

THE WITNESS

Winter 2010



WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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gospelgifts.com

Interim Minister: Rev. Karen Janus

Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

Office Assistant: Marie Pettengill

MINISTER'S MESSAGE - January, 2010

Dear Friends,

The year began with a major snowstorm resulting in a rare occurrence—worship was cancelled! Although I was glad that everyone would be safe and warm at home, I felt the vacancy of the day. That 'first Sunday' was a day when we would have gathered together as community to worship, share the Lord's supper and share the joys and concerns of our daily lives. It was also a day when I planned a message to consider the significance of Epiphany.

In our tradition, there isn't much emphasis placed on Epiphany (celebrated on January 6th). Epiphany is often referred to as the "Birthday of the Church", but there is other significance to the celebration. It carries with it a message that can be applied not only on that one day of celebration, but throughout the liturgical seasons of the church year and the many seasons of our lives.

The gospel reading for the day of Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12) tells the story of the Magi, scientists of their time who recognized significance of a mysterious new star. The story tells us how they followed the star, encountered Herod, and finally discovered the infant Jesus. It is this particular story of the Magi that brings to our attention the elements of fear, heartbreak, and sacrifice that are often overshadowed by the gloss and glitter of Christmas. This telling of the Magi story departs from the familiar and sentimental story from Luke's gospel that we enjoy at Christmas. It can serve as a poignant prologue to the journey that awaits Jesus and his followers.

The brief liturgical season of Epiphany is a time of transition. We might even think of it as a bridge that takes us from the season of Christmas to the beginning of Lent. The reading from Matthew reminds us that Christ came into a sinful world. Yet, it is also a time for hope. This is a time for us to remember that God persists in a loving and sacrificial commitment to humanity.

We have been shown the star. We now cross the bridge that began with Epiphany. It leads us to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. During the epiphany transition we have stories that emphasize Jesus as the gift that signifies God's love, and we can anticipate the joy of the resurrection at Easter.

Shalom,

Karen

Rev. Karen Janus

THANKS

1/14/10

To the Members of
the Church.

Thank you very
much for the lovely
poem's etc you gave
me for Christmas.
God Bless Cee.

Love,

Echel

Dear Friends,

Thank you for thinking of me with
the beautiful point settes delivered
at Christmas time. Many thanks to
Anna Brown for her generous donation
of the plants for us "shut ins."

As usual, my church family has
contributed greatly to my recovery and
peace of mind during my convalescence.
Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits
and outstanding meals. With love,
Benny

Winthrop Food Pantry

PO Box 82

Winthrop, Maine, 04364



Telephone 377-3332

Now Serving Winthrop and Wayne

Jan 13, 2010

Winthrop Congregational Church
10 Bowdoin St
Winthrop, Me.

Dear Friends:

I wanted to thank you for your
contribution of \$ 690.00 to the Winthrop
Food Pantry.

You may be receiving a more
formal thank you but I wanted to
add my personal thanks

Carolee Recker
President.

ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCHEON

This is a reminder that the Annual Meeting will follow worship on Sunday January 31, 2010.

All members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend.

Please bring a casserole or another of your favorite dishes to share with others. The beverages and desserts will be provided.

Office Assistant
Winthrop Congregational Church UCC

LITURGICAL COLORS AND SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

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.

Our Current Season: Season after Epiphany

The season following Epiphany continues the theme established on Epiphany Day: the spread of the Good News of Christ from its source in the Jewish community to all the nations on earth. The Lectionary therefore explores the mission of the church in the world. The theme of this season (along with the sequence of readings from the Gospel) continues in the season after Pentecost, so both seasons together can be called the "Time of the Church." The traditional liturgical color for both seasons, Green, is the color of growth.

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

CE MATTERS

Jan 2010

Most importantly, I wish to offer kudos to all the children who participated in the “Memories of Christmas” pageant. Emma was a wonderful narrator, as was our adult narrator Joe Dressler. Emma, Nora, Julia, TJ, Corinna, & Felicia shared colorful glimpses of actual memories from our church family. This year’s Mary & Joseph were Felicia & TJ. Eric Nelson enjoyed being the ugly innkeeper, and was a charmer! Our shepherds were Julia, Nora & Ruby while Corinna & Anna served as angels. We hope you enjoyed the pageant as much as we did. From what I understand, Peter Coulton has a video available for those who missed it.

