

THE WITNESS

December 2010



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

Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

Office Assistant: Marie Pettengill

YE OLDE CHRISTMAS FAIR DECEMBER 4, 2010 – 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.



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Our Christmas Fair is fast approaching and your help is needed. The success of our fair depends not only on our “customers,” but also on you and your monetary giving and/or table donations.

The Fair opens at 9:00 a.m., and the holiday tables will be filled and ready for customers. The aromas of the coffee shop will fill the air with breakfast sweets, hot chocolate, and coffee.

The Christmas Fair is not only a wonderful place to buy your Christmas items, but you can also enjoy a yummy lunch. The Famous Fish Chowder is steamy hot, at only \$4.00 a bowl; fresh lobster rolls are \$6.00; homemade meat or veggie lasagna at \$5.00 a plate. We will also have hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, assorted pies, and beverages.

Our sign-up sheets are posted in the vestry, or you may call the office to add your name. Our committee this year is:

- Chair – Marie Hatfield
- Sign-up & Posters – Marie Pettengill
- Kitchen – Diane Richardson
- Set-up/ Clean-up – Doug Whittier
- Silent Auction – Carol Whittier
- Treasurer – Cyndi Hall

Our holiday tables could use donations of baked goods, candy, ornaments, cookies, gifts, books, and jewelry. You get the idea, please help where you can. It means a great deal to our church. This year we are looking for **Silent Auction ideas**; if you know of anyone who would donate a gift certificate, service, or item please let Carol Whittier or Debbie Burns know. You might have an item in good condition that someone else would love to bid on!!

Wreaths will be available with or without red bow and decoration. They are double-sided 12” wreaths made in Maine. You may reserve yours with Marie Hatfield 377-2718.

2nd Time Around items should be clean, in working order and may be dropped off. Please identify electronics and other items that would cost the church to dispose of, so that if they don’t sell we may return them to the donor.

Here is a list of fair tables and areas where helpers are needed:

Early Helpers:	Publicity/Posters		
Thursday Evening:	Set-up and decorating crew		
Saturday Helpers:			
Fair Treasurer	Cashier	Kitchen	Dish Washers
Memorial Lights	Christmas Ornaments	Dining Room Hostess	Waiters/waitresses
Jams & Jellies	Silent Auction	Raffle	Jewelry
Christmas Cookies	Wreaths	Bows	Candy
Beans, Brown Bread, & Pickles	Second Time Around & Books	Holiday Gifts & Collectables	Floater
Holiday Baked Foods		Kitchen clean-up	General clean-up

Thanks and Merry Christmas to you all!



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Reflections from the Pastor

First Christmases are always special. I still remember the first Christmas Dave and I had together in Baltimore and our first Christmases with first Rachael and then Jonathan. Expectation, warmth, love, magic are all part of being with those who are special in your life. We started some Advent and Christmas traditions on our first Christmases. We prepared and waited for the birth of Jesus by lighting a candle on the Advent wreath, reading a passage from the Bible and opening the door on our Advent Calendar. On Christmas Eve we all went to a Candlelight Service together.

I look forward to preparing for our first Christmas with all of you, my new church family and sharing in your traditions - White Gift Sunday, decorating the sanctuary and the church, Sunday School Pageant, Choir Cantata, lighting of the advent candles and the lights on the outside memorial tree, and Christmas caroling. I also look forward to our Christmas Eve Service where we will hear the beloved story and sing the carols that celebrate Jesus' birth.

Our traditions remind us all of the very first Christmas so long ago. I hope you have wonderful memories of some of your firsts. And I hope the wonder of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the wisdom of the sages, the warmth of the animals and the love of God in that tiny baby fill your hearts and lives now and always. May every Christmas be a first Christmas for you in some special way.

Blessings and love, Alice

Winthrop Congregational Church Advent and Christmas Schedule

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent. The Trustees will light the first candle on the Advent Wreath. Adults and children will receive Advent Calendars to help them prepare for the birth of Jesus.

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent. "White Gift Sunday" The Council will light the second candle on the Advent Wreath. We will decorate the tree in the sanctuary as we bring the white gifts forward during morning worship service.

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent. "Children's Christmas Pageant" The Deacons will light the third candle on the Advent Wreath.

December 16 – Longest Night Service. Although the holiday season emphasizes celebration, this can be a difficult time of year for those who are grieving. Roberts Funeral Home and the Winthrop Area Ministerial Association will hold an interfaith service on December 16 at 7 pm. This service will acknowledge the grief that we experience during the holiday season and will provide time to share with others who feel the same sorrows. The service will be held in the downstairs Fellowship Hall at the Winthrop United Methodist Church on Main Street in Winthrop (next to the gas station).

