

THE WITNESS

SPRING 2010



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364
Tel: (207) 377-2063
E-mail: wccucc@fairpoint.net
Webpage: www.wccucc.org



gospelgifs.com

Interim Minister: Rev. Karen Janus

Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

Office Assistant: Marie Pettengill

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

March, 2010

Dear Friends,

The calendar indicates that we are officially in the season of spring. With that in mind, I recall the old rhymes: "March winds blow and we shall have snow," followed optimistically by "April showers bring May flowers." Winter chill clings tenaciously but the joy of spring, with promise of new birth and restoration, is close at hand in nature and in the church.

As I write this message, Lent is coming to a close. Palm Sunday is just a few days away. Holy week with the observance of Maundy Thursday carries us forward on our journey with Jesus toward the cross and the ultimate joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As a Lenten study this year, I selected passages from Sue Bender's inspirational book, Everyday Sacred. Each snippet served as a conversation starter for those of us that gathered weekly for a brown-bag lunch in the Chapel. The conversations were richly infused with experiences from our personal spiritual journeys and life in the church. It was a time to recognize and embrace the importance of Christian community and the daily presence of God.

Going beyond our personal stories, the conclusion of the work of the Search Committee reflects faithful unity and acknowledgement of the presence of God working in the corporate life of Winthrop Congregational Church. The Committee's dedication and willingness to go through the lengthy process of surveying the congregation and carefully reflecting the results in a well constructed church profile resulted in a pool of well qualified applicants. Having that conscientiously contributed congregational input gave them a framework from which to work as they interviewed applicants. The result of their process was to joyfully select an outstanding candidate. On Sunday, March 21, 2010 the Congregation voted to call the Rev. Dr. Alice Anderman as settled pastor.

Dr. Anderman will join with WCC on June 1st as preacher and teacher. It is exciting and significant that she begins her ministry with you so soon after Easter. The resurrection of Christ at Easter can serve as a metaphor for new beginnings. In the life of WCC it is a time to experience renewed energy and growth - a time to begin a new journey - new beginnings.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as your interim minister during these past 18 months. I leave you filled with feelings of joy and affection.
May God's blessings be abundant!

Yours in Christ,

Karen

Rev. Karen A. Janus

THANKS

Dear Friends,

We can't tell you how surprised and pleased we were to receive our Prayer Shawls. They generate such warmth, so filled with your love and caring.

Thank you for keeping us on your Prayer List. We miss being there with you and hope to be back very soon.

We appreciate your help! It's such a blessing to have such good friends.

Sincerely and with Love,
Connie and Pat

.....
To everyone,

Mom, Laurie, Georgia, Poncho, and I would like to "Thank Our Church Family" for everything that was done for us.

It meant a lot and it means a lot to know, so many people were thinking and praying for our Father and Mom's husband.

It was and still is a heartfelt appreciation and means a lot to all of us and it would and did to Dad, before he got so bad. I know, he was impressed by how caring the church and Church Family was.

Love, Luck, Laughter always,
Linda, Laurie, Georgia, Mom, and Poncho
May God Bless you all and keep you in his hands always.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE...

On Sunday, March 21, 2010 the congregation unanimously called the Reverend Doctor Alice Anderman to be our next settled pastor. ☺

On Saturday, Marlene and Fred Douglas hosted an open house to welcome Rev. Alice, which provided an opportunity for church members to meet her. Many members participated on this first day of spring and we sat on the deck basking in the little bit of sun peeking out from behind the clouds. It did cool off a bit, but many stayed outside enjoying the fellowship and the opportunity to meet Alice and her husband David.

Next, we had a well-attended potluck supper at the church and then a program of music by Rosalie, a slide show by Peter Coulton, and a hymn sing. Rev. Alice addressed the gathering saying that she has never been welcomed as warmly at any other church.

Then Sunday morning, Rev. Alice led a wonderful worship service. At the church meeting following service, the congregation voted unanimously to hire Rev. Alice after listening to the terms of call – our contract with her. We then had a festive hospitality time in the vestry.

This was a great weekend for our church. We are so fortunate that Rev. Alice and our church feel called to be together. Rev. Alice will start with us on June 1st.

Thanks to all the many people who helped make this a great time.

Mike B. and Search Committee

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. Let’s now turn to the “Seasons” of Spring.

- **Lent**

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or "catechumens," for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation, not only for catechumens, but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion - literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God - is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptized and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the color Violet, though the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday bracket the season. As an alternative to Violet, some churches have begun to use brown, beige or gray (the colors of rough unbleached cloth like burlap) to reflect the season's mood of penitence and simplicity. The somber colors

are a reminder of the unbleached "sackcloth" worn by mourners and penitents in the Jewish tradition.