After the pageant on Dec 20th, 14 spirited souls gathered at church to go caroling. We were happy to have choir members Jeff, Carol, Barbara, Diane, & Connie in our midsts to help carry the tune. We had 3 mother-daughter combinations: Connie & Amanda, Caroline & Felicia, Wilma Sorenson & Becky Vigneault plus mother-son combo Susan & TJ & friend and little ol’ me. We think the residents of Heritage Living Center & Winthrop Manor enjoyed our visit. Many sang along with us, so that is a good sign.

As we look ahead to Valentine’s Day, the Board of Christian Education will once again offer carnations for Valentine giving. Orders may be placed on Jan 31st and Feb 7th and carnations will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Feb 14th. Our charity this year will be Heifer International, and the children will prepare a special Valentine’s message to go along with the carnations.

Currently we have three or four volunteers teaching Sunday school. We’d like to try recruiting a “helper of the day” each Sunday to assist in the classroom. That way, we would meet our “safe church” policy stating that two persons would be in the area and we could offer nursery coverage if the need arises. We will have a sign-up sheet in the vestry and try this

method.

The children are encouraged to bring a small offering to Sunday School. We also encourage the children to serve as acolytes. We have a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School room, next to the attendance sheet. We then ask acolytes to arrive by 9: 45 AM to be ready prior to worship.

Lastly, I would like to thank my board members for being such good sports about coordinating events. Amy arranged the hike to Torsey Pond last fall, Caroline arranged the caroling event, and Sharon took a lead part in writing the script for the pageant. Susan coordinated the church picnic and has been a constant support all year long. Ted and the other board members serve as teachers, and I appreciate you all!

Cyndi Hall, Chair
Board of Christian Education

BCCC BASICS

Stay tuned for upcoming newsy notes or webpage articles (www.wccucc.org) for BCCC info.



WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

The Guild met on January 26 at the home of Carol Whittier with Marie Hatfield as co-host.

A new refrigerator, dishwasher and Advent candles were purchased from the Methyl Sturtevant Memorial Fund. We are so appreciative of these wonderful gifts and keep Methyl in our hearts.

Poinsettias (donated from Longfellows) were delivered to shut-ins at Christmas.

Church World Services has called for more hygiene kits as the need in Haiti after the earthquake is great. We will have many kits assembled for Carol Ellingwood and Carol Whittier to take to the drop off in Portland on February 9.

Altar flowers: February - Lee Gilman; March - Jean Doughty; April - Marie Pettengill Please let the responsible person know in advance if you plan to bring in altar flowers.

The ministry of prayer shawls lovingly continues and those receiving the shawls are held in prayer by us all.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 23 with Jean Doughty as host and Ann Mitchell as co-host.

2010 Officers:

President: Lee Gilman
Vice President: Diane Richardson
Treasurer: Cyndi Hall
Secretary: Ann Mitchell

2010 Committees:

Devotionals – Marie Pettingill
Public Relations – Ann Mitchell
Sunshine Gal - Jean Doughty
Material Aide - Barbara Enman and Hope Perkins
Flowers – Marie Hatfield
Purchasing – Lee Gilman

Receptions – Marie Hatfield, Marie Pettengill,
Carol Whittier and Carol Ellingwood
Sponsored Child - Carol Whittier
Prayer Shawls – Mary Gove

Submitted by Diane Richardson

FROM THE TRUSTEES

At the church annual meeting for January 2010 the trustees will be presenting a balanced budget for the second year in a row. This is only possible because our members are pledging more than ever before. We cannot have a balanced budget without increased pledges; we have cut expenses as far as is feasible and still have a functioning church.

We are expecting an annual income in 2010 of some \$76,500, about two thousand more than the budget for 2009. Our largest expenses by far are for salaries, personnel benefits and utilities. The entire budget for 2010 is contained in the church annual report for 2009.

Clearly one way to save money is not to spend it in the first place. Please sign up to do your share of cleaning the church. The signup sheet is on the back of the kitchen door. By cleaning the church you avoid the need of hiring a janitorial service to clean the church, at a cost of several thousand dollars per year.

Some of our members have gone well beyond the signup sheet and have washed windows and floors. Do not let these people be the only ones who go beyond the simple duties on the signup sheet. Also, you can make it much easier for those who remove the trash if you take trash you generate with you. If you cannot do this, at least put it in the large cans in the kitchen.

