

The Witness



Winter 2015/2016 Edition
WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364
Tel: (207) 377-2063



E-mail: wccucc@fairpoint.net

Web Page: www.wccucc.org

Minister: Pastor Chrissy Cataldo Music Director: Rosalea Kimball Office Administrator: Cyndi Hall
Witness Editor: Dana Hall

Pastor's Reflections

With the Gospel stories as our only witness, we know precious little about Jesus' childhood. The Gospels of Mark and John don't mention it at all. The books of Matthew and Luke share few stories beyond his miraculous birth and one fit of adolescent nerdy rabble-rousing, when Jesus hung back at the temple after Passover to chat with the teachers without telling his parents. And, yet, even as I wish I knew more stories of the young Jesus, I cannot help but be struck by the few narratives that we do have.

In Matthew, a young woman became pregnant under strange circumstances. Her fiancé would have had every right to refuse to marry her. But, he did not. God showed him great potential in this child of scandalous origin. He stayed, guaranteeing the young woman's safety in their community, and agreeing to raise a boy who is not his own. He had faith that this boy will help their people. But, before the boy could save their people, he had to save the boy. The king saw the boy, a toddler at most, as a political rival. So, the man, now a father guided by God, took the boy and his mother to Egypt. The king, in a rage, had all the young children in the family's hometown killed. Did the young refugee family lose cousins and neighbors in that carnage?



What was it like for them to set up a new home among strangers in Egypt? Is it any wonder that this child, who once had to flee state-sponsored violence, would grow to be the man who said righteousness comes when you offer people clothes when they are naked, food when they are hungry, and water when they are thirsty?



In Luke, we have a story about the same young mother, this time told from her point of view. She knew that her pregnancy would be a scandal, but God assured her that this child would do great things. When she sang of her hope for her child, her God, and her people, she sang out that God's greatest care was for the lowly and the hungry.

The Witness Winter Edition

Her baby boy would be born in a barn and sleep his first hours in a feeding trough because no one would make room in the inn for this very pregnant woman and her husband. Is it any wonder that this baby would grow to a man who says to his followers that anyone with two coats must share with anyone who has none? Is it any wonder that this man would grow up to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free?

We will soon begin Advent, a time of expectation and hope. I pray that we can hear the familiar stories anew. May we be inspired like Joseph and Mary were. May we help God bring more love and justice into this world, even as we live in dangerous times and with uncertain situations.

Pastor Chrissy

WINTER EVENTS

- † Thursday, November 26th – Happy Thanksgiving!
- † Sunday, November 29th – First Sunday of Advent – Pick up your Poinsettia after worship!
- † Christmas Fair – December 5, 2015- Please come to this! See article on page 3 and flyer on page 7 for more information
- † Sunday December 6th – Help decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary during a special Chrismon service.
- † December 13th – Bring a personal care product or general household items for victims of domestic violence
- † December 20th - The choir will share its special Christmas cantata with the congregation.
- † Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th 7 pm.
- † Fish Chowder – Friday, January 8, 2016, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- † Epiphany Sunday – Sunday January 10, 2016 –Pageant
- † Monday, January 18 – Martin Luther King Day Breakfast – Saint Xavier Church, Winthrop
- † Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 24, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall after Worship along with a Pot Luck Luncheon
- † Fish Chowder – Friday, February 12, 2016, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM



We are an Open and Affirming Church

Board of Church and Community Concerns

The BCCC has had a busy fall! The Stewardship Drive has gone well and many pledges have been returned. We encourage those of you who have not returned your pledge to send it in as soon as possible. The Trustees will need them as they start the budget process in December. Many thanks go to Pastor Chrissy for her continued support throughout Stewardship Month. Also, many thanks go to Margaret, Michael and Jack for sharing their moving Faith Stories with us.

The Harvest Table is filling up quickly! This Sunday, November 22, will be the last day we will be collecting nonperishable foods, personal items and diapers for the Winthrop Food Pantry. There are envelopes on the table if you prefer to give a donation of money. Your donations really make a difference in the lives of many families!

Again, the BCCC will be supporting the Family Violence Project in December with our gifts for families in transition

- families who are transitioning into apartments and have come to the shelter with only the clothes they were wearing. They need household items such as bedding, towels, cooking utensils, pots and pans, toasters, coffee makers, dishes and personal items - shampoo, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. The household items can be new or clean and gently used.

Thank you for your continuing and generous support of the missions our church sponsors. We may be a small church, but we make a big difference!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Carol Whittier, Chair



CE MATTERS

Sunday School has been very exciting this year. We have more children and they are enjoying the Godly Play stories. We have learned about Joseph and his coat of many colors, Daniel, Ruth and Naomi, Abraham and Sarah and praying. Future lessons include learning about Advent symbols and more about the people in the bible. We have discovered that our nursery children enjoy the stories as much as the older ones and what a great, attentive crew we have. Our older children have even approached us and have indicated that they want to take part in the lesson planning. We invite you to come and experience a story with us!

