



The Witness

Winter 2013 Edition
January/February/March



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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Minister: Rev. Dr. Alice Anderman

Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

Office Assistant: Debbie Burns

Pastor's Reflections - Lenten Reflections

The season of Lent starts in February. Lent, which means springtime, is traditionally a six week period of repentance and introspection in preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. As buds appear and start to open and the days lengthen, this spiritual season calls us to greater openness to the word of God and God's presence in our lives. Henri Nouwen, a contemporary author, described Lent as "a season during which winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance. . . Lent is a time of returning to God. It is a time of refocusing, or re-entering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity." (Eternal Seasons)

There were members in the first church I served in Baltimore Maryland who talked about "doing their Lent." For them, Lent was a time to do what they needed to do to grow in their relationship with God. That meant for them fasting, praying, Bible reading, meditation and attending extra worship services.

I invite you all to "do your Lent" this year and set aside time at home and in community with others to study, worship, pray and grow in your relationship with God. Some opportunities for you to "do your Lent":

February 10 – Journey and Pray with the Psalms, a Lenten Devotional Calendar, available

February 13 – 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship

February 16 - 11:00 – 2:00 Book Study on *August Gale* led by our own Barbara Walsh, author. We will focus on the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. Bring a pot luck meal for lunch.

February 17 – March 10 – after worship - Lenten Talks and soup lunch - What questions do you have about your faith and issues today? Write down your questions and email them to me. The deacons and I will choose four to focus on at our Lenten Talks.

February 21, 28; March 14, 21 – 11:30-1:00 Messiah and Art Meditations: bring a bag lunch. We will listen to parts 2 and 3 of Handel's Messiah and look at related art.

Holy Week Events

March 24 – 10:00 am Palm Sunday Worship

March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service here with Winthrop United Methodist Church

March 31 – 10:00 am Easter Sunday.

May you all have a blessed Lenten journey!

Blessings,

Rev. Alice

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Members in attendance at the annual Meeting on January 27th approved the annual reports of the Offices, Boards and Committees of the Church. A balanced budget for 2014 was presented and passed. The Open and Affirming Statement of the Winthrop Congregational Church, United Church of Christ (see below) was approved unanimously. Rev. Alice announced she will retire by June 1, 2014. She will assist the Congregation during the transition period of searching for a new pastor to call to serve us.

Open and Affirming Statement of the Winthrop Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Since its founding in 1776, our Winthrop Church has borne witness to the belief that God's love is a gift for all people and for all times. During the turbulent days before the Civil War, our leaders were early advocates for the abolition of slavery and the recognition of the dignity of all people.

Our church community endeavors to accept and embrace all who enter here. We welcome individuals of every race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, marital standing, socio-economic status, age, physical and mental ability to join us in the ministry of our church. All are invited to participate in worship, fellowship and leadership.

In accordance with our firm and demonstrated belief in Jesus' commandment to love one another, and in the spirit of those who first established our church, we who continue to worship in this place now proclaim the Winthrop Congregational Church, United Church of Christ to be an Open and Affirming Church.

Voted on and approved unanimously at Annual Meeting January 27, 2013

Letter from Rev. Alice

Dear friends,

I write this letter to let you know that I plan to retire after 37-38 years in ministry on or before June 1, 2014.

My decision to retire is personal. It has not been an easy one to make. You are a wonderful and loving people; working with you brings me much joy. You are a strong congregation with great lay leadership and members who work well together. I am very happy serving as your pastor and being in ministry with you. I could not ask for a better place to be in ministry. I want to retire while I am still in good health, have time to be with my family, travel, do art and some volunteer work.

In the next months the Council will make plans for the transition to your next pastor. We are planning now that I will be with you and work with you through the transition. The variability in my retirement date stems from when the church is ready to call the next minister or June 1, 2014, whichever arrives first. We will share more information as we have it with you.

May God be with us as together we move into a new place in the future.

With Christian love and blessings,

Rev. Alice

From the Trustees



Thanks to all those who donate their time and talent in the maintenance and improvement of the church property including the camp. Members of our church have donated their time to regularly cleaning the church, decorating the sanctuary, conducting minor repairs, maintaining flower gardens, mowing the lawn, plowing the parking lot, shoveling walks, cleaning snow from the church roof, painting the kitchen and vestry, disposing of trash, installing and removing the camp dock, and raking leaves.

From the Treasurer

We finished the year with a surplus of \$1657. Details are provided in the annual report.
Doug Whittier

Board of Church and Community Concerns

Winthrop Food Pantry - The monetary donations for our November Winthrop Food Pantry Drive totaled \$545.00. This was in addition to all the food items donated. The BCCC drive was in conjunction with our church family children's project to collect 556 items of food for hungry area children. The combined drives were a great success.

