

The Witness



Winter 2016/2017 Edition
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Pastor's Reflections

Beloveds in Christ,

This morning, in my reading, I came upon Woody Guthrie's new year's resolutions from 1943.¹ Guthrie, a talented and prolific musician who struggled with chronic illness and often had a troubled home-life, wrote these resolutions during World War II (one of his resolutions was to "Help win war- beat fascism"). His list of 33 resolutions is a poignant reflection of what was meaningful to him at that particular moment in his life. Some of the resolutions seem simple: reminders to brush his teeth, take a bath, and eat some fruit and vegetables. Others seem like good advice for professional improvement: develop a schedule to help work more and better, read more, listen to the radio more, "play and sing good." Knowing that he and his first wife would divorce later in the same year, I read his resolutions to "send Mary and the kids money" and "don't get lonesome" with some sadness. At the same time, though, he resolved to "keep hoping machine running," to dance better, and to "wake up and fight." It turns out that Guthrie is a lot like the rest of us, living a life of joy and pain, dedication and complacency, connection and isolation, dancing and forgetting to brush your teeth.

Soon (very soon), we will begin again, starting the centuries-old journey through the church year. In just a few weeks from my writing of this note, Advent will return, reminding us of God's radical breaking into the world in the form of a poor Jewish refugee child. We will be invited, once again, to re-imagine how we can help God break into the world anew through our acts of worship and service.



Looking towards the coming year, are you making some resolutions?

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What kinds of commitments are you making (and maybe even renewing) to reconnect yourself with God and with your neighbors? Our church will be renewing our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming gathering space through our upcoming capital campaign. What other commitments do you think we're called to make in the coming year? What is our version of "dance better, shine shoes, and wake up and fight?"

Email me at pastorchrissywcc@gmail.com. Let me know what's on your resolution list. Help us keep our hoping machine running.

Pastor Chrissy

¹ You can find the complete list of resolutions on page 7 of this newsletter and at <http://boingboing.net/2016/11/13/keep-hoping-machine-running-w.html>

WINTER EVENTS

- † Thursday, November 24th – Happy Thanksgiving!
- † Thursday, November 24th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** sponsored by the Winthrop Rotary - **12:30 PM to 1:30 PM** in the Parish Hall of St. Francis Catholic Church
- † Sunday, November 27th – **First Sunday of Advent**
- † **Christmas Fair** – December 3rd - Please come to this! See article on page 6 and flyer on page 10 for more information
- † Sunday, December 4th – Bring a personal care product or general household items (linens, towels, kitchen items, etc.) for victims of domestic violence. – Pick up your Poinsettia after worship!
- † December 7th - **“Lighting the Way Through the Holidays”** Roberts Funeral Home on Bowdoin Street will host a service of hope and healing at **6 pm** for those whose holiday season is also a time of grief. (Snow date is Dec 8th at same time)
- † Sunday, December 11th – **Pageant**
- † Sunday, December 18th - The choir will share its special **Christmas Cantata** with the congregation.
- † December 24th – **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 pm.**
- † Sunday, December 25th – Worship at 10 am
- † **Fish Chowder** – Friday, January 13, 2017 - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- † **Epiphany Sunday** – Sunday January 18th
- † Monday, January 16th – Martin Luther King Day Breakfast
- † **Annual Meeting**, Sunday, January 29, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall after Worship along with a Pot Luck Luncheon
- † **Fish Chowder** – Friday, February 10th - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- † Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – **Mardi Gras – Shrove Tuesday – “Fat” Tuesday**



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Board of Church and Community Concerns

As the Christmas season approaches, please keep families who are in crisis in your thoughts and prayers. These women and children have had to flee their unsafe homes, leaving all their belongings behind. The BCCC will again be accepting donations for Families in Transition at the Family Violence Project. The list of items that these families need as they begin their new lives in apartments will be posted in a Newsy Note. We will also make these lists available at church. Your donations can be placed under the Christmas tree on Sunday, December 4th.

