



THE WITNESS

FALL 2010

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

After Labor Day the "hazy, lazy days of summer" gradually come to an end and the church returns to its usual busy schedule until next summer. New programs start. Sunday School begins. Worship returns to 10:00 am on Sunday. Study groups gather. Committees get back on their regular schedule. We all start up a new journey through the church year. I am excited because this is my first fall with you as we move through the rest of ordinary time - World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, to Thanksgiving. Then in December we travel together through Advent, to Christmas, and Epiphany. In late winter we will begin our Lenten journey to Holy Week and Easter. When next summer rolls around we will celebrate Pentecost and then be back in ordinary time.

In two weeks from the time I am writing my pastor's reflections some of us from Winthrop will be traveling to Pilgrim Lodge to walk the labyrinth. The Labyrinth helps us understand our Christian journey and the church year. It is one of many spiritual disciplines that help us enter God's presence and then move back out into the world ready to do God's work.

I will share some of the labyrinth story with you. John Ridder is the source of much of my information.

Labyrinths are found in many cultures dating back as much as 3,500 years. Unlike a maze, the labyrinth is unicursal, having a single path leading to the center with no loops, cul-de-sacs or forks. They all share the basic features of an entrance or mouth, a single circuitous path and a center or goal.

The two most common types of Labyrinths are the Chartres and Classic-7.

The Chartres, 11-circuit Labyrinth was constructed around 1201 AD in the stone floor of Chartres Cathedral, France. Its distinguishing features are: 11 circuits, the turns arranged in four quadrants, lunations or teeth around the perimeter, and a 6-petal rosette in the center. Medieval Christians visited Chartres (and other cathedrals) and walked the labyrinth as an alternative to taking a hazardous pilgrimage to Jerusalem to walk in the "foot steps of Christ." Modern "pilgrims" walk the labyrinth path as one of many tools to enhance prayer, contemplation, meditation, and/or personal growth.

The Classic-7 Labyrinth is a simpler design that is often called the 'Cretan' referring to the design found on ancient coins on the Island of Crete. It is also the oldest style found in many cultures as early as 1500 BC. Actual usage theories vary depending on the time and culture. Its distinguishing features are: 7 circuits, an egg-like shape and the turns in the lower part of the labyrinth.

The labyrinth at Pilgrim Lodge is used for prayer, meditation, contemplation or personal growth. There is not a "required way" to walk the labyrinth. The beauty of the labyrinth is that people can approach the experience on their own terms. However, as a guideline, we can break the 'walk' down into these stages.

1) Entering: (also referred to as shedding or purgation.) During this stage you walk the path toward the center, and should try to acquire a relaxed, peaceful state, temporarily **release** concerns and quiet the mind.

2) Illumination: The time in the center is where you enter the presence of God. This is a time of openness and peacefulness; you experience, learn or **receive** what this unique moment offers. Take your time.

3) Union: The journey outward. You choose when to leave the center, following the same path. This is a time to **review** and consider what occurred in the center and how it may be applied in your life.

4) Implementation: This stage represents your life outside the labyrinth; the world where your experience or illumination is carried into and affects your everyday life.

When you walk you can address particular issues or concerns, offer prayers for people in need - perhaps praying for a different person at each turn on the path or meditate on a specific word or passage, or pray repetitively, such as the Jesus prayer (Lord have mercy...) or the universal prayer for world peace. (Let peace Prevail on Earth!)

Walking the labyrinth is a good way to start our regular church activities and to take time to pray for the church and our walk with God.

I hope you can join us in our labyrinth walk at Pilgrim. If you can't you can still go through the stages of the labyrinth journey on your own and pray for your church and church family. May God be with all of us as we begin our journey together.

Fall blessings to all of you.

Rev. Alice



A NOTE FROM REVEREND ALICE

You Just Never Know

Before I started here at Winthrop UCC as your pastor, a group of good folks got my office ready for me. They cleaned the office, made new curtains, got me a four-drawer file, and organized the closet to the back of my office. On my first day at church and in my office I looked in my closet and found what felt like a painting wrapped in brown paper and cardboard. I opened it up and discovered a beautiful print of Frank Weston Benson's painting, *Eleanor*. No one seems to know how the painting got in my closet or why it is here at church. I really liked the print and decided to hang it on my office wall. Many when they come in my office comment on the beauty of the painting.

