



The Witness

Spring 2013 Edition
April/May/June



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

Dear friends,

Rev. Richard Schellhase (Uncle Dick) was interim pastor at my home church in Quarryville Pennsylvania while I was struggling with a call to ministry. I was an art teacher at that time, doing the job I thought was my dream job. However God had other plans for me. I felt a call from God to change my vocation, but had not figured out what that meant. Back in the late 1960's and 1970's there were few women clergy in parish settings. I never met a woman who was a minister. So I went to talk to Dick Schellhase and he told me to take a course at Lancaster Theological Seminary where he also served as Vice President of Development. I went to LTS, took a course in worship, which is one of my loves in parish ministry, and knew seminary was the place for me. I did not resign my teaching job until I completed four years of teaching and received my PA Permanent Teaching Certificate. In fall of 1973 I started full time at LTS. I always say Uncle Dick pushed me through the seminary door.

I met Uncle Dick before I really met Dave. We attended a statewide retreat for college students and eventually realized we were at the same place at the same time, but that doesn't count for an official meeting. The first church I served after I graduated from seminary was in Baltimore, Maryland. During my second year of ministry at St. Marks UCC I opened my pulpit so a candidate for Grace UCC near the inner harbor could preach for the search committee. The church called Dave as their pastor and in the spring he started his ministry there. Dave and I met through a mutual colleague at lunch one spring day. Dave and I continued to have lunch together. One day while I was visiting him in his office, I pulled a book off his shelf and saw the name of Richard Schellhase written inside the cover. I asked Dave how he knew Dick Schellhase and he said he was his uncle and I said he was the one who pushed me through the door of seminary. That day we made a significant connection! God does work in surprising ways!

Well you can guess about the rest of the story. Dave and I got married in Baltimore, and continued to serve separate churches there. Rachael and Jonathan were born in the city. Uncle Dick remained a special person for both of us and our family.

I share this story with you because on April 15, 2013 Uncle Dick and Aunt Kay and their daughter Janet (who I had watched in the Quarryville UCC Church nursery many years ago) were in Boston. Janet ran the marathon and Uncle Dick and Aunt Kay watched from the library window at Old South Church where they had a perfect

view of the finish line. This morning Uncle Dick e-mailed us his personal account of that day. I'll share some of his reflections with you.

Janet Schellhase Dial, our fifty-year old daughter, crossed the finish line on Boylston Street 33 seconds before the first bomb exploded less than fifty yards behind her. Kay and I were there too. We heard the bomb explode, witnessed the scene, and saw our daughter's face turn from ecstasy to anguish. This is our account of that event. But first, a little background.

This was the eighth time Janet has run and finished the Boston Marathon on Patriots' Day. The whole city of Boston focuses on the Marathon as twenty to thirty thousand runners from more than 100 countries converge there a day or two before the event. The runners are joyful and expectant; the citizens are cordial and solicitous. It is a happy time, a fun-filled and festive occasion. Two or three days before the race, the streets are filled with happy visitors and friendly citizens. Everyone is joined as one by the impending event.

Sunday, the day before the run, the three of us went to Old South Church, our United Church of Christ, which sits across the street from the Public Library at the northeast corner of Copley Square--- the precise place where the marathon ends.

The minister of Old South, Dr. Nancy Taylor (we met her when we were in Boston on our Confirmation Class Trip), had a terrific sermon at the Sunday service before the Monday race.

After the service, Janet introduced us to her and mentioned that I was a UCC minister. She then asked if there was any way her "aged parents" could view the marathon from the church. Graciously, Nancy immediately said, with a warm smile, "Certainly, as a 'professional courtesy' we can accommodate them."

On Monday at precisely 2:15, as we walked down the alley behind Old South, we saw the door open and Nancy peek out. . . We descended to the street level, where she said, "This is the church library, pull up a chair and make yourself at home. The Finish Line was ten yards in front of us, slightly to our right. This location meant that we could not see Janet actually finish the race. Because the crowds were so thick, we opted to see her immediately after she crossed that line. We knew she'd slow down and we could then identify her more easily.

