



The Witness

Winter 2013/2014 Edition

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364

Tel: (207) 377-2063

E-mail: wccucc@fairpoint.net

Webpage: www.wccucc.org



Open and Affirming

Minister: Rev. Dr. Alice Anderman Music Director: Rosalea Kimball Office Administrator: Cyndi Hall

Pastor's Reflections

Ann Weems is a favorite author and poet of mine. Her poetry from *Kneeling at Bethlehem* touched me as I anticipate Advent and Christmas. I share some of her words with you.

What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,
 The air thick with alleluias,
 The angels singing
 That God is born among us.
In the light of the star,
I want to see them come,
 The wise ones and the humble,
I want to see them come
 Bearing whatever they treasure
 To lay at the feet
 Of him who gives his life.



What do I want for Christmas?
To see in that stable
 The whole world kneeling in thanks
 For a promise kept:
 New life.
For in his nativity
 We find ours.

What do we want for Christmas? As we begin our advent journey to the manger, may we take time to kneel in Bethlehem and find our heart's desire!

I invite you to make part of your advent journey with your church family at Winthrop Congregational United Church of Christ. Advent which means beginning starts on December 1, this year the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

May you all have a blessed Christmas filled with joy, peace, love, and hope!

Christmas love and blessings to all!

Rev. Alice

We are an Open and Affirming Church

WINTER EVENTS

- † Sunday November 24th – help the Women’s Guild decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Advent.
- † Sunday December 1st - we will celebrate the holy feast of communion during our morning worship
- † Intergenerational Event – December 1st - Decorate the Christmas tree. CE members will be bringing cookie dough for baking cookies during Sunday School. We plan to decorate the Christmas tree for the church fair, and make ornaments & props for the upcoming pageant! We hope many will join in on the fun after worship. The Board of Christian Ed will provide a lunch of soup, bread, punch and dessert.



- † Wednesday, December 4th 6:00 pm - Lighting your ways through the Holidays is a special service for those who find the holiday season difficult sponsored by the Winthrop Area Ministerial Group and Roberts Funeral Home. This year the service is at Winthrop Friends Church, Route 135, Winthrop. Snow date: Thursday December 5.

- † Christmas Fair – December 7, 2013- Please come to this! See flyer on page 7 for more information
- † White Gift Sunday – December 8th – Bring a personal care product or white linen item for victims of domestic violence and help decorate the tree in the Sanctuary during a special Christmas service. (Cash in a white envelope makes a great White Gift also.)
- † December 15th – The Sunday School will involve all of you in a special all congregation Christmas pageant. Come and become part of the Christmas story
- † December 12th and December 19th (Thursdays) 11 – 1:30 –Advent Meditations led by Rev. Alice viewing and discussing the DVD *Faces of Jesus in Art*.
- † December 22nd - The choir will share its special Christmas cantata with the congregation. After worship we hold a service of lighting our memorial tree
- † Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Word and Carols – December 24th 7 pm. Let’s go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling place.
- † December 29th– “Carols That Move” –special after Christmas worship of carols and our own stories of how we have been touched by a carol.
- † January 5, 2014 – Epiphany Sunday
- † Fish Chowder – January 10, 2014
- † Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 29, 2014 in the vestry after Worship along with Pot Luck Luncheon
- † Fish Chowder – February 14, 2014
- † Saturday February 22, 2014 – Kvac Honduras Fund Raiser – Dinner and Concert – Waterville Congregational Church



Help the UCC Respond in the Philippines

On November 11, 2003, the United Church of Christ issued an appeal for \$250,000 for Typhoon Haiyan response. Typhoon Haiyan has killed as many as 10,000 people in the Philippines, with the devastation it caused being described in a BBC news report as "absolute bedlam."

Hardest hit is the central Philippine city of Tacloban, which is said to be flattened and where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. The damage to communications, airports and roads is hampering initial relief efforts, according to Ric Jontarciego, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)



Disaster Coordinator. While much focus has already been put on Tacloban, the UCCP reports that cities and towns in other parts of the Philippines are also facing huge losses.

The UCC will support early response and recovery efforts of partners in the ACT Alliance and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Initial response activities will likely include material resource provision, emergency shelter items, drinking water and cash for work programs.

Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Minister Wider Church Ministries

How you can help:

1. Pray for the people impacted by Typhoon Haiyan, UCC partner organizations active in response efforts, and all humanitarian workers.
2. To assist people in recovering from this disaster, please make a gift payable to your Winthrop Congregational Church marked for "Typhoon Haiyan" with the request it be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

OR

Send gifts, made out to United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion "Typhoon Haiyan" to United Church of Christ; Financial Services; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. OR

Make a secure online donation to the International Disaster Relief fund at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/typhoon-haiyan/>. Please note "Typhoon Haiyan" in the Comments Box.

Thank you for your compassion and support.

Board of Church and Community Concerns

The Harvest Table is decorated and beginning to fill up with your donations for the Winthrop Area Food Bank! Several new families were enrolled recently so our contributions will be welcome. Envelopes are in the pews if you would prefer to give a monetary donation.

We will again be sponsoring a family from the Family Violence Project in December. Look for the "giving tree" that Lee will set up in Fellowship Hall!

If you have not yet done so, please send in your pledge form for 2014 to Cyndi! The Trustees will begin working on the church budget for next year soon!

