

BATH UMC MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Our Pastor's Column

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent has come, and with it our determination to prepare ourselves to celebrate the saving cross and mighty resurrection of Christ. We have many practices that help us be more spiritually ready for these great celebrations, but John Wesley suggests that we conduct regular self-examinations to assess our Christian living. Here are some of the questions that he and the other first Methodists asked themselves, to get a sense of their spiritual growth, and their need for further growth.

Have I been zealous to do, and active in doing good?

Have I rejoiced with and for my neighbor in virtue or pleasure? Grieved with him in pain?

Have I thought of or spoken unkindly of or to him?

Has good-will been, and appeared to be, the spring of all my actions toward others?

Have I prayed with fervor?

These are some of the considerations that should be part of self-examination. We should think also about our devotion to worship, sacraments, scripture and spiritual disciplines, including fasting. These practices dispose us to be more open to God's leading and

control over our lives, and so make a significant contribution to our Lent preparation.

I want to encourage all who can attend, to come to the soup and bread suppers on Wednesday nights. Great food and great speakers will help us learn more about God's will for our church, and remind us that we are called to love one another.

Take time during Lent for reflection and repentance, identifying within yourself those areas in which you are keeping yourself from God's leading in your life, and make use of all that God gives us to let go, and give ourselves more and more fully to the life of grace that God so desires for us.

May you continue to have a holy Lent, and draw closer to Christ than ever before. You are all in my prayers.

Pastor Neil

Building Projects Progressing Well

Many thanks to George Race, Brian Race, Maurice Dauphin and Ken Young for an outstanding job in providing egress stairs for the 2nd floor of the Church.

Having a rear egress will permit greater use of the Church Library and will be one more step towards expanded use of our Church facility.

David Smith and Byron Johnson have completed sheetrock of the outside walls upstairs. The Building Committee met February 16 to prioritize the next steps in upstairs work. The Committee voted to commence work on the upstairs electrical with the initial work estimated to cost \$6,000. George Race noted that work to be completed in the next few weeks included a new doors for the library and one at the top of the stairs. (See the complete Building Committee report on Page 5 for added details).



Supper A Success



Thanks to all who served at the February 20th Roast Pork Supper. 145 persons were served resulting in \$895 added to the Church General Fund. Many thanks to Judy Rittall and Myrtle Hicks who coordinated the preparation of the supper plus all the volunteers who contributed food and their time and effort.

There will be a Chicken Pie Supper on March 20th. If you can volunteer in any way, please sign the supper volunteer list posted in the Vestry.

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Month

March Birthdays

Mar. 2: Kelly Gleason
 Mar. 20: Beverley Bartlett
 Mar. 21: Gloria Dooley
 Mar 22: Brenda Ouellette
 Mar. 22: Tom Wing

Mar. 22: Blair Brown

Mar. 31: Tori Burkhart

Mar. 31: Aaron Valentine

March Anniversaries:

Mar. 20: Al and Kelly Gleason

Mar. 19: Larry & Denise Clark

Mar. 30: Dick & Marcia Newcomb

Please wish all these folks blessings on their special days!

If your special day has been omitted from this list, please contact the church office so that we can update our files. Thanks.

VISITATION TRAINING

Pastor Sue Davenport from Oakland-Sydney Methodist Church will be at the Church on Sunday, March 7, at 4:00 PM to help in our visitation training. Pastor Sue was a member of our Church when she made the decision to go into the ministry. Mark your calendars and plan to be part of this important ministry.

Visit her Church web site at:
<http://www.oaksumc.org>

NEWS FROM THE SPRC



Alissa Creagan will be assuming responsibility for our Church Sunday Nursery. We welcome Alissa along with husband Carl and baby Chelsea. The Creagan family reside in West Bath. She grew up in a Navy family and has lived in many different countries.

Thanks to our SPRC committee who ensure that needed church positions are filled in a timely manner. Serving on the committee are Karen Race (Chair), Rian Lewis (Lay Leader), Kathy Kaler, Mary Truesdell, Letty-Ann Race and Wendy Morton.

