



The Witness

Summer 2015 Edition

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

The 75% Rule and Building a Vibrant, Diverse Church

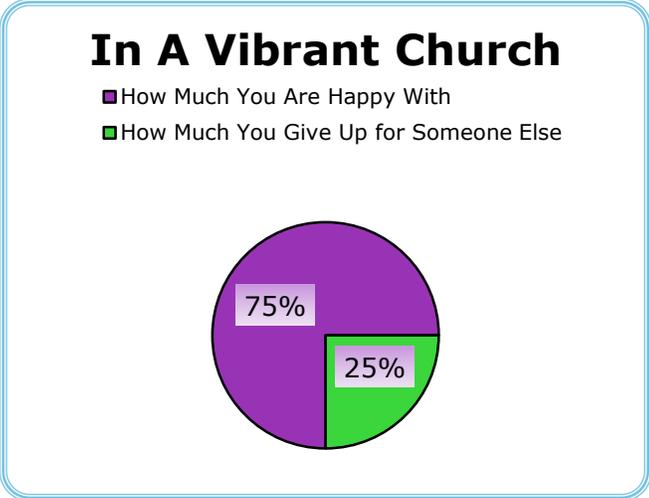
According to Molly Phinney Baskette, author of *Real Good Church*, James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church, developed something that Phinney Baskette calls the 75% rule. According to Forbes, in a truly vibrant, diverse church, **each person is only happy with about 75% of what is going at any point in time.** This applies to every aspect of how we do church: worship style, noise level, committee meeting organization, development of new ministries, and even decisions about wall colors. **The other 25% of what is going on, we give away for the person down the pew.** We give it up so that someone else in church can have that thing that they really love and need in order to have their soul nourished.

I read Phinney Baskette's book as part of the church renewal course that Mike Burns, Cyndi Hall, and I took through the Center for Progressive Renewal. In our discussions about the course sessions, Cyndi, Mike, and I each were struck by this notion that in a healthy church, people are really only happy with 75% of what is happening. I like the 75% Rule because it can help a church do a few very important things:

- Remember that church isn't just about what we want as individuals. It's about following God's call and loving our neighbors. Sometimes, in order to do both of those things, we have to be willing to live with decisions we don't like.
- Be reminded that just because we are called to be one body of Christ, we are not required to believe the exact same thing as the person sitting next to us. If we believe that God is still speaking, we will find that God is speaking through people who need different things than we do. We are called to listen.
- Figure out just what is in our 75%. What are the things that each of us needs in order to have our souls nourished? How can each of us support the development of these things in our worshiping community?

And, honestly, this 75% Rule helps me be far more gracious towards people who need different things from church than I do. While there are certainly some things I think are very important and take up a lot of my 75%, there are also things that are part of my 25% that I can give to the church in order for my neighbors to be spiritually fed. I hope you'll spend some time figuring out what's in your 75% and what's in your 25%. The church has said that it's ready to make some changes. The changes will be so much easier if we each have sense of what we absolutely need and what we can give away to serve the person sitting next to us.

Pastor Chrissy



We are an Open and Affirming Church

Summer Hours for Worship – 9:30 am

Starting June 14th, Sunday Worship Services will begin at 9:30 am continuing through Labor Day Weekend. Worship returns to 10 am on Sunday, September 13th.

SPRING EVENTS

- † Sunday, May 24th – Pentecost Sunday – Wear something Red
- † Thursday, May 28th – Ladies Night Out – Join the Women’s Guild at the Augusta Country Club at 6 pm for dinner. Carpool from the Church parking lot at 5:30 pm
- † Sunday, June 14th – Choir Appreciation Sunday – Children’s Service – Last day of Sunday School – Recognition of College Graduates - **9:30 am** Worship
- † Sunday, June 21st – Father’s Day: Men of the church dig out a tie to wear - Special Offering for Pilgrim Lodge
- † Wednesday, June 24th through Monday, June 29th – Pastor Chrissy will be attending the UCC General Synod in Ohio
- † Saturday, July 25th – Summer Fair – Your help will be needed!
- † Saturday, July 25th through August 1st – Pastor Chrissy vacation - California
- † Saturday, August 15th – Art Show Bake Sale and Luncheon on the Lawn – Please help!
- † Monday, August 24th through August 28th – Pastor Chrissy vacation - Texas
- † Sunday, September 13th – Sunday Worship at **10:00 am**



From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

The special collection to buy blankets for CWS to aid victims of natural disasters has, up to date, brought in \$194.00! WOW! We have collected around 26 stuffed animals for the Winthrop Ambulance Service. Many frightened little children will have a cute little "friend" to comfort them on their way to the hospital!



Please, read the thank you letter from the Winthrop Food Pantry posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We continue to "make a difference" in our community!

On Fathers' Day we will be taking up a special collection for Pilgrim Lodge, our Maine Conference, UCC Church Camp.

In the fall, the BCCC will be concentrating on the annual Stewardship Drive.

Thank you for your continued support of all our missions, both local and around the world. Your generosity is astounding!

Carol Whittier, Chair

From the Treasurer

Year to date the Church has a negative cash flow of \$3,405. Total income is behind projections by \$1,492 with pledges and loose offerings below budget by \$1,002 and \$415 respectively. Total Expenses are below budget by \$2,078. Although there is a negative cash flow at this point in time, we are in a better position than we were in 2014 where there was a year to date negative cash flow of \$6,005. Meeting our income projections will be critical as there could be some unbudgeted building maintenance expenses in 2015.

