



THE WITNESS

October & November 2009

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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Music Director: Rosalea Kimball

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When I say, "I am a Christian"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost! That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge
I have no authority -- I only know I'm loved

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A NOTE FROM REVEREND KAREN

Dear Friends,

Years ago I was a frequent visitor at a friend's home in upstate New York. My visits were made with purpose, to help my friend maintain her old farm house and the surrounding grounds. There was always much to do, keeping in mind the changing of the seasons. By the end of August the huge old maple tree near her barn would begin to show its colors, and it was evident that there was a change in the wind. There was no mistaking it, the season was changing.

Change is part of the rhythm of life in nature, and change is part of the rhythm of our lives as well. Nothing can stay the same forever, and the more comfortable we are with the way things are (or were), the more dramatic the impact of the changes we encounter will seem to be.

As the Winthrop Congregational Church proceeds through this time of transition everyone recognizes its long and respected history. At the same time, life in the church reflects both the bold and subtle changes that are part of our individual lives and the world around us. As this congregation moves toward the calling of a new settled pastor you will be developing a new understanding of your mission and vision. There is no doubt—there will be change.

Change—it comes with our growing awareness of justice issues and meeting the needs of God's diverse people. The church provides opportunities for people to find a spiritual community, and one characteristic of this church that remains constant as it embraces change is its extravagant hospitality. All are welcome here.

With summer behind us we begin a new season of activities. The calendar is filling with meetings and events. But one thing to be always remembered—whatever we do must be in the service of God and for the people of God. We are truly blessed as we open ourselves to the opportunities that change brings.

Yours in Christ,

Karen

Rev. Karen

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee has been active over the summer reading ministerial profiles. Several profiles have been received and we have been impressed by the quality of the candidates. We remain committed to prayerfully reviewing each candidate and taking time to ensure we select the best match for our church and our new minister. The input from the congregation through the survey and Lenten series is invaluable as we are better able to represent your viewpoint of what is important and what qualities we should find in our new minister.

Mike Burns, Peter Coulton, Wendy Dennis, Joe Dressler, Ted LaCrone, Linda Ruman

DEACON NEWS

The Deacons would like to thank Ann Mitchell, Mary Gove and Hope Perkins coordinating for the beautiful flowers during the summer. Our sanctuary looks welcoming and bright with the floral arrangements provided by our “gals”.

In October we will return to serving Communion while you are seated in the pews. Our Summer Communion by intinction were meaningful and thank-you to Rev. Karen for explaining the change and making us feel welcome at the Communion Cup.

We are working on updating the name tags and encourage everyone to wear theirs to help everyone learn names. Every Sunday a Deacon is available to help with our worship, if you have any questions or suggestions, please talk with us.

CE MATTERS

Rally Day was September 13th marking the start of another Sunday School year. We welcome the children back to church at the close of summer.

We also welcome volunteers for leading Sunday School lessons and for nursery coverage. Felicia and Emma have offered to help with nursery when needed.

We are continuing to use the curriculum “The Whole People of God” which is available to us online. The lessons are versatile, as suggestions are given for different age groups. We continue to have a One-Room Classroom due to the small numbers in attendance.

On October 18th, the Board of Christian Education is coordinating a Fall Outing. Amy Tague is checking into an easy & scenic hike nearby and will announce details at church. This is an all-church event during Sunday afternoon.

We are also preparing for our Christmas pageant. While it may seem premature to you, we need to interview some folks at church to find out what your Christmas traditions are or have been. We will use some of your answers in the pageant skit material. Sharon Coulton will be coordinating this part, so be prepared to share some of your special Christmas memories relating to church events, songs, gifts, food, gatherings, visits with Santa, and family traditions.

Speaking of Christmas songs, we also plan to host a Caroling afternoon at the local nursing homes again this year. We missed that tradition last year, and felt badly about it.

Cyndi, Chair
Board of Christian Education

MISSION FOR THE MILITARY IN AFGHANISTAN

At the September meeting, the Council decided to sponsor a special mission for the fall. We will be collecting items - or donations to purchase items - to send to members of the Maine National Guard stationed in Afghanistan. We hope to provide some moments of enjoyment and some reminders that we appreciate their courage and dedication. We hope to complete our collection by October 10. Boxes for items donated will be placed in the back of the sanctuary and monetary donations may be given to Gerry Edgar or Marlene Douglas. Suggested items are as follows:

Throat Lozenges
Pre-sweetened Drink Mixes
Hand Wipes
Deodorant
Hard Candy
Unscented Hand Lotion
Lip Balm
Slim Jims
Beef Jerky
Dried Fruit
Granola Bars
Gold Bond Powder
Seeds & Nuts
Batteries
Ziploc Bags
Ramen Noodle Soup
Disposable Razors
Sports Magazines
Playing Cards
Licorice Twizzlers
Hand Sanitizer
Fruit Rollups



Thank you for your help in this mission.
Marlene Douglas

FROM THE TRUSTEES WCC CLEANING & PROJECT LIST...

A reminder: A list of cleaning and maintenance projects that have been recommended by members of the Church is posted on the kitchen door. Thanks to those who have tackled some of these big projects. There are plenty more good deeds to be accomplished for any interested and available parties. Please fill in date when completed, so we can keep track of what's been done and when. A separate list is posted for the weekly cleaning duties.

