



The Witness

Fall 2012 Edition
September - December



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Minister: Rev. Dr. Alice Anderman

Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

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Pastor's Reflections

There's change in the air. One day it is like summer and the next day we feel hints of fall. I usually wish summer would never end, but I must admit that fall is beautiful. Sometimes I ask people what is their favorite season and often the answer is fall. The leaves on the trees change from shades of green to a rainbow of colors. The air changes from hot to crisp. The plants we have nourished and care for over the summer produce fruits and vegetables. There is definitely beauty in change.



Think of trees. Every season they change. In winter we see white snow covering their branches. In spring we see tiny buds open and small leaves on the branches. And then in summer the dark green leaves provide shade for us and a hiding place for birds and squirrels. Yes, there is a beauty in change. The trunk, branches, and roots of trees are there through all the changes of the seasons. The roots nurture the tree as it grows taller and wider through the years. The branches hold nests of young birds, little squirrels, and lots of tiny bugs. New branches grow out from the trunk; new growth sprouts out from the branches.

In the old *My Confirmation Book* there is a picture of a tree. The roots of the tree are marked with Jesus, the Jewish religion and Greek ways of thinking. The day of Pentecost is at the bottom of the trunk. The Armenian, Coptic (Egyptian) and Nestorian Churches that started in 400 – 600ce branch out from the main trunk. Around 1100 the trunk splits in two with the Roman Catholic on the larger trunk and the Eastern Orthodox on smaller trunk. Branches representing Lutherans, Moravians, Congregationalists, Reformed, Presbyterian, Baptist, Church of England, Methodists sprout out from the Catholic trunk. Russian Orthodox sprouts out from the Eastern Orthodox trunk. Today there are many more branches on this Christian tree that is nourished with the teachings of Jesus. The church has changed and grown in the past and continues to change and grow today. This affirmation made by one of the founders of the Congregational tradition, John Robinson, speaks to us today.

THERE IS YET MORE LIGHT AND TRUTH TO BREAK FORTH FROM GOD'S HOLY WORD. The church today is rooted in the past, but continues to grow new branches now. We remember our traditions and at the same time are open to changes today that sprout from the same trunk of God's love.

As you watch the leaves change this fall from green to reds, yellows, oranges, and brown, may you be thankful to God for the beauty of change and the promise of

God's love for all.

Autumn blessings,

Alice



UPCOMING EVENTS

- † **Honduras Style Service and Honduras Mission Slide Show:** Sep. 30
- † **World Communion Sunday and Deacons' Love Fund Collection:** Oct 7
- † **Oct 14:** Stewardship Sunday.
- † **Oct 21:** Barbara Haskell will be our guest preacher while Rev. Alice is on vacation
- † **Church History Sunday:** On Oct 28, we will worship using liturgy and hymns used similar to those used during the 1860's to early 1900's.
- † **Spirituality Today Adult Study** Roxanne French and Rev. Alice will lead an **adult study** on Tuesdays during October 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – dates to be announced.
- † **Nov 4 - Dedication of additional gifts for the Chapel**
- † **Dec 2 – Hanging of the Greens**
- † **Advent Meditations** Thursdays in our chapel from Nov 29 continuing through Advent (11:30 am – 1:00 pm)

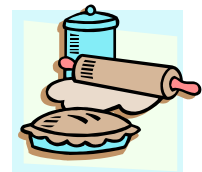


From the Deacons

The New Century Hymnals purchased with donations from the Church family will help ensure that we have enough of each hymnal when we have a full house. Thank You! We had two worship services at the Church Camp this summer. We also had some wonderful special music this summer.

Pie Sale

A Pie Sale is being organized for Saturday, September 29th on the church's front lawn. Homemade pies of all kinds (fruit, cream, savory, and meat) will be offered. We hope you will roll out some crust and help make this new event successful! If you know what kind of pie(s) you would like to bake for this all-church fundraiser, please give Debbie Burns a call (377-8265) and she'll supply you with the pie plate(s) and other details. Otherwise, she will be calling soon asking for your support! AND... If you are unable to bake this time, please plan to stop by and purchase a pie or two!



Hannaford Gift Cards Sales

Hannaford card sales in our church began in May, 2011. To date, earnings have totaled \$2,975. This week began campaign #33. Card users have been consistent with \$2,100 worth of cards being purchased every two weeks, earning \$200 a month for the church.

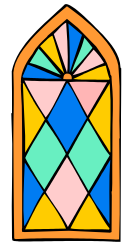
Cards are available in increments of 50, 100 and 200 dollars and sold at face value. If anyone prefers a smaller amount for gift giving, I can easily exchange a card for the requested amount.

Gift cards are available every Sunday. I have delivered and usually have some with me if out and about for those who miss a Sunday or run out before the next week. Thank you to those who enthusiastically support this fundraiser and for making it a worthwhile project.

Carol Ellingwood

From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

The BCCC has launched the fall stewardship campaign! Our theme this year is "Delight in Giving", and Stewardship Sunday will be on October 14th. You should receive your Stewardship letter during the week of October 1st. Please think about how important the mission of our church is and give generously. Give thanks, and delight in the wonderful life of our church. You may return the form by mail or bring it with you to the service on October 14th.



