



The Witness

Summer 2013 Edition
July/August/September



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

Dear friends,

On June 26th Dave and I started our journey to Long Beach California for the Twenty Ninth Synod Meeting of the United Church of Christ. Delegates, visitors, and others from all over the United Church of Christ will gather for worship, business, education, fellowship, and meeting at this synod meeting hosted by the Southern California Nevada Conference. The theme for General Synod 2013, is **"God's Vision: _____"inspired by the Old Testament Prophet Habakkuk:**

*I will stand at my watch-post,
And station myself on the rampart:
I will keep watch to see what the Holy One will say to me,
And what God will answer concerning my complaint.
Then God answered me and said:
Write the vision:
Make it plain on tablets,
So that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time:
It speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it.
It will surely come, it will not delay.*

Habakkuk 2: 1-3, NRSV adapted

In this transitional moment for the United Church of Christ we will seek God's vision throughout our General Synod. We will look for God's prophetic vision: edgy and risky, call us to the edge of ministry for justice. We will find silent places to hear Jesus' invitation to come away and rest and make space for grace in ourselves, our community and our churches.

We will pray together, sing together, celebrate together and listen to God as God leads us to something new and a future filled with hope, justice and joy.

The General Synod will address our Maine Resolution, "A Call to respond to the Drug-Related Gang Violence in Honduras Resulting from the Illegal Drugs Market in the United States." This resolution came out of the Honduran-Maine pastors' retreat that was held in our own backyard at Camp Mechuwana. We hosted Pastor Saul and his wife Claribel Baca Gonzales in September, 2011 while they were here to attend the pastor's retreat. Just last weekend our church hosted their daughter Ana Ruth Barahona Baca. She is at Pilgrim Lodge as I write this article. Cyndi Hall and I serve on the Honduras Partnership Committee.

I look forward to resourcing this resolution while I am at Synod.



General Synod always reminds me of the diversity and commitment of so many of God's children from all over the world. We gather to share our voices and prayers and votes that help form the vision of the United Church of Christ for this time and many places.

Our congregation is part of a larger church that includes our new friends in Honduras to Christians around the United States and the world. We reach out and touch lives throughout the church family as we work for justice and hope for all God's children.

Our church, like the synod, finds itself in a time of transition. We can embrace the synod's theme: **"God's Vision: _____"inspired by the Prophet Habakkuk:**

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Habakkuk 2: 1-3, NRSV adapted

Think about what is God's vision for Winthrop Church. Where is your energy, your love, your passion and how does God use it as you do God's work and live out God's grace?

I look forward to entering into a time of visioning when I return from Synod. I will come with lots to share with you all and the sharing we will have together. May God bless you all!

With Christ's love, Alice

Summer Hours for Worship – 9:30 am

During the summer, worship services will begin at 9:30 each Sunday continuing through Labor Day Weekend. Worship returns to 10 am on Sunday September 8th.

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. The 22 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: Brenda Haskell on June 30, Greg Music on July 7, and Joe Dressler on July 14. Joe Dressler will cover for pastoral care.

Worship at Camp

This year's worship at camp is tentatively scheduled for August 11th with a second opportunity to create Fairy Houses.

Reflections from the Moderator

Transitions are a time to reflect where we have been, where we want to go and to celebrate our successes. We have many wonderful things happening at WCC. Some of these include our warm and caring church family, a meaningful worship service, adult education opportunities, strong lay leadership, participation in mission work and many others.

The Council appointed a Visioning Committee that developed recommendations for improvements to the sanctuary, narthex and front entrance. An informational meeting will be held right after church on July 7th to hear the recommendations. A challenge will be to come up with additional funds to undertake repairs and improvements. The good news is that we have over half the funds already in the Memorial Fund which could be used for the project.

However, the reality is that our income is considerably below projections and expenses are up a bit. It would be very helpful if anyone who is behind on pledges could catch up. Fish chowder luncheon profits are down and the group that puts these on has made recommendations. Hannaford card sales are going well and are an easy way to raise money as we all need to eat. See Carol Ellingwood to buy your cards. Summer fair is right around the corner on July 27th and is a good fundraiser for us.

This spring, the Church Council discussed our financial status and low attendance at worship and how to proceed with the search process. The congregation will be included through discussion groups as we focus our ministerial search process. Stay tuned for opportunities this summer and fall to meet together. Bring your thoughts and visions for our church and let's use this transition time to full advantage.