We still have several story boxes to make and will need boxes (shoe boxes or boxes about the size of a shoe box) to hold our stories. We paint the outside and affix photos of the stories that they contain. Also, if anyone is interested in helping to make some of the props please let any of us know and we will get you started. We have several boxes started and they just need a few more things to complete them. Cyndi has been sharing some items needed in the Newsy Notes.

There will not be a Christmas Pageant this year; however stay tuned for a Pageant in the New Year. We are hoping to have something a little different to share with you. From the Board of Christian Education, Susan Mauro, Cyndi Hall, and Martha Payne

Women's Guild News

Members of the Women's Guild will be car pooling from the church to attend the CODA concert on Saturday, December 12th at 3 pm. Ginger Smith has invited to us come to her home following the concert for a "tour" of her North Pole villages and to view her collection of unique Santas and beautifully dressed dolls. Light refreshments will be served also!

The Guild is sponsoring a visit to the Botanical Gardens in Boothbay on Saturday, Dec. 19 to enjoy their very first "Gardens Aglow", a winter wonderland of festive lights and displays on the 14 acres of central gardens. There will be special music, food, and holiday gift shopping as well! The festivities will start at 4pm and end at 8pm. We will leave the church at 3 pm and are hoping a few people will volunteer to drive! Everyone is welcome!

The Guild will not be meeting in November or December due to the holidays. Our January meeting will be held at Shirley Foster's home, and our February meeting at Cyndi Hall's home. Please join us for a brief business meeting and then delicious snacks and friendly conversation!

Carol Whittier, Chair

From the Treasurer



The financial picture is good. As of the end of the October, total year to date income was \$902 more than expenses. This surplus was largely due to Total Expenses being below budget by \$4,543 (with Fuel Oil costs coming in at \$1,932 below budget and all committees doing an excellent job in controlling expenses) and some categories of Income performing above expected levels (Investment income is over budget by \$1,254).

Christmas Fair

Preparation for the Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec 5th is moving along smoothly. We appreciate so many people offering to assist in this major fundraiser of the church. If you have Second Time Around items to donate, please make sure they are cleaned and in working order. Items may be left in the Sunday school rooms beginning Sunday, Nov 29th until Thursday, Dec 3rd. No items will be accepted for this table after Dec 3rd!



Also think of the church fair this month as you stay inside out of the cold. It's a good time to bake and freeze items for the baked goods table, candy table, and cookie table. (You'll warm up from the heat of your oven and will help warm many appetites later!)



The jewelry table is always appreciative of your recycled items-pins, earrings, necklaces, etc.

Perhaps you have some unused items that are just collecting dust - they make great donations to the Silent Auction table (An acceptable form of re-gifting!)

With everyone's talents and support, we can make our Christmas fair fun and profitable!

The Witness Winter Edition

A Christmas Kaleidoscope

It's getting closer to that time of year! By popular demand, CODA will perform two concerts this season: 3:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturday, December 12th, at Hope Baptist Church in Manchester. The program includes everything from "Mister Santa" and "Wonderful Christmastime" to "Bidi Bom" and "A Little Organ Mass" by Haydn. We'll also include our traditional carol sing-along and the Hallelujah Chorus. A free will offering will be taken. Hope to see you at one of our two concerts, on Saturday, December 12th! For more information, please call 724-3718 or visit www.codachorus.com.

Hannaford Gift Card Sales

The Hannaford gift card sales continue to go well. Cards are always available for purchase and I have them on Sundays.

Thank you to all who continue to support this project to support our church budget.

Carol Ellingwood



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting this year is on Sunday, January 24th after worship. All are encouraged to attend this informative meeting, where important decisions will be made. A pot luck meal will also be shared during this time.

House Band Needs a Name

The Church's House Band (Rosalie Kimball, Jeff Dennis, Doug Whittier, Rebecca Lazure, Ted Lacrone, and Dina Blodgett) needs a name! Do you have one in mind? Drop a note in the Offering plate or at the office, send an e-mail to the Newsletter Editor or to the Church Office or chime in on Facebook.