Last month Dave and I visited our son Jonathan and daughter-in-law, Erin in Boston. We went to the Museum of Fine Arts together. As I wandered through the gallery of American Impressionists I saw a painting that looked very familiar. At first I did not remember why and then the light bulb went off. This is the original painting of the print I am living with in my office. The actual painting was even more beautiful than my print. I learned from the label on the wall next to the painting that Frank Weston Benson painted in Maine. I have done research on the painting and this is what I learned.

The painting is of Frank Weston Benson's daughter, Eleanor. She is sitting on the porch of their summer home in North Haven, Maine. "Benson won national acclaim for his sunny scenes of healthy children enjoying an outdoor country life, and Eleanor is one of his most beloved images. It was purchased by the Museum of Fine Arts' collection almost immediately after it was finished.

"Benson's portrait of his daughter is a textbook example of the manner in which most Americans adapted Impressionism. He used a small brush to define Eleanor's features, painting her realistically with an authentic sense of weight and volume. But Benson gave himself much more freedom in other parts of the composition. The shimmering sea and leaves seem to vibrate with intensity, Eleanor's pink dress is loosely painted with broad strokes, and the details of her hat are abbreviated. The whole effect is vital and effervescent, much like a summer day." (MFA Highlights: American Painting, 156)

You are all invited to visit my office and look at this lovely painting. You just never know what you might find.

YOU SAY
GOD SAYS
BIBLE VERSES

You say: 'It's impossible'
God says: All things are possible
(Luke 18:27)

You say: 'I'm too tired'
God says: I will give you rest
(Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: 'Nobody really loves me'
God says: I love you
(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)

You say: 'I can't go on'
God says: My grace is sufficient
(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: 'I can't figure things out'
God says: I will direct your steps
(Proverbs 3:5- 6)

You say: 'I can't do it'
God says: You can do all things
(Philippians 4:13)

You say: 'I'm not able'
God says: I am able
(II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: 'It's not worth it'
God says: It will be worth it
(Roman 8:28)

You say: 'I can't manage'
God says: I will supply all your needs
(Philippians 4:19)

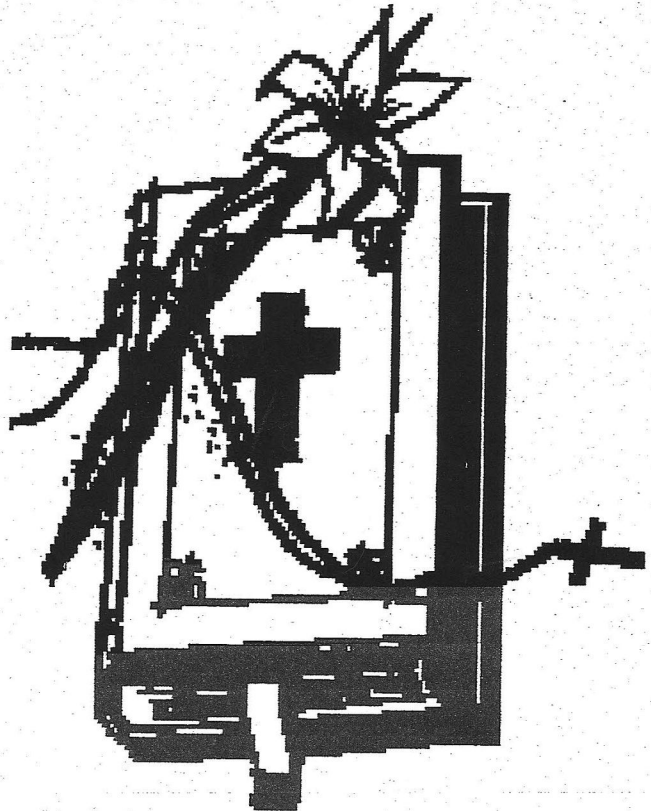
You say: 'I'm afraid'
God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear
(II Timothy 1:7)

You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'
God says: Cast all your cares on ME
(I Peter 5:7)

You say: 'I feel all alone'
God says: I will never leave you or forsake you
(Hebrews 13:5)

You say: 'I can't forgive myself'
God says: I Forgive you
(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: 'I'm not smart enough'
God says: I give you wisdom
(I Corinthians 1:30)



DEACON NEWS

Summer has been an exciting time at our church with worship led by Rev.