Happy Thanksgiving! Carol Whittier, Chair

CE Matters

The Board of Christian Education has been busy this fall. We have worked with the children to learn about some of the Parables and that they are mysterious and wonderful gifts. We learned that the boxes containing the Parables are open to us and may have different meaning to us at different times in our lives. As you are aware, our Sunday School Class is growing and we are including all ages in the exploration of all the lessons.

We shared a Pumpkin Prayer with the Church and carved a pumpkin reminding us that God is with us in all that we do. We have started preparation for the Christmas Pageant scheduled for December 11th. The Board hosted an intergenerational potluck and painting/coloring party after church on November 13th. The 19 people who participated seemed to enjoy painting the pageant backdrop and church murals about Creation. During Sunday School, the children have been making props for our pageant. We have another inclusive pageant story to share with all of you soon.

The Board is also preparing for some lessons which will require some sewing. If anyone is willing to help, please contact one of the Board Members for more information.

The Board welcomes Nora Conrad to our Childcare Attendants. Nora will fill in when Corinna or Linda are not available to help in the Nursery/Sunday School.

Blessings from the Board of Christian Education

Susan Mauro, Cyndi Hall, Martha Payne, Mike Davenport

From the Treasurer

Good news! We are in a good financial position as of October. YTD Total Income is ahead of projections by \$3,276 due to a variety of reasons including some prepaid pledges, strong fundraising, etc. Everyone is doing an excellent job in controlling expenses. YTD Total Expenses are below budget by \$3,551 in large part due to the warm weather throughout the year as our fuel bills continue to remain substantially below budget. It will be important to meet or surpass our income projections and manage our expenses throughout the remainder of the year. Thank you everyone for everything you do to financially support the Church so we can continue all the great work we've been doing in serving our community and supporting our missions.



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Women's Guild News



The Women's Guild is open to all women of the church. We are a social group who also provide church support and outside missions. We usually meet once a month, on the fourth Thursday of the month. Our October meeting was held at the home of Ginger Smith where the ladies enjoyed Ginger's all-out Halloween display. The Guild does not meet in November or December. The January meeting will be at the home of Cyndi Hall.

The Guild has coordinated 3 receptions this fall, one for an outside group using the church on September 30th and two following memorial services. Helen Cole's memorial service was October 6th and Joe Emerson's was October 29th. For the holidays, the Guild is taking orders for 1 and 2 stem poinsettias from Longfellow's, which should be available by December 4th. For this year's holiday outing, a group will visit the Coastal Botanical Gardens in Boothbay Harbor November 18th for their festive "Gardens Aglow" event.

We continue to sponsor our Children International child Vernon from Honduras. Our letters (to and from Vernon) are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, if you want to check them out. Charlotte & Abe Bryant wrote the most recent letter to Vernon during Sunday school. Nora Conrad who was our childcare attendant that day graciously typed their letter as they shared their thoughts. It will be fun to see how Vernon responds.

Our newly elected officers for 2017 are: Cyndi Hall as President, Ann Mitchell as VP, Marie Hatfield as Treasurer, and Shirley Foster as Secretary.

Hannaford Gift Card Sales



For nearly six years now, this ongoing fundraiser continues to average \$2,400 a year in income for our church. With a Hannaford store in our village and many throughout the area, using a gift card for weekly grocery needs or gifting to a family member is an easy way to shop. It is also a good way to

budget, having a specific amount set aside for food. When a card is purchased through the church, 5% is earned in return from the company.

Card orders take some planning as they now are done on line. A minimum of \$1,000 purchase must be made as a bulk order for fundraising purposes and processing and shipping can take up to 9 days. A \$2,000 order is typically placed as those cards will sell in 2-3 weeks. Cards sales are on Sunday right after church in Fellowship Hall during hospitality time or you can get them during the week by contacting me through email ellingwood@roadrunner.com or 377-6890.

The money from this fundraiser is part of the planned annual budgeted income for our church like all the other monthly and annual fundraisers we hold. If you would like to help out with the church's finances, consider using a gift card when shopping.