United Methodist Women Activities - Deanna Wayman Reporting

The United Methodist Women (UMW) has been a group of women with a "Purpose" at our Church for some time. We along with almost a million women work to support Mission nationally and internationally. We of course have a good time along the way, but at each meeting we recite our "Purpose", which sets the tone of our meeting and work throughout the year, which is to "expand concepts of mission through participation in local and global ministries". We meet the second Tuesday of each month and have lunch together, get caught up on the latest happenings, remember those that need our special thoughts and prayers and have a program. Last year we had Patricia Parent, who presented a program about Native Americans. We invited the congregation to come and we had over 60 people attend for lunch and her presentation. It was just one of the many exciting learning experiences we have had over the years.

Once a year we recognize people in our midst, not only UMW members, but those in the congregation both men and women, with a Special Mission Recognition Pin. Persons are nominated

from the membership and given this special pin for their work and dedication.

These pins are purchased by UMW and a small portion goes for the cost of the pin, but a large portion of the money goes to Mission in the name of the honoree. We have given out almost 100 pins since we started this program.

We are a part of the Northeast District of UMW and give our funds to the work of Global Ministries. The way we support this effort is through our own personal giving and the Holiday Fair in November. All proceeds are used to continue this work. In the last couple of years it's been getting harder for some of our members to do the strenuous work to put on this affair. So many of the members of our Church have helped us with the fair by giving crafts, help with food prep, and so much more and we are so grateful for this. It has enabled us to continue, but after a heartfelt discussion on what the future will be we have decided that to continue to have a successful fair we need to make

some changes. We want to continue the fair, but need HELP. Because the UMW has this one fund raiser to support our important work, we want to maintain this as a UMW fair, but we would like to expand the fair to include all the church members. This would allow us to get some much needed help and share in the profits. We need to work on the details and how we would share. There will not be individual tables, which happens at some fairs, all funds will go to some designated church use, church group, such as Men's group and of course the UMW. Please think about this new plan and if you would like to work with us, we will be forming a plan in the near future and invite your participation. If you have any questions or want to work with us, please call Deanna Wayman 449-1224 or speak to any UMW member.

Thank You,

Your UMW

Church Members Staying Fit by Yoga

Shirley Lewis, Clare Sturgeon, and Ed Larrabee stay mentally and physically fit by participating in weekly senior Yoga Classes at the Prana Yoga Studio in downtown Bath.



LENTEN SUPPERS BEGIN



There was a good turnout at the 1st Lenten soup supper. Pastor Neil Gastonguay led the initial meeting with a discussion on "Innovations In Church Renewal". Plan to attend the additional suppers scheduled for each Wednesday night through March 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. There are still opportunities to sign up to bring food — the sign up sheet is in the vestry.

Tres Dias and Camp Mechuwana News

Terry Percy, Debby Frost and Bethany Hunter spent three days during the week of February 14th at a Tres Dias gathering working on spiritual development and renewal. Mary Truesdell was one of the "Table Leaders".

Rian Lewis was the worship leader at a weekend youth rally at camp Mechuwana week ending 2/7/2010. Camp Mechuwana is located in Winthrop, 15 minutes west of Augusta, Maine.

See: <http://www.mechuwana.org/> and also

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

Note: registration forms for Mechuwana summer camp are available in the Church Office. Ryan Lewis can provide further information on scholarships and schedules.

Men's Club Activities

The Men's Club met on Feb. 19th and decided to assist with scholarships for Mechuwana. Additionally, they discussed actions needed to get electrical lights on the Church sign on Oak Grove Ave. Some of the members are planning on attending the NBA Red Claws basketball game in Portland March 19th where Rian Lewis will sing the National Anthem. Contact Ralph Lewis if a ride is needed. The Men's Club meets at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month (usually at The Bounty).

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday March 7.

Treasurer's Report for January, 2010

Thank you everyone for your contributions to the Church's finances - Mary & Ed

The Building Fund currently has \$14,000 available for projected building projects. Plus there are designated funds of \$20,450 for the elevator, \$6,000 for furnishing the upstairs children's room and \$1,400 for library furniture.

January collections were \$14,619 for the General Fund, \$1,791 for the Building Fund, and \$1,390 for the Mortgage Fund. Average attendance during the month of January was 75.

Monthly expenses for the General Fund were \$10,956. Projected amounts needed for February and March respectively are \$11,004 and \$10,900.