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent. "Choir Cantata" The BCCC Committee will light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath. After worship we will decorate the church and go Christmas Caroling with the Methodist Church in the afternoon. Please check church bulletin and newsy notes for time.

December 24 – Christmas Eve. 7:00 pm “Christmas Candlelight Service” The Women’s Guild will light the Christ Candle and we will hear the story of Jesus birth in scripture and carols.

December 26 - Sunday after Christmas. “Christmas Carols through the Ages”

Special Thank Yous

To the Women’s Guild and the Trustees for the three new chairs in the pastor’s office. They fit in perfectly!

To all the hosts and hostess for the small group meeting. It has been great to learn about each other and enjoy good conversation and delicious deserts.

To all who planned, helped with, and attended Rev. Alice’s Installation and for your warmth and generous hospitality.

For the beautiful engraved necklace and gold earrings I received from all of you as an installation gift.

Confirmation Update

The Confirmation Class completed its first trimester on November 14. During their first six weeks of class they studied about the Trinity: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The class, parents and friends visited the Shabbat Service at the Temple Beth El in Augusta. The Shabbat Worship Service is mostly sung in Hebrew. After the service we heard the author of a book on the Jews in World War II talk about his book and then watched as Rabbi Susan unrolled and read from the hand lettered Torah. The class and visitors were extended warm hospitality from the members of the synagogue and Rabbi Susan. The confirmand’s in their last class had a chance to address big faith questions. Special thanks to Sharon Coultron, Roxanne French and Patrice Putnam for teaching the class.

Our next trimester starts on January 2 with a lesson on worship. Rev. Alice will lead an annotated worship service during our Sunday service. She will explain why we do what we do in worship and share some of the traditions of worship. After church she will meet with the confirmands and anyone else who is interested to answer questions and talk more about worship.

Coming up in January

O&A Task Force: Are you interested in helping with the Open and Affirming Process? In January we will form an Open and Affirming Task Force and start exploring the Open and Affirming Process and what it means to be an Open and Affirming Church. Please let Rev. Alice know before the end of the year if you would like to be part of the task force.

Dreaming about a summer day at camp: Do you have some hopes, dreams, and ideas about how we can develop our camp property and special outdoor ministries? Start dreaming and writing down ideas. We will be gathering together in the cold winter to think warm thoughts of summer and how we can use the special gift of our camp. We will set a time for us to dream together in the new year.

Honduras Mission Trip: In the summer of 2012 our church will sponsor a mission trip to El Progreso in Honduras. If you would like to help in the planning please give your name to Rev. Alice. We will be getting more detailed information about our trip in the beginning of next year.

Message from Joe regarding his progress toward ordination:

On Sunday, Oct 31st I met with the Deacons, Marlene, and Alice to discuss my Student in Care of Association status. The next step in the process should take place the first Wednesday in January when I will meet with the Association Committee on Ministry.

This semester I have been doing my Mentored Practice (internship) at the Waterville UCC with Dave Anderman as my mentor. Dave and I meet weekly to discuss various issues going on in the church and he has been great in giving me some insights into ministry and my sermons.

I enjoyed the opportunity to preach on Oct 24th and much to my relief the congregation recognized my efforts at humor with some appropriate responsive laughter. My next preaching dates are Nov 28th, on the first Sunday in Advent and again on January 2nd. Mentored Practice goes through the entire school year so I will be at Waterville into May and maybe early June.

This semester I am also taking a course in Christian Doctrine, very interesting but very challenging. My other course is Introduction to Islam.

I just passed the half-way mark this summer towards my Masters in Divinity and am on track toward a May 2012 graduation date. Over the holidays or sometime in January I will be doing my Mid-Program review at BTS.

I miss you all, and wish you God's blessings.

Joe

CE MATTERS

The Christian Education Committee has several events planned for the month of December.

December 12th will be our Christmas Pageant entitled: Precious Gift

December 19th we will be caroling at the nursing homes. The event will start with a dedication at the memorial tree and continue on to Winthrop Manor and Heritage Rehabilitation & Living Center.

Confirmation classes have begun and the children are doing a great job. Their first six weeks of classes have ended and we are hoping that during the time they have off they will visit other churches and synagogues in the area to learn about other forms of worship and traditions. Confirmation classes resume on January 2nd with an extended class on Worship with Rev. Alice.

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. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Sunday School door. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

*Susan Mauro, Chair
Board of Christian Education*

BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever wondered about Eve, Jezebel, Lot's wife and other infamous women in the Bible? We will begin pondering these questions and many others in January, when we will have a book study of Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue by Barbara J. Essex.

