



The Witness

Spring 2017 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

Beloveds in Christ,

In recent weeks, I have been reminded of these words found in Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, verses 1-8:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather
stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*



The author of Ecclesiastes would rarely be regarded as an optimist. So much of the book is a meditation on feeling like one's work is futile. And, yet, here is this little snippet of scripture, speaking to the shifting seasons of life, noting that even though there is a time to break down, there will also be a time to build up. The author, often known as Qoheleth, reminds us that weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, all have a part in creating a rich, full life.

As we move into the season of Lent, these words from Ecclesiastes will guide us through this rich season of our faith. We will read these words together on Ash Wednesday (March 1st). Each week during Lent, we will consider the shifts in Jesus' own life, from temptation, to discernment, to forgiveness, mourning, death and, ultimately, a time to rejoice together on Easter (April 16th).

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. I hope that you will join us this Lenten season. Come, consider what season of life you are in, and consider how we are called to serve as church during this present moment.

May we gather together like stones for building,

Pastor Chrissy.

SPRING EVENTS

- † Sunday, February 26th – **Worship Service** 10am
- † Tuesday, February 28th – **Mardi Gras Party** 6:00 pm – bring something delicious to share
- † Wednesday March 1st - **Ash Wednesday Service** 6:30 PM
- † Sunday, March 5th – **Worship Service** 10am
- † Sunday, March 5th – **“Souper” Sunday** –purchase some soup to go
- † Wednesday March 8th - **Crafty Ladies** 10am – 2 pm
- † Friday, March 10th – **Fish Chowder** 11:30 am-12:30 pm
- † Sunday, March 12th – **Worship Service** 10am
- † Sunday, March 19th – **Worship Service** 10am
- † Tuesday, March 21st – **Church Council Meeting** – 6:30 pm
- † Wednesday March 22nd - **Crafty Ladies** 10am – 2 pm
- † Sunday, March 26th – **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**
- † Thursday March 23rd – **Women’s Guild** home of Shirley Foster
- † Sunday, April 9th – **Palm Sunday**
- † Wednesday April 12th - **Crafty Ladies** 10am – 2 pm
- † Thursday, April 13th – **Maundy Thursday Service**
- † Friday, April 14th – **Fish Chowder** 11:30 am-12:30 pm
- † Sunday, April 16th – **Easter Sunday**
- † Tuesday, April 18th – **Church Council Meeting** – 6:30 pm
- † Wednesday, April 19th - **Crafty Ladies** 10am – 2 pm
- † Friday, May 12th– **Fish Chowder** –11:30 am-12:30 pm
- † Sunday May 14th – **Mother’s Day – Blanket Sunday Offering**
- † Tuesday, May 16th – **Church Council Meeting** – 6:30 pm
- † Tuesday, May 16th – **Summer Newsletter Deadline**



From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

On Sunday, March 26th the One Great Hour of Sharing special missions offering will be taken. These donations are primarily used for disaster relief, clean water projects, hunger relief and women's empowerment.

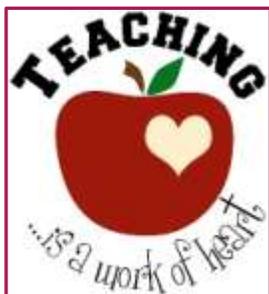
There are more than one hundred ongoing projects today around the world, in Canada and the United States. Our generous donations and those of many other churches have helped change the lives of grateful people and have given them hope for a better future. As you make your OGHS offering, you let our neighbors in need know:

You are here.

Carol Whittier, Chair



CE Matters



Since our last report at the annual meeting the Board of Christian Education has continued to teach some of the parables. We have also decided to let the children pick from our already made story boxes what lesson they would like to hear the following week. We also have some special plans for the Lenten season.

We would love to have some of our senior members help out teaching the children. Please let us know if you are willing to teach Sunday School one week. We will provide you with all the information you need to teach the lesson.

Blessings from the Board of Christian Education

Susan Mauro

Cyndi Hall

Martha Payne

Mike Davenport

From the Treasurer

Great news was shared at the Church's annual meeting. For the third year in a row we ended with a positive cash flow and in a much better position than projected. Not only we were able to meet our financial obligations, we were also able to accomplish the following:

- Continue to take care of our beautiful Church building that is used not just by us but our community
- Support our missions that are so important to us
- Help our neighbors when they most needed it

We couldn't have accomplished all this without everyone's generosity, support and extremely hard work. We ended 2016 with total income \$84,253 and total expenses of \$75,726 with a net surplus of \$8,527.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Members in attendance at the annual Meeting on January 29th approved the annual reports of the Officers, Boards and Committees of the Church. A balanced budget for 2017 was presented and passed.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet at church for our February meeting and at Shirley Foster's in March. Our April meeting will be at Lee Gilman's and in May, we host a Ladies Dinner Out.