Some possible names already offered:

Holy Rollers

(Make A) Joyful Noise

The Ted LaCrone Band

Heavenly Tones

Notes of Grace

Joyful Noise Makers

Grace Notes

Holy LaCronies

Altarations

Reign Makers

Notes of Joy

Heavenly Notes

Bell, Book, and Candle

Rejoice

Apostles of Song

Bowdoin Revival Band

Bowdoin Street Revival

Hymns or Hers

Blessed Harmony

Spirit in the Wind & Keys

Spirited

Catch the Spirit

Hear the Spirit

We are an Open and Affirming Church

The Witness Winter Edition

Check us out on

facebook

Visit us at

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>

December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
9	Patrice Putman	12/6/1975	Rick McNaughton & Marianne Martin
13	Emily Dooling		
15	Marja Hatfield Grillo		
19	Nathaniel Smith		
24	Ann Mitchell		
28	Kay Webster		
29	Daniel Whittier		
January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
2	Kelly deWolfe	1/16/2000	Mike & Debbie Burns
3	Helena Müller	1/31/1976	Alan & Carol Ellingwood
7	Brint Darlington		
10	Chrissy Cataldo		
17	Derek Hall		
18	Tom Dressler		
24	Gerry Edgar		
28	Martha Hewett		
29	Sarah Dressler		
February Birthdays		February Anniversaries	
3	Tom Irwin	2/19/1977	Ron & Nancy Dyer
5	Kristin Morgner		
6	Brett Hiendlmayr		
8	Nora Conrad		
10	Dina Blodgett		
12	Anna Brown		
14	Pat Culp		
20	Debbie Burns		
15	Jonathan Whittier		
22	Milton Hadley		
25	Tasha Dunn		

We are an Open and Affirming Church



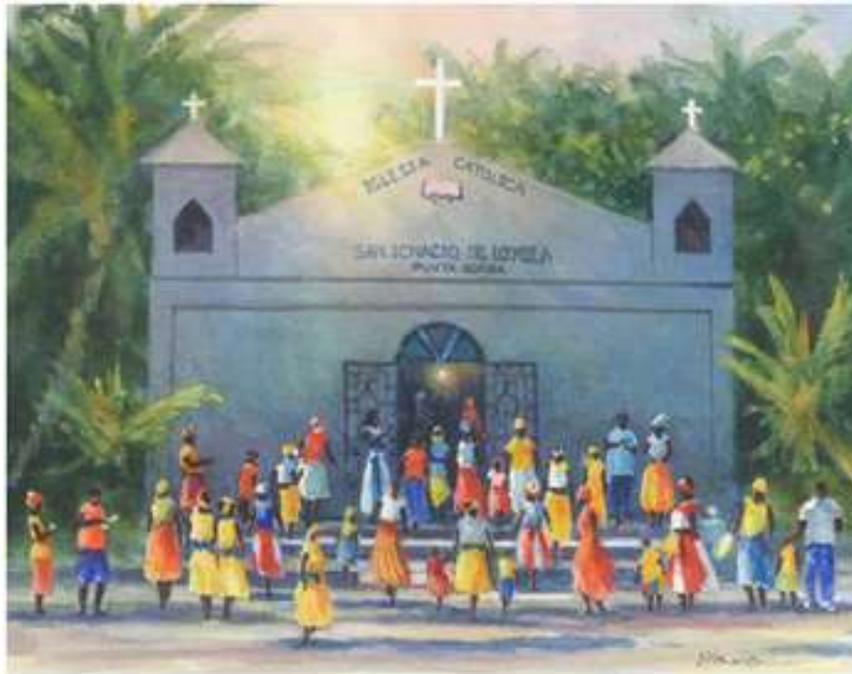
Ye Olde Christmas Fair
Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC
Saturday, December 5, 2015
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- * **Baked Goods**
- * **Jewelry**
- * **Nature Crafts**
- * **Silent Auction**
- * **Homemade Candy**
- * **Memorial Lights**
- * **Wreaths and Greenery**
- * **Needle and Thread Crafts**
- * **The Cookie Jar**
- * **2nd Time Around**
- * **Christmas Treasures**
- * **Books**
- * **Rada Cutlery/Dishcloths**
- * **Honduras Prints/Note Cards**

Luncheon - beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Join us as we prepare for the Christmas season with a wide variety of items for this special time of year! Something for all ages!

Honduras Print now available for sale



Numbered and signed prints of the John Holub painting will be available for sale at the Christmas Fair for \$20/print. Net Proceeds from the sale of the prints will benefit missions of our Church.

The painting is a depiction of several pictures taken on a mission trip to the island of **Roatán**. The painting depicts a festival at a church in Punta Gorda, one of the earliest churches on the island. Punta Gorda is home to the Garifuna ethnic group. The Garifuna are descendants of West African, Central African, Island Carib, and *Arawak* people. The British colonial administration used the term Black Carib and Garifuna to distinguish them from *Yellow* and *Red Carib*, the *Amedindian* population that did not intermarry with Africans and deported the *Garinagu* (Garifuna for the Garifuna people) from Saint Vincent in 1796 to **Roatán**.

Next Newsletter Deadline: February 16, 2016