Nancy left us to ourselves. We pulled up chairs, relaxed, and began to look for Janet, who had phoned to tell us she was just minutes away. I unlocked the large window and pulled it up to test whether I could call to Janet when we saw her appear. (I had told her to "keep toward your right as you finish; then look left---and there we'll be! Right behind the large window, about three feet above the sidewalk."

Straining to see her, we kept anxiously anticipating her arrival. After about six or seven minutes, she appeared. Seeing us, she waved--- relieved and joyful to have finished and to have seen her parents. I unlocked the window and was at the point of raising it when-----all hell broke loose: a loud explosion followed by shrill screams. There was no doubt that we heard and felt a bomb.

Janet's face turned from ecstasy to terror, from elation to horror. About ten seconds later a second bomb exploded, sounding slightly further away. The first bomb exploded at exactly 2:49 and 43 seconds pm; she crossed the finish line precisely 33 seconds before the bomb exploded about fifty yards behind her.

Kay and I were actually a little closer to the bomb site; but we were, of course, inside the church. The building shook and the windows rattled but didn't break.

The runners, who had finished the race, were urged to keep moving into, around, and beyond Copley Square, where their families, friends, and ordinary citizens were gathered. Janet phoned to tell us she was all right.

Kay and I left by the back door and quickly angled through Boston Common, a mile-long walk to the hotel, which had opened a large room where runners and their

families gathered. Janet arrived about ten minutes later.

The three of us were slightly dazed by the bizarre events. Everyone seemed stunned, a bit disoriented, and almost speechless. The bright sunny day and the joyful festivities surrounding the marathon seemed to belie and contradict the surreal activities we had all just experienced.

Our relief at being safe and together soon added another dimension---a deep sense of sorrow and sadness--- after the TV in the room began reporting the horrific deaths and injuries incurred by the bombs.

When Janet was interviewed by the Stockton Record, before she spoke about the race and her personal experience near the finish line, she first paused to offer condolences to those families who had lost loved ones--- extending her prayers for them and those injured in those savage attacks.

That attitude appeared to be shared by everyone. The powerful impulses of empathy, sympathy, and caring seem to have arisen immediately (perhaps instinctively) within those of us who had the good fortune of having been saved from the bodily injuries incurred by incident. We had experienced a kind of personal "deliverance" which was instantly followed by regard for the fate of others. Our common humanity was acknowledged. That fundamental and ultimate source of help and solace which we seek may in fact be what we may call the "whole us."



Three Lessons Dredged from the Dust and Debris
What may the events of 4/15/13 teach us, if we are open to learn?

1. *Life is a gift.* We had absolutely nothing to do about our being here. We are all wholly dependent upon other persons for our womb-delivered life. While precious and irreplaceable, life is also fragile and precarious. We can never count on taking another breath. Some of us, however, may be permitted to anticipate its coming and in some ways to prepare for its arrival. Given the reality and the finality of death, how then should we live? *In and with the attitude of gratitude.*
2. *Human beings find it difficult being human.* A crooked streak seems to impair us. None of us is exempt from the stain that soils and spoils even our best intentions. In short, we are all imperfect. We all have the capacity to do awful things
3. *Humankind often rises above and beyond itself.* Some persons who share our common humanity transcend themselves, and most of us. The capacity for nobility and courage of humankind was expressed by many people in Boston last week. There is no room to doubt that "the human condition" carries within it not only imperfections and limitations, but it is also blessed with "higher angels," the possibility of reaching up and beyond ourselves in the service of protecting, caring---and even loving---others than ourselves."

Uncle Dick's reflections carry with them an Evangelical and Reformed theology which is part of the theological fabric of the United Church of Christ. First, we live our lives with gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life. Second, we realize we are sinners, that at times we make the wrong choices that separate us from God and each other and can cause hurt, despair and even death. And third that God forgives, gives us a second chance and calls us to love God and love neighbor.

Our theology and faith help us live through difficult and confusing situations.