Alice, summer Communion was served by intinction, and we were blessed with special music by Jeff Dennis, Glen Goff and Bruce.

Visitations are continuing and we're busy planning fall events:

- * Rev. Alice's installation, Nov. 7th 3:00p.m.

- * Membership information - if anyone is interested in learning more about our church and the United Church of Christ and becoming a member of our church please contact the church office or Rev. Alice.

- * We are planning to start discussions on becoming an Open and Affirming church starting in January

- * Next meeting, Sunday Sept. 12th at 11:30

Marie H.

CE MATTERS

The Christian Education Committee had a retreat meeting in August. At that time we drafted a mission statement:

The mission of the CE committee is to offer a Christian education program for children which promotes Christian values and nurtures their relationship with God, our church family and the world.

We have a lot great things planned for the Fall. Rally day is September 12, 2010 and we will be starting Sunday School on that day. Reverend Alice has a little something special planned for that service to welcome the children back.

On **September 19th** we are planning a trip to Pilgrim Lodge for a tour and to walk the Labyrinth. Please sign up in the vestry and don't forget to bring a picnic lunch. Our bottle drive continues. On the last Sunday

of the month we will be taking the donated bottles to add to our Pilgrim Lodge campership fund.

We are planning a confirmation class for our Middle and High School students. An information meeting will be held by Reverend Alice on **September 21st at 6:30 p.m.** for parents and students.

Our next planned event will be on **October 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** This will be an intergenerational trip to DEW Animal Kingdom in Mt. Vernon. It will cost \$10 for admission to the park. For more information on the Park you can go to www.dewanimalkingdom.com Hope everyone can make it. More information will be available soon.

Once again, we need teachers and helpers in the Sunday School. Confirmation class for the older children will start in October during Sunday School so we will probably just be working with the younger children in 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.

Help Requested!! Can you sponsor the purchase of a Study Access Bible for one of our confirmands? The cost for the bible is around \$30. We are trying to reduce the cost to the families of our confirmands and ask for any help that you can give. The families will also be required to purchase workbooks for the class. If anyone would like to purchase one for themselves for the upcoming bible study please contact Reverend Alice, Roxanne French, Susan Mauro or Cyndi Hall.

*Susan Mauro, Chair
Board of Christian Education*

FROM THE TRUSTEES

We have a paint day at church scheduled for Saturday, September 11, beginning at 9 AM. Bring your favorite brush and scraper and we will provide the paint.

We are also planning a fall cleanup day at the church and the camp. No date has been selected as of yet. Stay tuned.

Thanks in advance for all who assist us in our paint and cleanup days.

Doug Whittier

BCCC BASICS

The Board of Community and Church Concerns is looking forward to the Fall months and preparing for our mission and stewardship responsibilities. Historically, November has been the month that the Food Bank holds its annual drive and we in the church have always provided substantial support for this cause.....both monetarily and food-wise. We also hold our Stewardship pledge drive in November and we take this occasion to ask our church community to start early in considering what you can do to support the church's various projects and responsibilities through your pledges. Our committee looks forward to working with everyone to keep our church on its mission path....both for our church and our community.

Kay Webster

MAINE CONFERENCE UCC FALL LEARNING EVENT

October 22-23, 2010 with J. Bennett Guess at Hampden Congregational UCC, 101 Main Road North, Hampden, ME

FISH CHOWDER

We put on fish chowder luncheons (the second Friday of the month) in September, October and November and again in January, February, March, April, May in June each year. These luncheons provide much needed funding each year, adding much needed cash flow to our annual budget. If you like to bake pies or biscuits or like to peel potatoes or onions or simply are willing to provide cash for purchasing milk, butter and other necessary items each month, your help would be **much** appreciated. Please let Dayle or Alice know if you can lend a hand. Also Jean can always use an extra hand in the kitchen on chowder days so if you like to wash dishes (!), set up tables, or help out in any other way, please let Jean know.