- **Holy Week**

During Holy Week, the congregation follows the footsteps of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem (Palm/Passion Sunday) through the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) to his death on the Cross (Good Friday). Red, the color of blood and therefore of martyrs, is the traditional color for Palm/Passion Sunday and the next three days of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, White or Gold symbolizes the church's rejoicing in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. But at the end of the Maundy Thursday celebration, the mood changes abruptly: all decorations are removed and the Holy Table is stripped bare. The church becomes as empty as a tomb. On Good Friday, either Black or Red is customary - although the use of no color at all is also appropriate. The Red of Holy Week is sometimes a deeper red than the brighter scarlet color associated with Pentecost.

Instead of finding a sealed tomb, the women who had come at dawn on Sunday are surprised by an angel who announces astonishing news: "Jesus has been raised from the dead" (Matt. 28:7). The heavenly messenger invites the mourners to see the empty tomb, then go, and tell the disciples that the Crucified One is alive!

- **Easter and Pentecost**

The season from Easter to Pentecost is also called the Great Fifty Days, a tradition inspired by the Jewish season of fifty days between Passover and Shavuot - the feast celebrating the giving of the Torah to Moses.

The liturgical color for this season is celebratory White or Gold. When the season ends on Pentecost Sunday, White is replaced with Red. This color reminds the congregation of fire - the symbol of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit overpowered the barriers of culture and race. The first Sunday

after Pentecost celebrates the Trinity, and the color again is White or Gold.

Source:

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

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Joe Dressler and Doug Whittier are co-chairs of the Trustees this year.

We are planning to paint the external trim on the church this year – at least the trim that we can reasonably reach. If anyone is willing to assist in this project, please contact Joe or Doug.

We are also planning to replace the missing storm windows for the stained glass windows and repair the vinyl siding on the far side of the church. If anyone knows of other repair projects that need to be completed please notify Joe or Doug.

Work days are planned for the church and camp this spring. The schedule for these work days will be announced in church and posted on the church's website.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who is assisting with cleaning of the church, and the completion of minor repairs.

Submitted by Doug W.

DEACON NEWS

Condolences to the families of Eleanor Coulton, George Rollins, and Carol Bailey.

Palm Sunday & Daffodil Sunday – March 28th 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 1st, 6:30 in the vestry. A light meal of cheese, fruit, and bread will be followed by a service of the Tenebrae with Communion and extinguishing of the flames.

Good Friday – April 2nd

Easter Sunrise Service at Norcross Point – April 4th, 6:30 a.m., sponsored by WAMA

Easter Service at WCCUCC – April 4th 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Karen's last Sunday: May 16th - hospitality after church with a time to celebrate our time together. Food and a program, maybe Peter will show his slide show.... More plans to follow.

May 23rd - Pentecost Sunday, Joe Dressler will lead our service

May 30th - Lay led service

Flower Gals: April - Marie P., May - Carol Whittier

We invite everyone to share a story on our bulletin board - a birth of a grandchild, graduation, a trip, just a beautiful day. Write a few sentences, take a picture, share a drawing, and place it on the left side of the bulletin board. It will be an ever-changing story of our church.

Submitted by Marie H.

CE MATTERS

We had great success with our Valentine carnation sale! A total of \$85.00 was raised between the sale and the coin collection box. The children will be donating this money through Heifer International to help the people of Haiti who lost so much during the horrific earthquake. The children prepared a message that went with the carnations.

We are always welcoming any volunteers willing to help with teaching Sunday School. We are also recruiting a “helper of the day” each Sunday to assist in the classroom. The “helper” will not have to prepare the lesson but assist the teacher with directing the children and offering their talents of cutting, pasting, and all the things that go along with the arts and crafts project. There is a sign up sheet outside the nursery school room door.

Look forward to the next intergenerational event! Amy Tague is planning a Wii tournament and game day at the church. We are hoping for May 2nd after hospitality with a light lunch shared, but more particulars will be announced when we have the particulars firmed up.

The Christian Ed Board welcomes Roxanne French as a member of our board. She is filling the seat left vacant by Ted Lacrone. We thank him for all his efforts as a member of our committee. Amy Tague has agreed to serve another three-year term. We also had a change in leadership. Cyndi Hall asked to be relieved of her duties as our leader. I have stepped into that role, and know I have some big shoes to fill. Thank you Cyndi for all you have done, and remember that you have committed to stay an active member to help guide us.

*Susan Mauro, Chair
Board of Christian Education*

BCCC BASICS

Now that spring is here (early, in fact), we are preparing to forge ahead and set forth our upcoming spring endeavors. Following our Easter celebration, we will be holding One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, April 11th. Following his resurrection, Jesus repeated the same message three times..., "If you love me, take care of the people I love." The funds given to OGHS goes for: shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. This year, more than ever, these donations are desperately needed.

Then on May 9th, Mother's Day, we will celebrate Blanket Sunday. This offering helps families meet the challenges of building self-sufficient, sustainable lives. Blankets are a gift of love that keeps on giving.

BCCC is kind of the church's conscience, promoting local and global undertakings to encourage benevolent giving. If there is anyone who would like to join us, just to see how this Board works, we could use one or two "warm bodies" to bring new ideas and new ways of doing "business." Watch the bulletin for meetings! We would love to have you join us!