Thank you to all who continually support this fund raiser for a great cause!
Carol Ellingwood

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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting this year is on Sunday, January 29th 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.

Christmas Fair

Preparation for the Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec 3rd 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 27th until Thursday, Dec 1st. No items will be accepted for this table after Dec 2nd!



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!

Capital Campaign Case

"...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." From Isaiah 56:7

The Winthrop Congregational Church UCC has voted to undertake a capital campaign to fund projects which will maintain and upgrade the church building. This vote was a powerful step of faith in our congregation and is a great testament to our commitment to helping this church continue to serve God and neighbor. We have shown, once again, that we are excited about our ministry together and potential for God to show us new and different ways to utilize this building as a tool for ministry.

Our church's mission is to be a Christ-centered community of prayer and worship, of welcome and care, of learning and growing, of witness and service in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ. We are called to find new, creative ways to live out this mission. Our building can be one of our most significant tools for ministry, particularly as the place where we most often worship together and as a space to practice Christian hospitality and welcome.

The Winthrop Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community. The Church building serves as the center of worship for the church membership, as well as the center for services provided to the community by the church membership. The Church building serves as a safe and convenient meeting place and as a place for special functions for other

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community organizations, including Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and The Rotary Hunters' breakfasts.

In order to continue to serve as part the mission of the congregation as a place



of rich worship and deep welcome, we must assure that our building is both structurally sound and welcoming to all who enter. The repairs and upgrades we are proposing are important to our Congregation, and also to groups that use the church building as a meeting place. They are important to the community at large as the church building is a very visible and historic structure on the Main Street

of our town.

The projects to be funded by the campaign include repair of the church roof, repair of the bell tower, repair of the sanctuary ceiling, painting of the front entry and new flooring for the front entry. Each of these is described in more detail below.

- The church roof shingles on the Main Street side have been loosening and blowing off. This has resulted in roof leaks and some damage to the sanctuary ceiling. We have been replacing sections of shingles as they blow off. For a more permanent repair, we plan to remove the shingles, install plywood and install new shingles.
- The bell tower has been leaking during heavy wind driven rains resulting in some water damage in the sanctuary. We plan to install new weather proofing to the bell tower to eliminate water intrusion.
- Once we have eliminated sources of rain water intrusion through the roof and bell tower, we plan to repair the water damage to the Sanctuary ceiling.
- The wall paper, paint and carpet in the main entry way of the church are worn and need replacing. We plan to paint the walls and ceiling and replace the carpet.
- The repair of the roof and bell tower is necessary to repair deterioration which has occurred over time to the church structure and to prevent further damage due to water intrusion. The upgrading of the entry way improve the first impression that the church building makes on members and visitors.

The capital campaign will be initiated in January, 2017. We will be asking for pledges to be paid over a period of three years. We plan to undertake the repairs and upgrades on a priority basis as funds from the capital campaign become available. We plan to keep the congregation informed of the progress of the campaign and to seek concurrence as we develop specific plans for repairs and upgrades.