Dayle Ashby



gospelgifs.com

WCC WISH LIST

Here is a list of items that the Church would like to have. Of course, the list could go on, but this is a good start. If you would like to donate these items, or if you would like to donate money towards their purchase, please let Dina Blodgett or the Church Office know.

- ♥ Digital Projector for computer presentations
- ♥ Cross Pendants for Choir (15+)

Thanks for your support!

CLEANING FOR A REASON

One of our church members ran across this and would like to share. We're not sure if there is anything local right now, but it may be worth checking into. Dina

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment.

All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

LITURGICAL COLORS AND SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR Continued....

In the Winter edition of this Newsletter, 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. Advent and Christmas will be covered in the December issue of this Newsletter. For now, let's visit Other Holy Days and observances.

Other Holy Days and observances



Pentecostal Red is also the traditional color for Reformation Day on October 31. White or Gold is the color for All Saints Day on November 1 and is also an alternative to Green on the last Sunday after Pentecost—the feast of the Reign of Christ.

During other observances, the tradition is to use Red on commemorations of martyrs and other saints. As the color of the Holy Spirit, it is appropriate for ordinations. The colors of Christmas, White or Gold, are also customary on other feast days that celebrate the Incarnation or Resurrection of Christ (Holy Name, Baptism, Presentation, Annunciation, Visitation, Ascension and Transfiguration). Black for centuries was the traditional color for funerals, but in the past fifty years many liturgical churches have preferred to use White or Gold—the colors of Easter and therefore of Resurrection hope.

Source:

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

Sunday September 12th

**RALLY SUNDAY!
START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND
OUR WONDERFUL CHOIR**

**Our worship time changes to 10:00 am
Sunday, September 12th.**

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation information and orientation for parents and youth (6th grade through high school): Tuesday September 21st at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions please call Rev. Alice, 377-2063 or email her at revdralice@gmail.com.

Pilgrim Lodge Visit: Sunday September 19th, after church. Bring a bag lunch. We will carpool to Pilgrim Lodge, then tour the camp and walk the labyrinth. Please sign up on the list on the back of the kitchen door in the vestry.

Adult Education Bible Study: will begin at 11:30 am on September 26 in chapel. The study will last six weeks and then we will start another study. Bring a bag lunch and your Bible. We will start with either "How the Bible Came to Be" or "Ten Major Events in The Bible". If you have any questions please ask Rita Ladd, 458-1989 or Roxanne French 377-3598, or Rev. Alice Andermen 377-2063.

SMALL GROUP MEETING

The second small group meeting providing an opportunity for members to meet with Rev. Alice will be held Thursday, September 23rd at 2:00 p.m. This is a change from the previously announced time.

Where: Ann & John Mitchell

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Address: 455 Sturtevant Hill Road

Phone: 685-4621

Please call for help with directions. Sign up sheet is on the kitchen door in the vestry. This would be a great time for those of you who don't like night driving, to have a great fellowship time with Rev. Alice.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- ♥ September 9, 7:00 pm Church Council.
- ♥ September 10, 11:00 – 1:00 Fish Chowder Luncheon.
- ♥ September 11, 8:00 – 11:00 am Paint Day at Church.
- ♥ September 12, 11:30 am Deacons.
- ♥ September 16, 7:00 Trustees.
- ♥ September 19, 11:30 am Trip to Pilgrim Lodge.
- ♥ September 23, 2:00 pm Small Group Meeting
- ♥ September 26, 11:20 am Adult Education Bible Study.

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Let's make this the best year ever for our church. God Bless you All

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The June Meeting of the Women's Guild was held at the church camp on Sunset Pass with an August get together following in August. It was a time for relaxation and rest for those few who were around at the time. It followed the busy Lunch on the Lawn during the Sidewalk Art Show in downtown Winthrop. Kayaking and games preceded lobster rolls for supper followed by visiting and enjoying a beautiful sunset over Lake Maranacook.