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CE Matters

We have had a very good Sunday School year using the Godly Play curriculum. We are hoping that over the next few months we can make lessons for the next year so that other congregants can step into the role of teacher and not be overwhelmed. We are hoping that our lessons will be put together in boxes, baskets, etc. on shelves in the Sunday School room. If anyone is interested in helping us with these arts and crafts projects please contact us.

We had a great time at our intergenerational bowling event in March. There were at least 10 us (not all bowling but present) and we managed to get in two games.

Children's Sunday will be June 14th and after that we will be taking a break for the summer. Children will be invited to stay in church or come down to the nursery to play with our youngest members.

Two Committees recently formed and approved by the Council **Vision Communication Team**

The Winthrop Congregational Church "**Vision Communication Team**" will lead the congregation in a process of discernment regarding the use of our physical space to communicate our values and mission. The committee will seek input from the congregation and create consensus in approach.

Charter Approved at the February 11, 2015 Council Meeting.

Committee Members approved at the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting: Sharon Coulton, Eric Conrad, Connie Mayette, and Ronda Watson.

The team held its first meeting on May 16, 2015 and is now seeking input from the congregation. If you have thoughts about how things look, how they can change, or whether certain things should stay the same -- please approach one (or more) of the team members in the next several weeks and share your views. This includes everything you see, from blank wall space to furniture in the lobby area and vestry and even carpeting and draperies.

This is not a decorating committee. Rather, we have a beautiful property, inside and outside, and we want to make the most of it as an expression of our congregation.

Team email addresses: coulton.sharon@gmail.com, cmayette@gmail.com, econrad@memun.org, and Watson_ronda@yahoo.com.

Historical Records Committee

The Winthrop Congregational Church Historical Records Committee of 4 to 5 people will establish guidelines for organizing & storing historical records of the church, to include Annual Reports, newsletters, membership lists, clerk records, etc. The committee will also discern best practices for preserving the records from the 1776 onward. The Committee will bring recommendations to the Church Council for approval.

Charter Approved at the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting

Committee Members approved at the May 13, 2015 Council Meeting: Marie Hatfield, Cyndi Hall, Margaret Imber, Marie Pettengill, and Sandra Smith.

Other interested parties: Dina Blodgett, Ann Mitchell, and Hariph Smith

The Historical Records Committee will have its first meeting in early June (tentatively, 6/7/2015 after worship) to begin discussions.



From the Financial Secretary

Summer in Maine can be fun and busy and your activities may result in a few absences from Church Worship Services. Please try to remember to keep your pledges up to date. If you won't be in Church, you can mail your check to the Office.

Women's Guild

The Guild is beginning to wind down their year with an invitation for all the ladies of the church to join them at the Augusta Country Club on Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 PM for the Annual Ladies Night Out. The sign-up sheet and the menu are posted in Fellowship Hall. It should be a fun evening! Please join us!

The Guild voted to make a gift of new flags for our newly renovated Sanctuary as our present flags are looking rather dusty and wilted. The Church Council accepted this gift at our May meeting!

Our June meeting will be held at Marie Hatfield's with Marie Pettengill assisting her. We usually have a social at camp during the summer with a light evening meal and games. Even if you are not "officially" in the guild, we welcome you to come and join in the fun! Carol Whittier, President

Summer Fair

Please save the date of July 25th 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 15th for another of our big fundraisers. 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. Come and check out the art work along Main Street and stop by for lunch and baked goods. We hope to see you then!

Hannaford Gift Card Sales



The Hannaford gift card sales continue to go well. Cards are always available for purchase and I have them on Sundays. Thank you to all that continue to support this worthwhile fundraiser. We earn \$5 for every \$100 Gift Card purchased.
Carol Ellingwood

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



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June Birthdays		June Anniversaries	
1	Alfred Pettengill	6/22/72	Hariph & Ginger Smith
4	Jared Hanson	6/24	John & Ann Mitchell
6	Susan Payne-Nelson Marty Hensen		
16	Marie Hatfield		
17	Andy Burns		
21	Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer		
21	Mark Dennis		
25	Joe Emerson		
29	Sean Putman-Labbe		
July Birthdays		July Anniversaries	
1	Margaret Imber	7/2/76	Bill & Becky Gillespie
2	Don Edgar	7/4/53	Fred & Marlene Douglas
3	Vicki Jackson	7/8/78	Dana & Cyndi Hall
5	Kate Morgner-Dobrzelewski	7/25/92	Roger & Sue Hanson
9	Amy Tague	7/28/75	Peter & Marie Hatfield
13	Ron Dyer		
15	Shirley Foster		
17	Dayle Ashby		
18	Rosalea Kimball		
22	Chris Smith		
24	Sue Hanson		
27	Alan Ellingwood		
31	John Mitchell		
August Birthdays		August Anniversaries	
10	Linda Ruman	8/16/75	Kelly & Ann Dooling
10	Becca Irwin	8/24/96	Barbara Walsh & Eric Conrad
13	Lee Gilman		
13	Barbara Walsh		
16	Lisa deWolfe		
16	Charlie Gove		
16	Hariph Smith		
18	Chris Dyer		
21	Mary Gove		
21	Erin Putman-Labbe		
21	Darren Hatfield		
22	Joe Dressler		
24	Susan Mauro		
25	Martha Payne		
25	Diane Richardson		
26	Julie deWolfe		
26	Marianne Martin		
30	Doug Whittier		



Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, August 15, 2015

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Visit us at

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>

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