Submitted by Kay W.

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The Women's Guild recently completed 35 Health Kits for sending to Haiti through Church World Service (CWS). The Sunday School children helped to assemble these kits, which was a meaningful experience for them. CWS requests a continuing supply of these needed kits, as well as the school kits we normally complete and send in May.

Daffodil Sunday will be the same as Palm Sunday – May 28th. Orders have been completed for this occasion. Orders are currently being taken for Easter Plants, which

are always displayed Easter Sunday and add a rich dimension to the service. Easter lilies will not be included for display in the church, but will be available for ordering. See Marie Hatfield for details.

The Guild approved the use of monies from the Flower Fund to be used for Reverend Dr. Alice Anderman's visit the weekend of March 20th and 21st.

Mary Gove reported that the women have given 11 prayer shawls since 2008. Jane Bradbury has been making and donating many of the shawls given. Mary has offered to buy the yarn Jane uses. Shawls have recently been given to Connie Conover, Pat Culp, and Laurie Rollins. There are 6 shawls currently on hand and 3 more being made.

The Guild recently received a \$75 donation from the Ministers' Luncheon. Cyndi Hall suggested the Guild consider using it toward camperships to Pilgrim Lodge as well as making a matching donation should the need arise. This was approved by the members.

Submitted by Ann M.

The Women's Guild met for a pleasant evening at the home of Hope Perkins on March 23rd. Plans were discussed for upcoming events at church and a date and place was chosen for our annual "Ladies' Night Out." We will be going to DaVinci's Restaurant in Auburn on May 25. Traditionally, many ladies of the church, as well as other friends, join us for this fun evening. More information will be forthcoming, but mark the date now on your calendar! The next meeting of the Guild will be April 27 at the home of Marie Hatfield. Please join us!

Submitted by Lee G.

BROWN BAG LUNCH REVIEW

Several ladies of the church have been meeting on Wednesdays during Lent for brown bag lunches and conversation. There were usually 7-9 ladies in attendance. The sessions began with a “conversation starter” provided by Rev. Karen, which usually expanded into lively discussions! These Brown Bag Lunch Wednesdays have been so enjoyable that there was some talk about having more get-togethers in the future!

Submitted by Carol W.

MUSIC

CODA Chorus is pleased to invite you to our annual Spring Concert at **Hope Baptist Church on Route 202 in Manchester** on Sunday, April 11 at 4:00pm. We will treat you to several choral masterworks by Bach, Brahms, Mozart and Haydn, as well as a selection of international folk songs and familiar pieces by American composers. 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 support as our sponsor. For more information about the Spring Concert, please call 622-9659.

SPRING (March – May) BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| 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 | | |
| April Birthdays | | April Anniversaries | |
| 1 | Eric Conrad | | |
| 3 | Joan Barnes | | |
| 7 | Matthew Dennis | | |
| 8 | Corinna Coulton | | |
| 9 | Julia LaCrone | | |
| 13 | Steve Gilman Peter Hatfield | | |
| 15 | Nick Burns Carol Whittier Jeff Brown | | |
| 17 | Sharon Coulton | | |
| 19 | Mike Mayette | | |
| May Birthdays | | May Anniversaries | |
| 3 | Felicia Ridley Alice Darlington | 5/17/80 | Jeff & Wendy Dennis |
| 4 | Jean Doughty | | |
| 5 | Connie Mayette | | |
| 7 | Barbara Pray | | |
| 9 | Becky Gillespie Shirley Rollins | | |
| 10 | Linda Rollins | | |
| 11 | John Richardson | | |
| 20 | Emma Conrad | | |
| 21 | Kelly Dooling | | |
| 22 | Jeff Dennis | | |
| 31 | William Maxim | | |

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

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AN IRISH BLESSING

May God Grant you Always...
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
so nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you –
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from Death to Life,
from Falsehood to Truth.
Lead me from Despair to Hope,
from Fear to Trust.
Lead me from Hate to Love,
from War to Peace.
Let Peace fill our Heart,
Our World, Our Universe.

Mother Teresa

PRAYERS FOR:

Fran Burns
Don Dyer
Bob Ashby
Ernie Henderson
Tom Clements
Sally Pelletier
Roger Rollins
Michael Hamlin
Myra
Ethel and Sonny
Maxim
Helen Scott
Janis Price
Clayton Grace
Laurie, Shirley, &
Linda Rollins
Pat & Connie

Robert Strickland
Steve Gilman
Carol Bailey's
friends and family
Trevor
Jake Clark
Pam Massey
Peter, Sharon,
Corinna Coulton &
family
Our Military Men
& Women
People who are
suffering from
violence of any kind
Our Search
Committee

DID YOU HEAR...?

The best mathematical equation ever given:
 $1 \text{ cross} + 3 \text{ nails} = 4 \text{ given}$
Bumper sticker