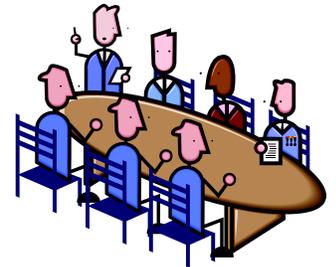
Mike Burns Moderator

Search Committee

Our search committee met with Associate Conference Minister Susie Craig and Rev. Alice on June 18th to kick off the search process. The Church Council appointed the following members:

Dana Hall	Wendy Dennis
Sharon Coulton	Eric Payne
Mike Burns	

We will discuss how to proceed and how to gather input from all of you. Again, Rev. Alice has given us notice that she will retire by June 2014 and she will help us with the search process. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin your work.



We are an Open and Affirming Church

From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

Thanks to your generous and compassionate donations, we collected \$193.00 for blankets which Church World Service can give to families left homeless by an earthquake, a tornado or a devastating flood.

Also in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education and the Honduras Partnership, special Pilgrim Lodge collections came to \$297. \$200 of the collections will be combined with Christian Education's \$100 Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship to sponsor our Honduran visitor Ana Ruth's campership at Pilgrim Lodge. The remaining \$97 will be sent to support Pilgrim Lodge.



Co-Chairs Diane Richardson and Carol Whittier

Summer Fair

Please save the date of July 27th for our Summer Fair. We will be having a Luncheon and Silent Auction along with our traditional tables of Baked Goods, Needle & Thread, RADA Cutlery, Jewelry, Books, and Second Time Around items. Plan to help out or stop by that day to support one of the church's big fundraisers. We usually have a great time, so come join the fun! We look forward to another successful event.

Art Show Luncheon on the Lawn & Bake Sale

Please save the date of Aug 17th for our next big fundraiser. In conjunction with the Winthrop Art Show, we will again host our "Luncheon on the Lawn" and Bake Sale. We will offer Lobster rolls, Chicken salad rolls, and lots of baked goodies. Cyndi Hall & Marie Hatfield will be coordinating this event and will be asking for your support. Come and check out the art work along Main Street and stop by for lunch and baked goods. We hope to see you then!

From the Treasurer

At the end of the second quarter, total income was \$3,821 less than budget. Total offerings were \$1,833 less than budget. Fund raisers were \$1,358 less than budget.

At the end of the second quarter, total expenses were \$167 less than budget. Fuel oil was \$519 higher than budget.

Overall during the first five months of the year our expenses exceeded our income by \$8,711.

From the Financial Secretary

After hearing the Treasurer's Report at the last Council Meeting (see summary above) I'd like to urge everyone to try to stay current with church pledges. Your financial support will help the church cover its financial obligations. Thanks for doing your part!

CE MATTERS



Confirmation Class will be held at our Whispering Pines Camp this summer with youth from our church and Waterville attending. 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 July and August from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. Dates will be as follows:

Tuesday July 23 – Focus is on "God." Special lunch- Agape Meal with Roman Desserts.

Thursday July 25- Focus is on "Jesus and the Holy Spirit." Special lunch - Seder Supper.

Tuesday August 13 – Focus is on "The Church." Special lunch - Stone Soup Meal.

Confirmation is tentatively set for Rally Day on September 15th, which is when our Sunday School Program resumes.

Visioning Committee

The Visioning Committee (Marlene Douglas, Rosalea Kimball, Lee Gilman, Marie Hatfield, Joe Dressler, Ted LaCrone and Hariph Smith) have made recommendations to the Church for improvements to be made to the Foyer, Narthex and Sanctuary. The Committee Recommendations will be presented for discussion after the July 7 Worship.

Committee Recommendation

The cost of the identified repairs and upgrades are approximately \$4000 for the Foyer/Vestibule and \$18,000 to \$20,000 for the Sanctuary, or \$22,000 to \$24,000 in total, depending upon how much work church members are willing and able to do themselves. A dedicated gift of \$2000 towards repairing the Sanctuary ceiling has already been received. The total memorial fund is about \$11,350 making a total of \$13,350 available.

The Sanctuary Visioning Committee recommends the following approach:

- The repairs and upgrades to the Foyer/Vestibule and to the Sanctuary should be treated as two separate projects that need not be done at the same time.
- If Church members are willing and able to repair and paint the ceiling and walls of the Foyer/Vestibule area, this work can be completed at a relatively low cost and can be done prior to replacing the carpet.
- Funding for the ceiling, walls and flooring repairs in the Sanctuary should be considered as one project. Painting the ceiling and installing new flooring will both require removing and re-installing the pews and furniture. In addition, both will require holding church services at some other location for a period of time.
- The Committee favors an approach where the carpet in the Sanctuary is removed for a relatively short period of time in order to assess the condition and functionality of refinishing and leaving the Sanctuary floors bare rather than installing new carpeting.
- Once funding has been identified, a new committee, or a sub-committee of the Trustees, should update all estimates, prepare a work schedule with the selected contractor(s) and review any new flooring options that might have a lower environmental impact.