CE MATTERS

Join us December 1, 2013 for an afternoon of ornament making, tree decorating, costume making and a light lunch! Our young folks and members of the Board of Christian Education will be baking cookies for the church fair during Sunday School that day. We also plan to make tree ornaments for the Church Fair and costumes for the Christmas Pageant. The Board of Christian Ed will provide a lunch of soup, bread, punch and dessert. **Please join us** for an afternoon of production and fellowship at Santa's Workshop.

We are preparing the all-church Christmas Pageant for **December 15, 2013**. We hope you will be able to attend worship on this special Sunday. Did you know that there is a part for **YOU?** Come and see what role you'll be playing.

As always, we need teachers and helpers in the Sunday School. Please let us know if there is a week that you are available to teach or help with the children.

Board of Christian Education

Susan Mauro
Cyndi Hall
Sharon Coulton
Margaret Imber

From the Trustees



We would like to thank all those who donate their time and talent in the maintenance and improvement of the church property including the camp. During the past year members of our church have donated their time to regularly clean the church, decorate the sanctuary, conduct minor repairs, maintain flower gardens, mow the lawn, plow the parking lot, shovel walks, clean snow from the church roof, paint the camp, dispose of trash, install and remove the camp dock, and rake leaves.

Search Committee

The Search Committee met with Rev Susie Craig, Associate Conference Minister and with Rev Alice earlier this month to check on our status and to review our draft church profile. We felt very positive after the discussion and recommendations for improvements to the profile. The profile was presented to Church Council on November 19th and was approved to share with candidates. We will be ready to advertise after the first of the year and enter the next phase – the exciting phase where we will begin to receive ministerial profiles this winter.

Thank you to all who participated in the group discussions and to all who filled out a survey form.

From the Treasurer

The financial picture at the end of October is somewhat better than it was at the end of August. At the end of the October, total income was \$5,481 less than budget. This deficit was largely due to Total Offerings which were \$5,677 less than budget. At the end of October, total expenses were \$2,618 less than budget. Overall, at the end of October, our expenses had exceeded our income by \$6,261.

Earlier this year, I had to borrow \$10,000 from savings to pay our bills. Recently, I was able to pay back \$5,000. I hope to pay back some of the remaining \$5,000 at the end of the year.

It appears that our budget for this year was too optimistic with respect to income projections for the year. If current trends continue, income projections for next year's budget will need to be revised downward, and our expenses will need to be reduced in order to balance the budget.

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 project to support our church budget.

Carol Ellingwood



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting this year is on Sunday, January 26th after worship. All are encouraged to attend this informative meeting, where important decisions will be made on our Church Budget. A pot luck meal will also be shared during this time.

Honduras Mission Trip



The Kennebec Valley Association is planning a mission trip to Roatán, Honduras April 28 to May 7, 2014. We will work with our Honduran partners at La Nueva Vida to help them add to the church building that the Winthrop Congregational UCC Church Mission Team helped move to a new location in June of 2012. We will also have a medical mission and to help at two schools in the Coxen Hole area.

On February 22nd a Dinner and Concert will be held at Waterville Congregational Church to help to raise funds for the trip. Locally, there will be a table at the Church Fair to help raise funds for the trip.

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 20, 2014

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		
January Birthdays			
2	Kelly deWolfe	1/31/76	Alan & Carol Ellingwood
3	Helena Muller		
7	Brint Darlington		
17	Derek Hall		
18	Tom Dressler		
24	Gerry Edgar		
28	Martha Hewett		
29	Sarah Dressler		
February Birthdays		February Anniversaries	
3	Tom Irwin	2/19/77	Ron & Nancy Dyer
5	Kristin Morgner		
6	Brett Hiendlmayr		
8	Nora Conrad		
12	Anna Brown		
14	Pat Culp		
20	Debbie Burns		
15	Milton Hadley Jonathan Whittier		

Women's Guild News

Elections were held in October with new terms effective January 1st, 2014. Carol Whittier will serve as President, Lee Gilman as Vice-President, Cyndi Hall as Secretary, and Marie Hatfield as Treasurer. The Guild meets next on January 23rd at Jean Doughty's at 6:30.

The poinsettias that were ordered will be available Dec 1st for pick up. We will collect hats and mittens for the Winthrop Grade School again during the Advent season. Help us keep those little heads and hands warm!

In October, we learned about our sponsored child from Honduras. Arnold is 15 years old and lives with his older brother and father in San Pedro Sula. As a 7th grader, he enjoys math and social studies plus he likes playing soccer, drawing, and singing. His first letter to the church just arrived and is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Check out his letter when you have a chance!



Ye Olde Christmas Fair

Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC

Saturday, December 7, 2013

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- * **Baked Goods**
- * **Jewelry**
- * **Nature Crafts**
- * **Silent Auction**
- * **Homemade Candy**
- * **Memorial Lights**
- * **Needle and Thread Crafts**
- * **The Cookie Jar**
- * **2nd Time Around**
- * **Wreaths and Greenery**
- * **Books**
- * **Rada Cutlery**

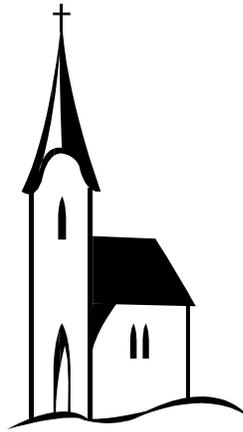
Luncheon beginning at 11:30 am
(Chowders and Soup w/ bread; Hot dogs;
Apple crisp)

Join us as we prepare for the Christmas season with a wide variety of items for this special time of year!

WCC is on **facebook**

Visit us at

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



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