



The Witness

Fall 2016 Edition

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

Friends and Members of Winthrop Congregational Church UCC,

Our mission is to be a Christ-centered community of prayer and worship, of welcome and care, of learning and growing, of witness and service in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ.

It is hard to believe that it is already mid-August. We will soon begin our next program year at church. So much is on the horizon as we head into the fall.

Here are just a few things that are coming our way:

- August 20th - Church Luncheon at the Winthrop Summer Festival
- August 21st - Camp Worship at 3 pm.

† Come sing, pray, and share how you feel God present in your life. Bring a chair, some food to share at the potluck, and anything else you might need to enjoy time with some other folks from church (swimsuit, kayak, board games, etc). Parking is limited. Meet at the church by 2:45 PM if you want to carpool over.



- August 28th - The Blessing of the Backpacks and Lesson Plans

† All students and teachers are invited to come and be blessed as you prepare for the new school year



- September 4th - the 240th anniversary of the founding of Winthrop Congregational Church
- September 11th - Rally Day

† The first day of children's Sunday School and commissioning of our Sunday School teachers

- September 18th - Joint service on Titcomb Mountain with the Franklin and Kennebec County Associations (Our worship will be on Titcomb Mountain)
- October- Stewardship Month

† We will learn about God's still-speaking voice through the stories of five groups of people who were once considered unwelcome and unrighteous in one part of Scripture, but who are later portrayed as beloved and wholly included in God's community.

† Come hear more about Ruth the Moabite and her untraditional family, the Ethiopian Eunuch who loved God, Job the blameless man from Uz, Jonah and his inability to understand how God would love "those people," and how Jesus taught us that anyone can show divine mercy, even a Samaritan. How can we "go and do the same?"

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- October 21st - Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ in Bangor
- November- We'll learn more about the fascinating women who are in Jesus' genealogy at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew (Ruth, Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba)
- November 5th - Anti-racism workshop at High Street Congregational Church in Auburn, ME
- November 28th - First Sunday in Advent
- December 3rd - Our annual Christmas Fair

We'll also collect donations for the family violence shelter and continue to collect goods for the local food pantry in Winthrop and the everyday essentials pantry in Augusta.

How can you get involved? Come worship with us. Sing or play a song. Share your prayers and pray for others. Bring in a bar of soap to share with neighbors in need. Volunteer for Sunday School. Volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Lead a book study. Pray some more.

We have so much to look forward to this fall. I hope that you will come be a part of it.

Pastor Chrissy

Other Events

- † **Thursday, August 25 – Women’s Guild Social:** at Whispering Pines 2 pm. Potluck supper 5 pm
- † **Friday, Sep 9: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
- † **Sunday, Sep 11 Rally Day:** Worship is at **10:00 am**
- † **Saturday, Sep 24:** 5th Annual Pie Sale
- † **Oct 2: World Communion Sunday** – Worship at 10:00 am
- † **Friday Oct 14: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
- † **Church Camp Close Up Saturday, Oct 8 (tentative date):** 9 am- noon – help close up Whispering Pines for the winter.
- † **Friday, Nov 11: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
- † **Sunday, Nov 13: Stewardship Sunday** – Worship at 10:00 am
- † **Thursday, Nov 24:**



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CE Matters

Rally Sunday will be September 11th and we have been preparing all summer and are looking forward to a great Sunday School year. We will have several Godly Play lessons planned and all materials ready – if you would like to present a lesson to the children let us know. We would appreciate any help.

Board of Christian Education



News from the BCCC

Fall is just around the corner, and the BCCC will be meeting in September to plan our annual Stewardship Campaign! Our theme for 2016 will be, "GO, and do the same", Luke 10:37. You will be hearing more from us and from Pastor Chrissy as we think about what these words mean in planning our pledge contributions.



In November, we will ask for your help in supporting The Winthrop Food Pantry as they make preparations to fill and distribute holiday

baskets. Carol Whittier

Women's Guild

It is difficult to believe that Fall is quickly approaching! The Guild is hosting one more summer event before we give up our freedom. On August 25th we will have an afternoon of boating, swimming and playing lawn games at Whispering Pines followed by an early potluck supper at 5 pm. All ladies are welcome to join in some or all the fun!