The Fall season kicks off with the first meeting at the home of Ann Mitchell on Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00 PM. For directions, call 685-4621. Another great year of fellowship and special projects for the worldwide Church is anticipated. Looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Ann Mitchell

FALL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
1	Roger Sturtevant		
4	Lauren Hastings Ann Dooling	9/13/97	Ted LaCrone & Amy Tague
6	Marie Pettengill	9/14	Eric & Martha Payne
9	Peter Coulton	9/16/67	Doug & Carol Whittier
12	Sue Poole	9/20/53	Don & Gerry Edgar
17	Betty Evans Cyndi Hall Connie Conover	9/22/51	Charlie & Mary Gove
19	Marlene Douglas	9/23/72	Jeff & Anna Brown
21	Bob Morgner	9/25	Milton & Pamela Hadley
October Birthdays		October Anniversaries	
1	Sonny Maxim Christopher Martin-McNaughton	10/11/86	Tom & Kathy Irwin
7	Kara Hiendlmayr		
11	Rick McNaughton		
16	Wendy Dennis Pamela Livingstone		
22	Joshua Martin-McNaughton		

24	Wendy Wagner		
26	Jamie Martin-McNaughton		
31	Ginger Smith		
November Birthdays		November Anniversaries	
7	Roger Hanson	11/19/60	Alfred & Marie Pettengill
12	Pamela Hadley Caroline Ridley	11/12	Peter & Sharon Coulton
13	Ted LaCrone		
19	Sandra Smith		
22	Dana Hall		
24	George Rollins, Jr. Bob Ashby		
25	Fred Douglas		
28	Melissa deWolfe		
29	Justin deWolfe Ginny Webb		

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

A THANK YOU TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

My church family is the best.
They are far better than the rest.
When someone needs a helping hand,
They are there with a plan.

Give of themselves is what they do.
Just like God would want them to.
Without a thought of the time or trouble.
You are there on the double.

God brought me to this place without a doubt.
To this Church family to see what it all was about.
The feeling of family from the start,
The feeling I felt went right to my heart.

You all made me feel welcome,
You made me want to shout,
this is what a Church family
is all about.
God thank you for bringing me here,
To this church family I hold so dear.

Alfred and I want to thank you all for the special kindness, love, and caring that you have given us the last couple of weeks. The Prayers, the calls, the cards, E-mail messages, food, and visits it all has meant so much to the both of us.

Rev. Alice your visits to see us in Portland were so very important to us. You were there holding our hands praying with us, giving us strength. Your prayers, my family in this church, and my prayers were answered. Alfred is doing far better than he was two weeks ago. He has one more hurdle, for which I ask for your prayers again.

The monetary donation was far above anything we could have ever expected. I will never be able to tell you all how much

that meant to us, and how much of a help that will be, I love each and every one of you, God Bless you all.

Marie and Alfred Pettengill



THE SERENITY PRAYER

The Serenity Prayer is the common name for an originally untitled prayer by the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. The prayer has been adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous and other twelve-step programs.

The best-known form is:

God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Extended version:

God, grant us the...
Serenity to accept things we cannot change,
Courage to change the things we can, and
the
Wisdom to know the difference
Patience for the things that take time
Appreciation for all that we have, and
Tolerance for those with different struggles
Freedom to live beyond the limitations of
our past ways, the
Ability to feel your love for us and our love
for each other and the
Strength to get up and try again even when
we feel it is hopeless.

BIBLICAL HUMOR



Submitted by Patrice Putnam.

PRAYERS FOR:

Peter Coulton
John Richardson
Fran Burns
Don Dyer
Bob & Dayle Ashby
Ernie Henderson
Tom Clements
Sally Pelletier
Roger Rollins
Michael Hamlin
Myra
Ethel and Sonny
Maxim
Helen Scott
Clayton Grace

Laurie, Shirley, Linda
Rollins
Pat & Connie
Steve Gilman
Alfred Pettengill
Trevor
Pam Massey
Our Military Men &
Women
People who are
suffering from violence
of any kind
People suffering from
Metal illness and
addiction of any kind