During Lent, Marie Hatfield will be taking orders for Easter plants, which usually arrive in time for Easter Sunday decorations before folks take them home to enjoy. We will have price and plant options available very soon.



In March, we begin preparations for the Material Aid kits which are donated to Church World Services. We have many school supplies already, but school bags need to be sewn, according certain specifications (12x14" to 14x17" with cloth handles). Cyndi hopes to be working on school bags during upcoming Crafty Ladies time and welcomes others to join her. In April, Lee Gilman will be collecting items for the hygiene kits and will have lists of needed items available at church. The kits need to be ready to deliver to the Woodfords Church in Portland by May 5th or 6th. In our recent correspondence with CWS, we learned there is a great need for Cleanup Buckets & School Kits this year. The Guild is open to all the ladies of the church. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about the group. Cyndi Hall, President

"Souper" Sunday



Our first soup sale was held three years ago and has now become an annual event for a fundraiser. Members can contribute by making a pot of their favorite soup to be sold after Sunday worship during fellowship time. We had a nice variety of great soups last year for members to purchase in takeout containers. Soups can be brought in hot or cold in Crock pots or kettles before church with a list of basic ingredients for those who may have allergy issues. This has definitely been a winter for hot soups and chowders!

Carol Ellingwood

Church capital campaign is off to a very good start. You still have time to join in and support our church's ministry!

As we often say, no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here. This congregation has worked diligently to be an extension of God's love and welcome in our town. If we want to be able to continue this mission, we need to make sure our building is safe and inviting.

Here's what we need to update in order to do the work we've been called to do: fix a leak in our steeple and replace our roof so that our building remains a dry and safe place of sanctuary, and also renovate our front entryway so that the aesthetics match our commitment to hospitality.

Thus, the Church Council and a separate Capital Fundraising Committee are actively raising funds to address these major issues. The goal is to raise \$45,000 over the next three years – which may seem like a lot for a congregation our size, but we think is reachable in a congregation that is as committed to hospitality and service as this one is. So far, pledges have come in totaling \$18,000, or 40 percent of that goal. Every single member of the council and capital committee has made a pledge. That's a good start. You can join with them to make sure we reach our goal.

If you do the math as we have, you realize that if everyone just adds one year's worth of their regular church pledges to the capital campaign, but spread over three years, we'd meet our goal. For example, if you regularly pledge \$500 a year, and you pledged \$500 more over the next three years toward the capital campaign, that's all it would take. If you regularly pledge \$1,000 a year, add \$1,000 over three years. And so on. As always, your donations are tax-deductible.

The capital campaign committee is investigating grant possibilities and, in about a month, it will ask the Greater Winthrop community to support our cause. Seeing that our church is a visual icon in the heart of downtown, the committee is optimistic that we will receive some community support.

But committee members also realize that our greatest supporters will come within our congregation and among our many friends who attend as regularly as they can. For your convenience, a pledge form is included below. If you have not already done so, please fill your form out and return it, to: Winthrop Congregational Church, Attention: Capital Campaign, 10 Bowdoin St., Winthrop, ME 04364.



Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC 2017 Capital Funds Campaign Pledge

For Church Records

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

During the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, I/we plan to give \$ _____
each year to the Winthrop Congregational Church for a three year total of
\$ _____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please mail to Winthrop Congregational Church
2017 Capital Funds Campaign
10 Bowdoin Street
Winthrop, ME 04364

For Your Records

Date _____

Pledge to the Winthrop Congregational Church for the 2017 Capital Funds Campaign:

\$ _____ per year

for a three year total of \$ _____

Check us out on

facebook

Visit us at

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays		March Anniversaries	
3	Peter deWolfe	3/5/88	Peter & Lisa deWolfe
10	Kris Hatfield	3/20/92	Dina Blodgett & Sandra Smith
15	Mike Burns		
25	Kristin Brown		
28	Carol Ellingwood		
April Birthdays		April Anniversaries	
1	Eric Conrad	4/28/79	Alice & David Anderman
7	Matthew Dennis		
8	Corinna Coulton		
9	Julia LaCrone		
13	Peter Hatfield		
15	Nick Burns		
	Carol Whittier		
	Jeff Brown		
17	Sharon Coulton		
19	Mike Mayette		
May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
3	Alice Darlington	5/17/80	Jeff & Wendy Dennis
4	Jean Doughty		
5	Connie Mayette		
	Rebecca Lazure		
7	Barbara Pray		
9	Becky Gillespie		
	Shirley Rollins		
10	Linda Rollins		
20	Emma Conrad		
21	Kelly Dooling		
22	Jeff Dennis		
31	William Maxim		



Wi-Fi available at WCC- contact the church office for details



Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, May 16, 2017

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Page 6 of 6