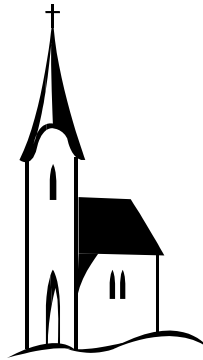
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays			
1	Eric Conrad		
3	Joan Barnes		
7	Matthew Dennis		
8	Corinna Coulton		
9	Julia LaCrone		
13	Steve Gilman Peter Hatfield		
15	Nick Burns Carol Whittier Jeff Brown		
17	Sharon Coulton		
19	Mike Mayette		
27	Brian Adams		
May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
3	Felicia Ridley Alice Darlington	5/17/80	Jeff & Wendy Dennis
4	Jean Doughty		
5	Connie Mayette		
7	Barbara Pray		
9	Becky Gillespie Shirley Rollins		
10	Linda Rollins		
11	John Richardson		
20	Emma Conrad		
21	Kelly Dooling		
22	Jeff Dennis		
26	Linda Adams		
31	William Maxim		
June Birthdays		June Anniversaries	
1	Alfred Pettengill	6/15/53	George & Ethel Maxim
4	Jared Hanson	6/24/	John & Ann Mitchell
6	Marty Hensen	6/27/53	Steve & Lee Gilman
16	Marie Hatfield	6/22/72	Hariph & Ginger Smith
17	Andy Burns		
19	Larry Ridley		
21	Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer Mark Dennis		
25	Joe Emerson		
29	Sean Putman-Labbe		
30	Ethel Maxim		

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