Our first meeting this fall will be held on Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 at Carol Whittier's home. Ginger Smith will be hosting our next meeting on October 27th. Please come and join us! Carol Whittier, Chair

From the Treasurer

Good news! Year to date (as of the end of July), we've kept our expenses low in spite of some unexpected costs like the replacement of the copier in the Office. YTD Total Expenses are below budget by \$2,359.



Unfortunately as of July, we are slightly behind in our pledges (by \$332) with total income ahead of projections by \$150. It will be important to meet or surpass our income projections and manage our expenses throughout the remainder of the year so we can continue all the great work we've been doing in serving our community and supporting our missions.

Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Summer Fair. We had an exceptional weather day and an excellent turnout from the community to support the fair. This is one of our major fundraisers and we raised almost \$3,300. If you have an idea or a suggestion to improve next year's, please let me know.

Mike Burns

Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

5th Annual Pie Sale is on September 24th



On Saturday, September 24th, the front lawn of the church will be the setting of our 5th annual pie sale! The amazing bakers of our church will offer to the public a variety of savory and dessert pies for sale.

Fruit pies are always a favorite, but meat pies and quiches continue to gain popularity each year. Half-pies will again be available for those who prefer a smaller portion or like to sample a variety of flavors. Pie plates and details are provided to all bakers and will be available in early September for those who like to make and freeze their crusts in advance. This community- appreciated event draws in folks from near and far! Can we count on you for a pie or two?

Debbie Burns

Hannaford Gift Cards Sales

The sale of Hannaford gift cards is an on-going fundraiser for our church that is beginning its 5th year. The program changed recently for each \$2,000 in cards sold, the church earns \$95 at the completion of each sales campaign. Cards are available on Sundays after church and if needed, I will deliver or one can come by for a card. Carol Ellingwood



Fish Chowder Luncheons

As we enter the fall season, we start to think about cool weather meals. At WCC, we start planning for our monthly chowder luncheons that are held on the second Friday of each month (except December) and run through May. Our next luncheon is on September 9th.

Fish is ordered and the rest of the chowder ingredients are supplied by members of the church. Items like crackers, pickles, punch and coffee are also solicited. Others willingly bake pies and biscuits for every luncheon, but if there are enough bakers, then someone will have a month off. There are always miscellaneous items needed such as paper supplies, take-out containers, foil, food wrappers, etc., that are donated. Any monetary donations are used to pay for the fish. Besides all that members donate, many put in a portion of a day working during the luncheon. The chowder cooks, take-out person, waiters, cashier, pie server, delivery person and the dishwasher all help in making it happen for this fund raiser.

We welcome anyone who would like to fill in as a food provider, baker or work at the luncheon. Unless it is a sell out, we all sit together and enjoy a full chowder luncheon after serving is over. We never mind just biscuits and pie if the pot is empty. It means a successful day!

Carol Ellingwood

Wi-Fi available at WCC- contact the church office for details



Worship Services at Mount Titcomb

Last year, the Franklin Association made an intentional decision to worship together as an association once a year. They had their first joint service last September (Cyndi Hall, Marie Pettengill, and Deb Blood all went). The next joint service is on September 18th. Given that the Franklin Association and Kennebec Valley Association have been discerning how we might become one larger Association, all of the Kennebec Valley Association churches have been invited to attend this year. I have also been invited to preach that morning. In conversation with our church council and after hearing how deeply moving last year's service was, we are inviting our whole church to come to Titcomb Mountain for worship this year. The service will be during our regular worship time. We can carpool together to worship. If you would be willing to drive people to Titcomb Mountain, would you email me (pastorchrissywcc@gmail.com)? I am very excited about potential for this rich worship service. I hope that you will come.

Here is the description from Alexis Fuller-Wright, the pastor at Old South in Farmington:

"The Franklin Association made an intentional decision to worship together once a year - a tradition we hope to share with Kennebec if the Spirit moves us to share in ministry together moving forward - because nothing strengthens a body of people like worshiping and praying together. We hoped it would be good - we weren't prepared for how deeply it would knit us together and move us into a place of hope. First of all, worshiping outside was a complete joy and delight. What is more sacred than God's great cathedral? But beyond that it was a true celebration of all of our gifts...an affirmation that each of our communities, large and small, have a unique call to mend the world. It was really freeing to do worship a different way, and to spend time celebrating the abundance of our gifts. It was super fun to have so many people join the pick-up choir of Give Me That Old Time Religion. Probably half of the people gathered got up to sing the anthem. It was also incredibly sacred to take communion together, remembering that we share a common cup and a sacred promise. It's hard to describe, but something about that worship was greater than the sum of its parts. I guess that's just what happens when the Spirit is so present. I believe 1-2 people from your congregation were present last time and I wonder what has stayed with them about that day."