Special gifts and fundraisers during January were as follows:

Haiti Relief	\$1,375
United Methodist Women	\$600
Memorial gifts for Mildred Ouellette (Bld. Fund)	\$280
Pasta Supper	\$582
Chicken Pie Sale (Bld. Fund)	\$952
Trustee's Conference Investments	\$678
Totals	\$4,467

Editor's Comments

Articles for the newsletter should be provided to Ed Larrabee 7 days prior to the end of the month. If email is available, please send to Ed at sabinobath@suscom-maine.net. Church secretary, Rebecca Wegner, can ensure that hard copy articles are forwarded or Faxed. The focus of the newsletter is to report what is happening at the local Church level. If you have a change to your address (or to your email address), please notify the Church Secretary (443-4707) so that your newsletter information can reach you.

Building Committee

(Shirley Lewis Reporting)

The Building Committee met with George Race, our Clerk of the Works, on Feb. 16. He presented a list of completed projects including drywall on the exterior walls upstairs (99% complete), emergency exit stairs at the rear of the building (99% complete); the door between the tower room and hallway is installed and the door to the library is on order and should arrive in a week.

(See page 2 for acknowledgements)

He listed projects for consideration: window sills and skirts for tower room windows, trim around the 1st floor stair windows, finishing the mudding of drywall in the library, windows and closet; pull down attic door to be installed in the library; 2nd floor stairwell door; drywall of hall and closets and library furniture.

We still need help with the upstairs and if anyone would like to do some of the work, it does not require much expertise and some can be done in only a few hours. Please contact George if you can help.

The Committee voted to have the electrical work done on the first 4 rooms of the upstairs.

The Committee is aware that folks would really like to start on the Sanctuary. After consulting with our architect, a ballpark estimate, depending on materials and design chosen, would run between \$650,000 and \$1,000,000. A current estimate for the elevator in our current building will be \$70,000, due to higher costs now than when we had our first estimate.

With God's help, onward and upward!

BATH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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RELIEF FOR HAITI

Relief For Haiti: As of February 18th, the Church had raised over \$1600 in funds for Haiti relief. The NE Conference raised \$143,000 and UMCOR raised over 11 million for Haiti relief. The UMC Women are helping Church members prepare Health Kits and School Kits to send to Haiti.

The IRS will allow Haiti donations to be tax deductible in FY 2009 (if donations were made prior to the end of February 2010).

Note: In FY 2009 seniors making an age 70 1/2 distribution from their IRAs can exclude the amount of the distribution (up to \$100,000) from their income if it was made directly to a charity/Church. It will not be taxed and will not increase adjusted gross income. This tax code provision is expected to be renewed in FY 2010.

NOW FEATURED IN YOUR LIBRARY

NOW FEATURED IN YOUR LIBRARY, is new monthly column by Rev. Gail Kendrick in which she reviews books newly placed in the library

Try a little humor to keep the doldrums of winter away by reading "Help I'm Laughing and I Can't Get Up". The author, Liz Curtis Higgs, addresses how God gave us humor to help us deal with stress, health issues, and life in general. Ms. Higgs makes her points by telling humorous stories. Check out "The Application to Date Our Daughter" on p.212 of this book to get a taste of Ms. Higgs style.

Or turn to "The Letter to the Philippians" and renew your joy using the book Laugh Again by Charles R. Swindoll as a guide to this letter of the Apostle Paul. In Laugh Again Mr. Swindoll shows how any of us can exchange vexation, stress, and grief for joy.

Lastly try "Finding Joy, 101 Ways to Free Your Spirit and Dance With Life" by Charlotte Davis Kasl, Ph.D. Charlotte Davis Kasl is a psychologist and Quaker. In her book she gives down-to-earth suggestions on how to increase the joy in our lives. Two

suggestions she gives are share love and express gratitude. There is a great section on aging without losing joy. The book does not use "God-language", but is Scripturally sound.

HAPPY READING!!

Comment from Ed L : Please complete one of the 2x4 note cards in the tan basket in the library identifying (1) book borrowed,, (2) your name and (3) date borrowed. Books should be returned within 3 weeks and the previously completed card crossed out.