Rev. Barbara J. Essex is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and the minister/coordinator of community life at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Essex uses sound biblical interpretation, history, archeology and other tools to get at the heart of these women's stories. We will be shown their more positive qualities, even though they are being used to move the biblical story forward. This is not a dull read!

This book may be found on www.amazon.com or I will order copies and leave them in the church office. This study will begin, weather permitting, after Sunday worship service on January 9th.

Please contact Roxanne French at roxoid2000@yahoo.com or Rita Ladd at ritaladd@hotmail.com for further information.



WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The Guild met at the Church October 28.

Elections were held and the following are 2011 officers:

President Lee Gilman
Vice-President: Diane Richardson
Treasurer: Cyndi Hall
Secretary: Carol Ellingwood

Committees:

Sunshine: Jean Doughty
Prayer Shawls: Mary Gove
Flowers: Marie Hatfield
Devotions: Marie Pettengill
Receptions: Marie Hatfield, Marie Pettengill, Carol Ellingwood, Carol Whittier
Sponsored Child: Carol Whittier

The Guild provided flowers for Reverend Alice Anderman's installation on November 7.

There will not be a regular meeting in November or December. Instead we will be attending the Mt. View Chamber Singers (Thornton Academy) for "Carols in the Round" on December 12 at 4:00 pm at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Augusta. We will meet at the Winthrop Congregational Church at 2:30 pm to carpool. If you can't attend with the Guild on December 12, there is a prior performance on December 8 at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church in Hallowell. These performances are free, but there is an opportunity to make donations in their "Box in the Back" to defray traveling expenses. They have several excellent CD's available for sale.

Marie Hatfield reported that orders must be in by November 7 for the annual poinsettia sale, prices are \$11 and \$13 and the poinsettias will be available at the Christmas Fair on Dec 4.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 27, at the home of Carol Whittier. Marie Pettengill will serve at co-host.

Submitted by Diane R.

BCCC BASICS

Christmas is fast approaching and your Board of Church and Community Concerns is gearing up for December mission projects! The first Sunday, December 5th, has been designated as White Gifts Sunday when we place under the Christmas tree wrapped personal products to be provided to the Family Domestic Violence Center for its clients. Also, on Dec. 5th, we will have the names and wish lists of a family that comprises a mother and three children from the Center. After church during hospitality, the information on each child and mother will be available for pick-up. This project is one that gives us all the opportunity to help those right here in our own towns. Please keep these families in mind as you do your shopping during this wonderful Christian season.

Submitted by Kay W.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who assisted with fall cleanup days at the church and at camp. We also wish to thank everyone who assisted with the painting day at church.

It is time to prepare the budget for 2011. We request that all Boards and Committees provide budget input to Doug Whittier by January 5, 2011. If there are any questions related to the budget please contact Doug Whittier or Joe Dressler.

The Trustees are requesting that all Boards and Committees review items that are stored at the church. Items that have not been used in the past year should be considered for disposal. Items not associated with church activities should not be stored at the church. Items that are necessary should be stored in such a way as not to impede emergency egress and should not pose a fire hazard. We are requesting that this review be completed by April 1, 2011. Please contact one of the Trustees with any questions.

Submitted by Doug W.

LITURGICAL COLORS AND SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Conclusion....

In the Winter edition of this Newsletter (last January), the liturgical colors and seasons of the church year were introduced, and the Season after Epiphany was highlighted. The Spring edition highlighted the Seasons of Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Summer, Maine's shortest season, revisited the liturgical "Season after Pentecost," which continued the Church's longest season that takes us up to the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. The Fall edition visited other Holy Days and observances.

Let's continue this series with a recap of the liturgical colors and seasons and conclude with a discussion of Advent and Christmas.

The use of colors to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably but by the 12th century Pope Innocent III systematized the use of five colors: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green. The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the Reformation retained the traditional colors but they disappeared entirely (along with most other ritual) from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20th century, the ecumenical Liturgical Movement prompted the rediscovery of ancient Christian ritual—including the traditional colors of the Western church. To these have been added Blue and Gold—colors that were used in some Western rites before the 12th century.

Briefly, the colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. Black is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. Red evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. Green is the color of growth. Blue is the color of the sky and in some rites honors Mary.

Congregations in the United Church of Christ have the freedom to use any combination of colors (or no particular colors) as seems best to them. The use of traditional colors, however, connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worship planners with visual aids that mark the transition from one season to another. Colors can be used in altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries.