Pastor Chrissy

Former WCC Pastor Celebrates 50 years of Ordination

Bill Hamel was born and raised in the Boston area and graduated from Reading High School in June of 1950. The following fall, he entered Northeastern University. He transferred to Burdett College in the fall of 1951 and graduated in June 1953 with highest honors. Following graduation he was employed by John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company and worked in a supervisory capacity for the next seven years. In April 1959 he decided to enter training for the Ordained Christian Ministry. Bill applied and was accepted by Bangor Theological Seminary, where he would enter as a special student in September of 1960.

During seminary, Bill worked part-time. He and Pat married in June of 1961. Most of the seminary students served as supply ministers at area churches, as did Bill. The church in Dedham, ME needed a part-time pastor and kept asking him to return as a supply minister until he finally agreed to serve there as their part-time student pastor. Bill served there for two years. They had a son Bill Jr. during this time. After completing his studies at Bangor Theological Seminary, Bill began studies for his Bachelor's degree at Bowdoin College (on a full 2 yr scholarship- George Warren Field award).

Bill accepted a call at the Winthrop Congregational Church in 1963 as a student pastor to be closer to college classes in Brunswick. He served at the Winthrop church from December 22, 1963 – February 28, 1965, during the time when the church was exploring becoming part of the United Church of Christ. In 1958, the church had decided

not to become part of the United Church of Christ. Bill's convictions about the United Church of Christ started a discernment period that led to our Church joining the UCC in 1967. Bill's connection to the Maine Conference UCC brought him from Winthrop to the Stevens Avenue Congregational Church in Portland, ME. They had their second son Jon Christopher during this time.

Bill was ordained in the United Church of Christ on June 26, 1966. He served as a full time ordained minister at churches in Greenville/Rockwood ME, in Goffstown, NH; in West Seneca, NY; in Austinburg, OH; in Greenland, NH; and in Seymour, CT. Bill was the Senior Pastor at the Seymour church for 9 years. During this time, the church added 208 members. The team of Bill as Senior Pastor, Pat as Minister of Christian Education and Cherie as Minister of Music, helped the church grow in membership. The Christian Education program grew from 12 children to 128 with 31 members volunteering to teach church school or the youth groups or taking charge of the nursery. The choir grew from one regular choir to four choirs including carol choir, junior choir, junior highs were invited to sing with the senior choir, and the sometime singer's choir.

After his retirement, Bill continued to serve as interim minister and supply pastor for various churches until 2011. In New Hampshire Bill served two churches as interim minister. He served as Interim Pastor for First Christian Church, the Disciples of Christ at Winter Haven, FL and supplied for three Presbyterian churches near where they lived in Florida.