Last of all, if you use the church during the week, be sure that the doors you use to enter the church are locked after you leave. Not all the door fit tightly; check the doors as you leave.

DEACON NEWS

Many thanks to Anna Brown and Longfellow's for the beautiful poinsettias. They were delivered to our shut-ins, who loved a splash of color for the holidays. Others decorated our sanctuary for Christmas week and then were enjoyed by many.

Daffodil Sunday to support the American Cancer society is March 28th; orders need to be in to Marie Hatfield by Feb. 28th. A bunch of 10 is \$10.00 and a Boyd Bear with a bunch of 10 is \$25.00. Please make checks out to the Women's Guild.

Easter plants will need to be ordered by March 21st, through Marie Hatfield. Order forms will be available at the church or online as soon as more information is received.

Lenten information:

Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, Feb. 17th - a service of prayer, reflection and Communion by intinction will be held in the chapel at **6:00 o'clock**. A burning of past pains and concerns will follow.

Lenten Series: Brown Bag lunch with Rev. Karen during Lent. Two Sunday Soup and Salad Conversations will be held in March. More information to come.

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.

PLEDGING

Pledge forms are coming in and the information is being used to prepare our church budget. However, if you have questions about making a pledge, I urge you to please contact me. I have extra forms. The church offers all sorts of options for payment: weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually and automatic checks through your own bank.

Pledges are like goals. They can be changed. Life changes occur and budgets are adjusted. We understand that. But, pledging is a useful tool for planning ahead to meet the church expenses. Thanks for your continued support and generosity

Financial Secretary,
Cyndi Hall

**JANUARY - MARCH
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

| January Birthdays | | January Anniversaries | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 | Kelly deWolfe | 1/31/76 | Alan & Carol Ellingwood |
| 3 | Helena Muller | | |
| 7 | Brint Darlington | | |
| 17 | Derek Hall | | |
| 18 | Tom Dressler | | |
| 21 | Korynne Eldridge | | |
| 24 | Gerry Edgar | | |
| 28 | Martha Hewett | | |
| 29 | Sarah Dressler | | |
| February Birthdays | | | |
| 1 | Jason Ridley | 2/19/77 | Ron & Nancy Dyer |
| 3 | Tom Irwin | | |
| 5 | Kristin Morgner | | |
| 6 | Brett Hiendlmayr | | |
| 8 | Nora Conrad | | |
| 10 | Dina Blodgett | | |
| 11 | Irma Rice | | |
| 12 | Anna Brown | | |
| 14 | Pat Culp | | |
| 20 | Debbie Burns | | |
| 15 | Milton Hadley | | |
| 27 | Jonathan Whittier | | |
| | Cindy McDonnell | | |

| March Birthdays | | March Anniversaries | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 | Peter deWolfe | 3/5/88 | Peter & Lisa deWolfe |
| 10 | Kris Hatfield | | |
| 11 | Wilma Sorenson | | |
| | Barbara Enman | | |
| 15 | Mike Burns | | |
| 25 | Kristin Brown | | |
| 28 | Carol Ellingwood | | |
| 29 | Ruth Emerson | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

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



OJIBWA PRAYER

*Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the
winds*

*And whose breath gives life to everyone,
Hear me.*

I come to you as one of your many children;
I am weak I am small ... I need your
wisdom
and your strength.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever
behold the red and purple sunsets

Make my hands respect the things you have
made.

And make my ears sharp so I may hear your
voice.

Make me wise, so that I may understand what
you

have taught my people and
The lessons you have hidden in each leaf
and each rock.

I ask for wisdom and strength
Not to be superior to my brothers, but to be
able

to fight my greatest enemy, myself.

Make me ever ready to come before you with
clean hands and a straight eye.

So as life fades away as a fading sunset.
My spirit may come to you without shame.

Author unknown

PRAYERS FOR:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Dina Blodgett and family | Janis Price |
| Ernie Henderson | Clayton Grace |
| Tom Clements | Laurie Rollins |
| Sally Pelletier | Robert Strickland |
| Roger Rollins | John Richardson Pat |
| Michael Hamlin | Culp & Connie |
| Ann Ponzetti | Conover |
| Myra | Our Military Men |
| Pat Clark | & Women |
| Barbara Rand | People who are |
| Ethel and Sonny | suffering from |
| Maxim | violence of any kind |
| George Rollins | Our Search |
| Helen Scott | Committee |