God bless you all! Alice



Mother's Day

Sunday May 13 is Blanket Sunday and Rev. Alice will bless the Rainbow Shawls crafted by members of our congregation. Remember to wear your hats, ladies!

Maine Conference Annual Meeting

Maine Conference Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Farmington on May 31 and June 1. Joe Dressler and Marie Pettengill will be our delegates.

Sunday, June 2 – Summer Hours for Worship – 9:30 am

Worship will begin at 9:30 each Sunday starting on Sunday June 2nd and will continue through Labor Day Weekend. Worship will return to 10 am on Sunday September 8th.



Children's Sunday

Children's Sunday will be held on June 9. Our Sunday School children and youth will participate in the service. After worship you are all invited to Whispering Pines camp to make Fairy Houses and place them on the trail. Joan Edwards will lead us as we construct our Fairy House. Bring a bag lunch and materials for your houses.

Music Sunday

Music Sunday will be held on June 16. This will be the last day the choir will sing until the fall. Our theme for Music Sunday is "Hymns that Move Me." You are invited to share a hymn that is especially moving to you and a short story about why your chosen hymn is special to you. We will sing five or six hymns during worship and listen to the stories that go with the hymn. If you would like to share a story with a hymn please let Rev. Alice or the church know. The first five or six hymns we receive will be used in our service. If we receive more or have duplicates we will share them later.

Joe Dressler to Graduate

Joe Dressler will graduate from Bangor Theological Seminary and receive his Masters of Divinity Degree on June 22. Tickets are not available for his graduation. Winthrop Congregational Church will honor Joe on June 16 during Sunday worship and at a special fellowship hour following worship.

General Synod

Rev. Alice will be attending the United Church of Christ General Synod meeting in Long Beach California June 27 through July 3 with Rev. Dave who is a delegate and the Maine Conference Delegation. The rainbow scarves we knitted, wove or crocheted will be shared at Synod as a way to focus on domestic violence and urge people to help and support victims of violence.

Guest Preachers

Covering worship for Rev. Alice while she is at Synod and on vacation will be:

- June 2 – Greg Music
- June 30 – Brenda Haskell
- July 7 – Greg Music
- July 14 – Joe Dressler

Joe Dressler will cover for pastoral care.



From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

Thanks to your generous and compassionate donations, we collected \$383.00 in the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This donation has been sent to the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ where it will be used for refugee and disaster relief, and community development in emerging countries.

On May 13, Mothers' Day, Rev. Alice will bless the Rainbow Shawls which represent the hope that violence, both domestic and world-wide, will end. These shawls, lovingly crafted by members of our congregation, will be sent to California where Rev. Alice will be attending the General Synod this summer.

Also on Mothers' Day, we will have a special offering for blankets which can be given to families left homeless by an earthquake, a tornado or a devastating flood. Five dollars will purchase one life-saving blanket in which to wrap a shivering child or warm an elderly grandparent. Your continued generosity is so very necessary as we remember others who are less fortunate than we are.



Co-Chairs Diane Richardson and Carol Whittier

From the Treasurer

At the end of the first quarter, total income was \$4,530 less than budget. Total offerings were \$2,212 less than budget. Fund raisers were \$2,159 less than budget. This latter category will likely improve as we complete our large fund raisers in the summer.

At the end of the first quarter, total expenses were \$2,236 higher than budget. Fuel oil was \$2,655 higher than budget. This category will improve as we approach warmer months and use less fuel oil.

Overall during the first three months of the year our expenses exceeded our income by \$6,955.

CE MATTERS

Confirmation Class will be held at our Whispering Pines Camp this summer. The theme is Exploring Your Faith at Camp. We will explore our faith in the beautiful and inspiring natural world at camp through hands on activities, special meals, and fun times like kayaking and swimming. We will have three sessions in the summer in June and August from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. Dates will be worked out with our confirmands and families. We will probably do a field trip to do some mission work in our community or beyond. If you are in middle school or older and would like more information about confirmation please contact Rev. Alice.