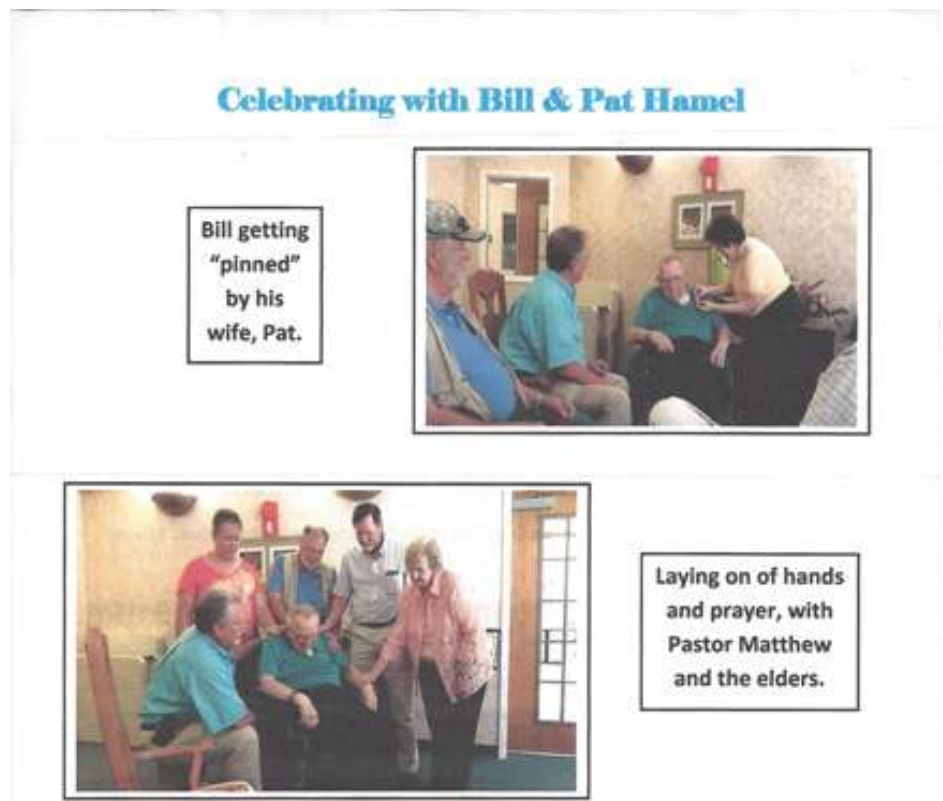
He and his wife Pat live in Kennewick, Washington to be close to their son Bill Jr. They have been married 55 years. Their oldest son Bill, Jr. was a baby when they lived in Winthrop. He is now working for the Department of Energy. Their second son Jon Christopher died in 1998.

On June 26th of this year, Bill celebrated 50 years of ordination. Family, friends, and members from his past churches sent congratulations cards (at least 70 of them!). Bill received cards and notes from Winthrop church friends as well.

The Minister and the Elders of Kennewick Christian Church Disciples of Christ requested that Bill receive a pin "Honored Pastor" which is a special pin given for years of service to retired ministers only after a request from a pastor and the elders of a church who know a retired pastor and his service to the church and denominations. They had the laying on of hands and prayers in the same manner as during an ordination service.

Pat has written a book titled, "God Loves You, We Love You" about their life in the

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ministry. She has granted us permission to use excerpts about the Winthrop section in our newsletter.

As many of you know, the Historical Records Committee has been organizing the church's historical records. I thought it might be nice to write an article about Bill Sr.'s journey before and after his time at the Winthrop Congregational Church. We had a nice chat over the phone and exchanged e-mails. I plan to include them on our distribution list for the Newsy Notes and the quarterly Newsletter. What a special connection to have after all these years!

Cyndi Hall, Office Administrator &
Historical Record Committee Member

Word Search Puzzle

From www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/
Free to distribute for free with this notice

Words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

**T H E B R E W S N
O S F O R E V E R
D A N D J E S U S
A M C H R I S T V
Y E S T E R D A Y**




Hebrews 13:8 (NRSV): *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever..*

Word List

YESTERDAY HEBREWS FOREVER CHRIST TODAY
JESUS SAME NRSV THE AND

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Leo Buscaglia

September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
4	Lauren Hastings Ann Dooling	9/13/97 9/14	Ted LaCrone & Amy Tague Eric & Martha Payne
6	Marie Pettengill	9/16/67	Doug & Carol Whittier
9	Peter Coulton	9/20/53	Don & Gerry Edgar
11	T J Mauro	9/22/51	Charlie & Mary Gove
12	Sue Poole	9/23/72	Jeff & Anna Brown
15	Megan Patterson	9/25	Milton & Pamela Hadley
16	Rae Ann Demos		
17	Betty Evans Cyndi Hall Eric Nelson Ruby Nelson		
19	Marlene Douglas		
21	Bob Morgner		
October Birthdays		October Anniversaries	
1	Sonny Maxim Christopher Martin- McNaughton	10/11/86 10/13/07	Tom & Kathy Irwin Luke & Rebecca Lazure
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	11/12	Peter & Sharon Coulton
12	Pamela Hadley	11/19/60	Alfred & Marie Pettengill
13	Ted LaCrone	11/20	Tasha Dunn & Chrissy Cataldo
19	Sandra Smith		
21	Madeline Patterson		
22	Dana Hall		
25	Fred Douglas		
28	Melissa deWolfe		
29	Justin deWolfe Ginny Webb		

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