Thanks for your time and dedication to our fine Church.

22nd ART SHOW LUNCHEON SUCCESSFUL

The 22nd Annual Art Show Luncheon on the Lawn was held on Aug. 15th, there were fewer artists and shoppers but we were ready to go. We had the luncheon, a Bake Table filled with delicious goodies, our Rada items, 2nd Time Around, and the Cards and Photos Table. I would like to thank everyone who took time from their busy schedules to participate in this fundraiser and to purchase the extra items. We shared in friendship and fellowship adding to the success of the day. In the end we were able to add \$1,200 profit from the bake sale and luncheon to our treasury. The day was successful for our little church. Again thank you to everyone who helped!

Marie H.

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

What a fun day we had at Boothbay Botanical Gardens in July. Pat Seaward met us there and we explored leisurely "oohing" over sculptures and plants. Linda R (in her bare feet) enjoyed the sense of touch on the pebble trail. We relaxed on Pat's porch eating mouth-watering lobster rolls while a gentle rain fell only to have the sun pop back out for the rest of our day at Gardens. Thanks to Lee Gilman for planning the trip!

Our last meeting was held on Sept. 22 at the Richardson's home. Cyndi Hall will host the next meeting on October 27 with Diane Richardson as co-host. Come with ideas for our December gathering--some suggestions are the usual cookie swap, gift swap or attending a Christmas concert.

Marie Hatfield, Barbara Enman and Diane Richardson are flower gals for October and November. A big thanks to Ann Mitchell, Mary Gove, Hope Perkins and Marie Hatfield for flowers during the summer. Azaleas were planted in memory of Methyl Sturtevant.

The ministry of prayer shawls continues with much love and prayers going into each shawl.

The Guild hosted a reception after the memorial service for Muriel Schultz.

You're missing a lot of Fun and Friendship if you haven't attended Guild. If you would like to join our group, but feel you can't spare the time for all the activities (and the projects), you're welcome to attend just when you can do so. If you need a ride, we can pick you up.

Submitted by Diane Richardson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Sonny Maxim
Christopher Martin/McNaughton
7 Kara Hiendlmayr
11 Rick McNaughton
16 Wendy Dennis
Pamela Livingstone
22 Joshua Martin/McNaughton
24 Wendy Hiendlmayr
26 Jamie Martin/McNaughton
31 Ginger Smith

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/11/86 Tom & Kathy Irwin

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Roger Hanson
12 Pamela Hadley
Caroline Ridley
13 Ted LaCrone
19 Sandra Smith
22 Dana Hall
24 George Rollins, Jr.
Bob Ashby
25 Fred Douglas
28 Melissa deWolfe
29 Ginny Webb
Justin deWolfe

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/12/ Peter and Sharon Coulton
11/19/60 Alfred & Marie Pettengill

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

MAINE CONFERENCE UCC 78th ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. Karen, Marie P., and Dina will be attending the Maine Conference UCC annual meeting at Sunday River on 9/25 – 9/27/09. The title of this year's meeting is "Hold Fast to Love and Justice." Here's an excerpt from the Conference website:

Our churches here in Maine are faced with a multitude of social issues that challenge individuals, communities, our nation, and the world - an escalating economic crisis, growing numbers of people without health care, how to respond to our immigrant population, and marriage equality - to name just a few. These issues present our churches with both challenges and opportunities. Our Annual Meeting's theme of justice – from worship and workshops to our speakers and presenters - will undoubtedly remind us and inspire us to faithful responses - that love is at the very heart of the gospel and justice is the life blood. We gather to celebrate the ministries of our churches and seek new ways to "hold fast to love and justice." (www.maineucc.org)

The workshops they will be attending are described below.

The Marriage Equality Debate - This workshop will take a look at the current debate about Marriage Equality in Maine. We will look at the bill as it is written, the issues raised in the debate, and the theologies that surround them the various points of view. (Marie P.)

Worship and Just Living: The Intimate Connection - We will practice and explore worship as a communal spiritual discipline of just living, a counter-cultural event that builds outward-looking communities of justice and love. (Rev. Karen and Dina)

ONA: Open and Affirming! Just what does that mean??? - Have you ever thought: What does it mean to be an ONA Church? Where are the ONA churches in Maine? What have churches in Maine that have become ONA experienced? Or, have you thought: How do we become an ONA Church? What would it mean for our church to become an ONA Church? We will discuss these questions in an open and honest dialogue. We will explore some of the experiences of ONA (Open and Affirming) Churches in Maine. (Rev. Karen and Dina)

A Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence - This workshop will increase awareness of domestic violence, offer strategies for response and prevention, and increase knowledge of community resources. Religious and theological concerns of victims/survivors and their questions about suffering, power, forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope will be addressed. (Marie P.)



PRAYERS FOR:

Dina Blodgett and family	Ethel and Sonny Maxim
Ernie Henderson	Helen Scott
Tom Clements	Ann Dixon
Sally Pelletier	Janis Price
Roger Rollins	Our Military Men & Women
Joyce Proulx	People who are suffering from violence of any kind
Michael Hamlin	Our Search Committee
Ann Ponzetti	
Barbara Rand	
George Rollins	

The Witness