Our **Intergenerational Bowling** Event was held April 14th at 1-7-10 Lanes in Augusta. Teens Corinna, Ruth, and Julia attended with adults Sharon, Roxanne, Amy and Cyndi. The bowling was fun and the pizza was tasty.

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

Pictures from "Blessing of the Animals" on April 28th



Blessing of the Animals

Thank you to our chair Susan Mauro for coordinating the recent "Blessing of the Animals" service with Rev. Alice on Sunday, April 28th. As the pictures show, the Mayettes came with their two Corgis, Diane with her two poodles, Amanda with "Shadow", Linda with her Boston Terrier "Penny", the Paynes brought two dogs (a Bernese Mountain dog and a small one), Corinna & Cyndi brought feline friends and Ebony, and the Conrads brought a puppy, bunny & beta fish. Corinna, Ruth, Nora, Eric & Ruby did a great job blessing the various animals with special prayers. We also blessed Lee's collie "Lucky", the Whittier cats "Sophie" & "Callie", the Burn's cat named "Caleb", the two Dennis dogs (German Shepherd and Golden Retriever), and Rollin's Chihuahua "Poncho" and Rev. Alice's fish.

All God's Critters got a place in the choir . . . and a place in our hearts!

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild cordially invites all women of the church to attend our annual "Ladies Night Out" on Thursday, May 23rd at 5:30 PM. We will meet at church and carpool to the Readfield Emporium. Please let Carol Ellingwood know if you plan to attend. Attendees will need to select meal choices in advance from a limited menu and pay with cash or checks. Please join us for this relaxing and enjoyable evening! Church World Service kits will be delivered on May 8th to the Woodfords church in Portland. We already have 12 school kits, and at least 6 hygiene kits to bless on May 5th. Lee also mentioned that CWS has requested baby care kits. Thanks for all your help sewing school bags and donating items for the various kits! President Cyndi

Changes in Staff and Volunteers

On April 16th, Debbie Burns gave her resignation as Office Administrator. The Board of Trustees accepted her resignation with regret and with heartfelt appreciation for a job well done. Cyndi Hall was filling in for Debbie during her medical leave, and has agreed to continue in this capacity.

Since the first of the year, Linda Rollins has been serving as our nursery attendant every other Sunday. TJ Mauro has expressed interest in covering the alternate weeks and will begin Sunday, May 12th. Thank you both for your time and dedication to children.

Hannaford Gift Cards Sales

Hannaford gift cards sales here began in May, 2011. Sales have been consistent, generating \$200 each month. To date, earnings now total \$4,575. (Wow!)

Thank you to all who support this worthy fundraiser. For cards, contact or see Carol Ellingwood at church.

Visioning and Search Committees

A Visioning Committee has been formed with the following people serving: Marlene Douglas, Rosalea Kimball, Lee Gilman, Marie Hatfield, Joe Dressler, Ted LaCrone and Hariph Smith. They are charged with taking a holistic approach to the Foyer, Narthex and Sanctuary and develop recommendations for improvements. The Committee has been asked to report back to the congregation in June.

Mike Burns is forming a Search committee of six to begin the process of church assessment and search for a settled pastor in anticipation of Rev Alice's upcoming retirement by June of 2014.

Honduran visitors in June

WCC will be hosting Saul & Claribel's daughter Anna Ruth June 20-23rd prior to her week at "Arts Alive" camp (Jun 23-29th) at Pilgrim Lodge with 3 other teens and 2 adults from Honduras. The host church is expected to feed and shelter the teen and provide transportation to PL as well as paying \$300 towards her camp & trip costs.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays		April Anniversaries	
1	Eric Conrad	4/28	Alice & David Anderman
3	Joan Barnes		
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		
7	Barbara Pray		
9	Becky Gillespie		
	Shirley Rollins		
10	Linda Rollins		
20	Emma Conrad		
21	Kelly Dooling		
22	Jeff Dennis		
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	6/22/72	Hariph & Ginger Smith
16	Marie Hatfield		
17	Andy Burns		
21	Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer		
	Mark Dennis		
25	Joe Emerson		
29	Sean Putman-Labbe		
30	Ethel Maxim		

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