The projects identified in the miscellaneous category are minor in nature and should progress under a separate track. The Committee suggests that the Trustees complete these projects as soon as possible subject to funding restrictions.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild thanks everyone who helped donate items for the Church World Service Material Aid kits. Lee & I delivered 12 school kits and 13 hygiene kits to the Woodford's Congregational Church in May. The kits will make their way to the CWS warehouses until needed for various emergencies. Thank you those of you who also sewed the school bags. We had 9 extra school bags to donate to Pilgrim Lodge's mission effort this summer, along with the \$97 collected for Pilgrim Lodge.

The Women's Guild hosted "Ladies Night Out" on Thursday, May 23rd at the Readfield Emporium. A big "Thank-you" goes to Carol Ellingwood for coordinating this event. A lively group of 21 women attended this annual event. The meals were delicious and the service was awesome. We were sorry to hear that Marlene had to cancel out. Good luck Marlene for at steady recovery from your broken hip!



Recently, the Guild purchased six new white tables for the church. Many have commented how nice they look. Others have appreciated their light weight. They will be especially nice for our church fairs.

Our Women's Guild supports the Church World Service material aid kits each year and a few years ago Cyndi packed and delivered Clean-up kits along with school and health kits that we had assembled. The following letter came to the office recently affirming the generosity and love of this Church.

President Cyndi

Dear Ms Hall,

May 31, 2013

Long Island has been my home since the age of seven. Never during the years of growing up, marrying, raising children and keeping my home did I ever feel the fear that possessed me when Hurricane Sandy roared through my town and home. I am reaching retirement age and I am a widow. My husband passed away in April of last year leaving my son (age 29) and I to deal with the devastation.

I prayed and prayed for those who were worse off than I but I also prayed for the strength to rebuild what 3½ - 4 feet of water destroyed. The water wiped away a lifetime of memories and happiness. The house was unlivable until January when heat was restored and mold removed. The process of recovery began.

The reason I am telling you this is because we are back in our home continuing the repair process. When we left the home October 29th, whatever we could salvage was boxed in the garage. We are now cleaning out those boxes, bags, etc from the garage. Among the boxes were two buckets of cleaning supplies, laundry stuff. Your name was on one of the buckets. I want to thank you for your unselfish act of kindness. The tears of gratitude flow, but words cannot express how we feel that someone we will never meet cared enough to help.

God had a way through for us and you were his messenger. May you be blessed every day with good things, strength and courage, and happiness. You will always be in our hearts.

Sincerely, Lorraine & Daniel Campanelli, Wantagh, NY (5 miles from the beach)

Pictures from Ana Ruth's Visit



Sam's Club

Winthrop Congregational Church now has a business membership with Sam's Club. Items normally purchased for the church are now tax exempt. As part of the business membership, up to eight memberships are being offered to any church member who would like a Sam's card. Annual membership fee is \$35. A second household member, as long as over 18 years, can be issued a card as well at no additional cost. If interested, please contact Carol Ellingwood as you will need a signed authorization card to join. You will need to present it to customer service with the membership fee to obtain a card.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July Birthdays		July Anniversaries	
1	Margaret Imber	7/2/76	Bill & Becky Gillespie
2	Don Edgar	7/4/53	Fred and Marlene Douglas
9	Amy Tague	7/8/78	Dana and Cyndi Hall
13	Ron Dyer	7/25/92	Roger & Sue Hanson
17	Dayle Ashby	7/28/75	Peter & Marie Hatfield
18	Rosalea Kimball		
22	Chris Smith		
24	Sue Hanson		
27	Alan Ellingwood		
31	John Mitchell		
August Birthdays		August Anniversaries	
10	Linda Ruman	8/24/96	Eric Conrad & Barbara Walsh
	Becca Irwin		
13	Lee Gilman		
	Barbara Walsh		
16	Lisa deWolfe		
	Charlie Gove		
	Hariph Smith		
18	Chris Dyer		
21	Mary Gove		
	Erin Putman-Labbe		
	Darren Hatfield		
22	Joe Dressler		
25	Martha Payne		
	Diane Richardson		
26	Julie deWolfe		
	Marianne Martin		
30	Doug Whittier		
September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
1	Roger Sturtevant	9/13/97	Ted LaCrone & Amy Tague
4	Ann Dooling	9/14	Eric & Martha Payne
6	Marie Pettingill	9/16/67	Doug & Carol Whittier
9	Andy Burns	9/20/53	Don & Gerry Edgar
12	Sue Poole	9/22/51	Charlie & Mary Gove
17	Betty Evans	9/23/72	Jeff & Anna Brown
	Cyndi Hall	9/25	Milton & Pamela Hadley
19	Marlene Douglas		
21	Bob Morgner		

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