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".

Submitted by Carol Whittier and Diane Richardson

CE MATTERS

This school year will have a focus on Food from hearing Biblical stories regarding food and feeding the needy to hands-on preparation of food, to assisting with collections for the Food Pantry and some surprises.



From the Treasurer

For the first eight months of 2012, total expenses (\$52,635) exceeded total income (\$51,694) by \$941. The budgeted income for the same period was \$55,733 and budgeted expenses were \$55,622.

Honduras Mission Trip

We had an awesome time and made lots of new friends. Our partnered church, the IER New Life Church, was located in Roatán, an island off the coast of Honduras. We helped our host church family dismantle and move their small church building to a new and larger site. Our new friends were so friendly, welcoming and joyful. The nine day experience was rich and fulfilling. We were immersed in a new culture and were touched deeply by our connection with our new extended family.

We will be presenting a PowerPoint Slide Show during Worship on September 30th.

On behalf of the mission team,
Cyndi



Women's Guild

The next Guild meeting will be Thursday, Sept 27th at 7 PM at the home of Ann Mitchell.

Our purpose is two-fold. We are a social group and we support the church in many ways. Our fundraising efforts (RADA cutlery and dishcloths) are used to purchase paper towels and toilet paper for the church. The Guild coordinates the flower schedule for worship and the receptions for funerals and other events. We coordinate the flower sales of daffodils, poinsettias and Easter plants. The flowers dress up the sanctuary until they go home with each donor.

Another Guild mission is the Child Sponsorship program. We recently learned that Hassam graduated 6th grade and we have decisions to make regarding another child sponsorship.

All women of the church are welcome to attend the upcoming meeting. We usually meet at member's homes and we have a fun time getting to know one another. Car-pooling is available and encouraged!

President Cyndi



Welcome to
Gathered Here 2012
LOVE IS LOVE

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN MAINE
MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ONA CONVOCATION

Hosted by
The Church of Universal Fellowship
82 Main Street, Orono, Maine
SEPTEMBER 28 – 30, 2012

Gathered Here 2012 will be a weekend-long ONA Convocation for the Maine Conference of The United Church of Christ sponsored by The Witness Life Commission and hosted by The Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono. This event is offered in support of the Maine Conference UCC's commitment to Open and Affirming (ONA) ministry as an Open and Affirming Conference in The United Church of Christ.

This event is open to all members and friends of the ME Conference UCC and its churches as well as members and friends of other denominations who strive for inclusive ministry.

Joining us from Cleveland as Keynote Presenters will be:

Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer, Executive for Health & Wholeness Advocacy, UCC Wider Church Ministries, **and**

Andy Lang, Executive Director, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns.

An opening meal followed by a movie and discussion will be offered on Friday evening. Workshops will be offered throughout the day on Saturday.

On Saturday evening, we will screen the movie ***Love Free or Die*** followed by a panel discussion.

Sunday morning, we will close with a Celebration Worship.

To facilitate attendance by as many folks as possible, we have worked to keep the registration fee low. **The registration fee is only \$25.00 for the 3 day event including 3 meals.**

It would be great if each ONA church in Maine had a representative at the weekend.

Of course, the more the merrier!

For more information, please contact Bill Walsh, 207-615-4556 or email gatheredhere2012@gmail.com.

Gathered Here 2012 - Draft Schedule

Friday, September 28, 2012

5:30 – 6:30 Registration

6:00 – 7:00 Gathering Dinner & Welcome

7:00 – 9:00 Movie - *Call Me Malcolm* and discussion of Transgender inclusion

Saturday, September 29, 2012

8:00 Registration opens

9:00 Welcome

9:15 – 10:00 Keynote Address-Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer

10:15 – 11:30 Workshop One

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 Worship

1:30 – 2:15 Keynote Address- Andy Lang

2:30 – 3:45 Workshop Two

4:00 – 5:15 Workshop Three
5:15 – 6:30 Dinner and Free Time
6:30 – 8:00 Movie- *Love Free or Die*
8:00 – 9:00 Panel Discussion
9:00 Evening Blessing & Dismissal
Sunday, September 30, 2012
10:00 Celebration Worship with Communion & Closing

Additional Information can be found on Face Book at
<http://www.facebook.com/events/181197435338868/>.

And also on the Maine Conference Face Book Page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Conference-United-Church-of-Christ/110514719024970>.

Registration Deadline is September 24, 2012. See Rev. Alice or a member of the ONA Committee for a Registration Form

Some Quotes:



Just as the soul fills the body, so God fills the world. Just as the soul bears the body, so God endures the world. Just as the soul sees but is not seen, so God sees but is not seen. Just as the soul feeds the body, so God gives food to the world.


Marcus Tullius Cicero

Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life.

Buddha

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.

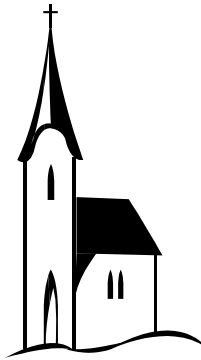
Meister Eckhart

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		

Check us out on Facebook!

Visit us at

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



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