Advent



Advent is a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) and looks forward to the future reign of Christ. Eschatological expectation rather than personal penitence is the central theme of the season. Advent is a preparation for rather than a celebration of Christmas, so Advent hymns should be sung instead of Christmas carols. The first Sunday of Advent is not the beginning of the Christmas season. The Christmas celebration begins on Christmas Eve and continues for the next "twelve days of Christmas."

Purple is normally Advent's liturgical color, associated both with the sovereignty of Christ and with penitence. Deep Blue is also sometimes used to distinguish the season from Lent. As the color of the night sky, Blue symbolizes Christ who in one ancient Advent song is called the "Dayspring" or source of day. As the color associated with Mary, Blue also reminds us that during Advent the church waits with Mary for the birth of Jesus.

Christmas and Christmas Season



The Lectionary readings for Christmas and the following twelve days (culminating in the feast of the Epiphany) invite the church to reflect on the Incarnation (or embodiment) of God as a human being: "The Word became a human being and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...." (John 1:14). In Christ, God enters human history and identifies fully with the human condition.

The traditional colors of the season are White or Gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day.

Source:

www.ucc.org/worship/liturgies/liturgical-colors.html

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CODA Chorus invites you to join us for our annual Christmas concert at Hope Baptist Church on Route 202 in Manchester on Sunday, December 5th at 7:00pm. Included in the program are beautiful sacred works such as Cesar Franck's *Psalm 150* and lighter pieces like *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, as well as traditional carols and selections from *The Messiah*. A free-will offering will be taken.

Ed Larson is CODA's music director and Bridget Convey is the accompanist. CODA would like to thank Kennebec Savings Bank for its continued and generous support as our sponsor. For more information about the Christmas concert, please call 622-9659.

MEMORIAL LIGHTS

It's time, once again, to light up the lovely Blue Spruce tree on the church lawn that stands as a memorial to Hit Twombly.

We will start with colored lights and change them to white as the memorial donations come in. Each Memorial Light, in memory or in honor of a loved one, costs \$5.00. The goal is to entirely cover the tree with white lights by Christmas Eve. The Memorials will be listed on an insert with the Christmas Eve bulletin, as well as in the Memorial Book in the foyer.

We hope that you will remember your loved ones with a white light on our Memorial Tree, which will shine brightly for the entire town to see, and in so doing will become a beautiful part of our community holiday festivities.

Please complete the **attached form** with your name/names exactly as you would like them to appear, and mail it or drop it off at the Winthrop Congregational Church office.

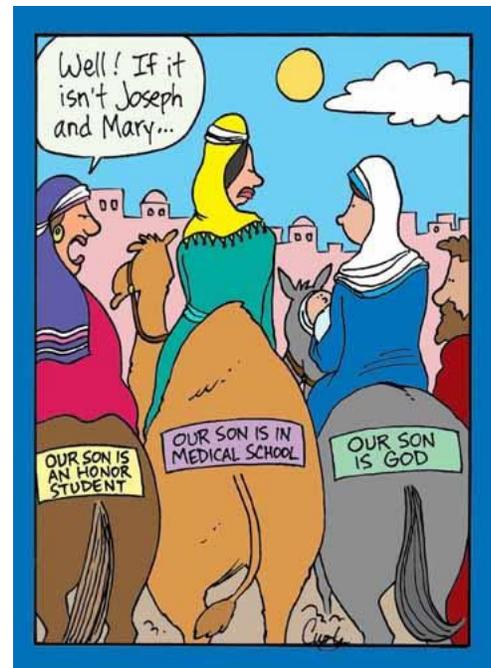
December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
2	Lois Gibbs	12/6/75	Marianne Martin & Rick McNaughton
9	Patrice Putman		
13	Emily Dooling		
15	Marja Hatfield		
19	Nathaniel Smith		
24	Ann Mitchell		
28	Kay Webster		
29	Daniel Whittier		

If any birthdays/anniversaries were missed, or if there are any errors, please let Dina know

PRAYER LIST

Patrice Merritt
Peter Coulton
John Richardson
Fran Burns
Don Dyer
Dayle Ashby
Ernie Henderson
Sally Pelletier
Roger Rollins
Michael Hamlin
Myra
Ethel and Sonny
Maxim

Clayton Grace
Laurie Rollins
Pat & Connie
Steve Gilman
Trevor
Our Military Men & Women
People who are suffering from violence of any kind
People suffering from Mental illness and addiction of any kind



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Memorial Lights - _____ in Memory of, _____ in Honor of

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Enclosed is \$5.00 for each light

Given by: _____

Mail to Winthrop Congregational Church UCC

10 Bowdoin Street

Winthrop, ME 06364

tel: 377-2063

attn: Cyndi Hall