Doug Whittier

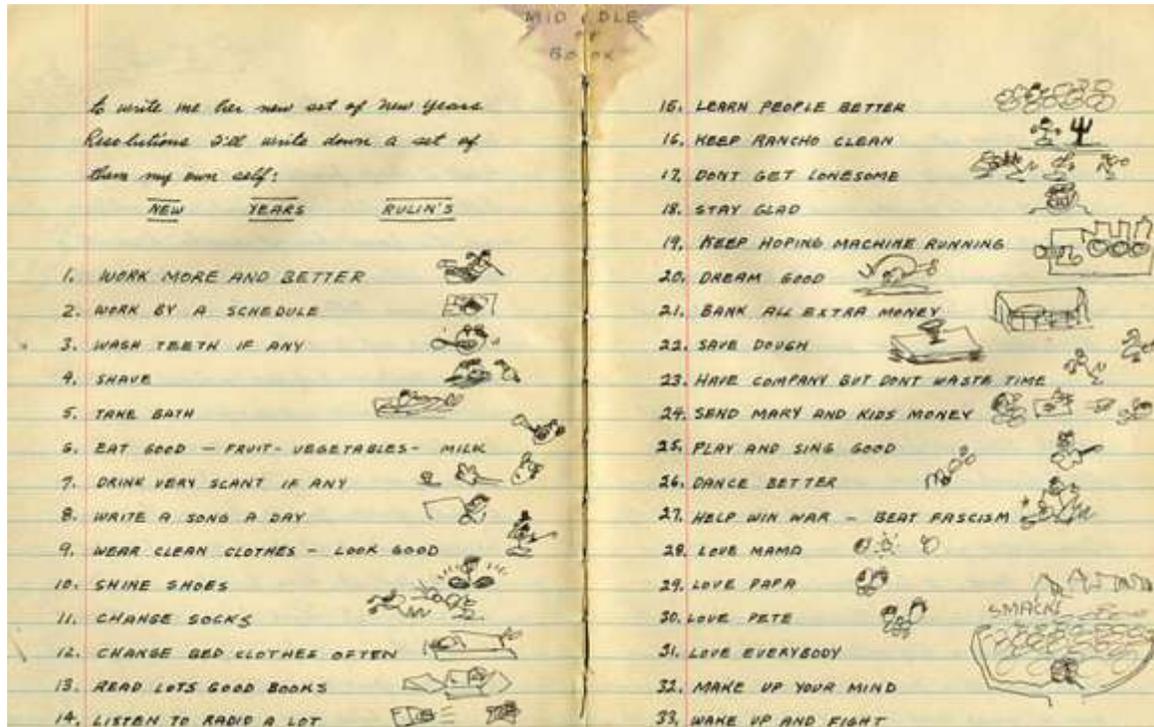
Next Newsletter Deadline: February 21, 2017

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Keep hoping machine running: Woody Guthrie's New Year's resolutions, 1943

On January 1, 1943, the American folk music legend Woody Guthrie jotted in his journal a list of 33 “New Years Rulin’s.” Nowadays, we’d call them New Year’s Resolutions. Adorned by doodles, the list is down to earth by any measure. Family, song, taking a political stand, personal hygiene — they’re the values or aspirations that top his list.



Below, we have provided a transcript of Guthrie’s Rulin’s.

1. Work more and better
2. Work by a schedule
3. Wash teeth if any
4. Shave
5. Take bath
6. Eat good — fruit — vegetables — milk
7. Drink very scant if any
8. Write a song a day
9. Wear clean clothes — look good
10. Shine shoes
11. Change socks
12. Change bed cloths often
13. Read lots good books
14. Listen to radio a lot
15. Learn people better
16. Keep rancho clean
17. Don't get lonesome
18. Stay glad
19. Keep hoping machine running
20. Dream good
21. Bank all extra money
22. Save dough
23. Have company but don't waste time
24. Send Mary and kids money
25. Play and sing good
26. Dance better
27. Help win war — beat fascism
28. Love mama
29. Love papa
30. Love Pete
31. Love everybody
32. Make up your mind
33. Wake up and fight

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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 Benson		
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		
27	Cindy McDonnell		

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Visit us at

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>

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Word Search Puzzle

From www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/
Free to distribute for free with this notice
Words in a straight line in all directions

A	S	H	W	I	L	L
N	W	I	V	S	R	N
D	E	S	N	I	O	J
O	H	L	E	S	F	E
E	T	H	P	R	Y	S
M	T	I	O	O	A	U
A	A	M	U	V	E	S
N	M	B	E	A	R	P

(Matthew 1:21) She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
(NRSV)

Word List

MATTHEW PEOPLE THEIR JESUS WILL SINS
SAVE NRSV NAME FROM BEAR YOU SON
SHE HIS HIM FOR ARE AND TO



Ye Olde Christmas Fair
Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC
Saturday, December 3, 2016
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 am

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!