Family Violence Project - Lee Gilman and Diane Richardson both took impressive car loads of "white" gifts for the center and Christmas gifts for our adopted family to the Family Violence Project office. The Family Violence Project Coordinator was truly grateful and pleased to receive this generous support from our church.

Scarf Project against Violence - Currently, BCCC is coordinating an effort to knit scarves to be handed out by Rev. Alice at the General Synod later this year. The scarves will be of rainbow colors, 4" to 6" wide by 58" to 60" long. The BCCC offered an opportunity to knit, crochet or learn how to knit these scarves on Jan. 22 at our church.

The United Church of Christ set March 10th as the date for One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.

Your continued support of these programs is sincerely appreciated and we want to thank each and every one of you. Your generosity inspires us to continue our mission not just to the local area, but worldwide.

Carol Whittier and Diane Richardson, Co-Chairs

Hannaford Gift Card Sales

Hannaford gift card sales are going well. This on-going fundraiser to support the church earned \$2,350 in 2012. Cards are always available for purchase and I have them on Sundays.

Thank you to all that continue to support this project.

Carol Ellingwood



Sanctuary, Narthex and Foyer Visioning Committee

The Sanctuary, Narthex and foyer are demonstrating wear and tear having not been addressed for many years. These areas are the face of the church to members and visitors alike. A recent focus of some has been the peeling paint on the rear ceiling in the Sanctuary where water leaked some years ago from the steeple.

Gifts have been received towards painting of the Sanctuary. Other ideas for the Sanctuary have been raised including replacing the carpeting

The Narthex and foyer carpet is thread bare in places, paint needs to be refreshed, light fixtures could be updated and it is a tight area where a lot of activity occurs.

The following individuals are charged with taking a holistic approach to the Sanctuary, Narthex and foyer to develop recommendations for improvements. The committee is encouraged to obtain input from the congregation and to develop planning estimates so a clear understanding of cost is available to base decisions on.

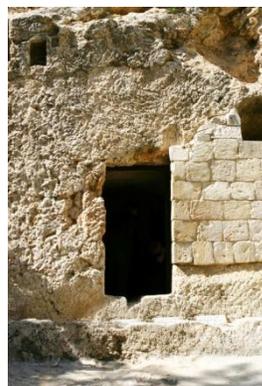
The group is asked to report back to the congregation on or before June 16, 2013.

Members:

1. Marlene Douglass
2. Lee Gilman
3. Ted LaCrone
4. Marie Hatfield
5. Joe Dressler
6. Hariph Smith
7. Rosalea Kimball

WINTER EVENTS

- † Fish Chowder – February 8, 2013
- † Ash Wednesday – February 13, 2013
- † February 16, 2013 - Book Study on *August Gale* led by our own Barbara Walsh, author
- † February 17 – March 10: Lenten Talks after worship.
- † February 21 – March 21: Messiah and Art Meditations in the Chapel on Thursdays
- † Fish Chowder – March 8, 2012
- † March 24 – 10:00 am Palm Sunday Worship
- † March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service here with Winthrop United Methodist Church
- † March 31 – 10:00 am Easter Sunday.

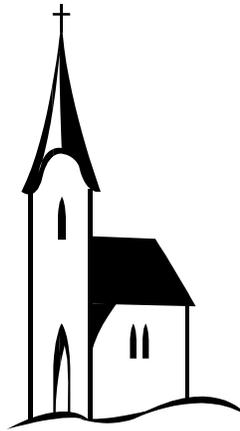


January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
2	Kelly deWolfe	1/31/76	Alan & Carol Ellingwood
3	Helena Muller		
7	Brint Darlington		
17	Derek Hall		
18	Tom Dressler		
21	Korynne Eldridge		
24	Gerry Edgar		
28	Martha Hewett		
29	Sarah Dressler		
February Birthdays		February Anniversaries	
1	Jason Ridley	2/19/77	Ron & Nancy Dyer
3	Tom Irwin		
5	Kristin Morgner		
6	Brett Hiendlmayr		
8	Nora Conrad		
10	Dina Blodgett		
12	Anna Brown		
14	Pat Culp		
20	Debbie Burns		
15	Milton Hadley		
	Jonathan Whittier		
27	Cindy McDonnell		
March Birthdays		March Anniversaries	
3	Peter deWolfe	3/5/88	Peter & Lisa deWolfe
10	Kris Hatfield	3/20/92	Dina Blodgett & Sandra Smith
11	Wilma Sorenson		
	Barbara Enman		
15	Mike Burns		
25	Kristin Brown		
28	Carol Ellingwood		
29	Ruth Emerson		

WCC is now on Facebook

Visit us at

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



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