



# Oak Grove Ave. News

## Annual UMEM Fall Mission Set for Oct. 2-8

The Annual Fall Mission to UMEM in Salem Township will be October 2-8. Already many returning and several new volunteers have stepped forward from the Limestone, Brunswick and Bath United Methodist Churches. Our friends at Damariscotta UMC have also been invited to participate. This year some mission volunteers are serving for one to four days and others have signed on for the full week.

The week of Oct. 2-8 is the final Mission Week before the dormitory is closed for the season. Our team members will be roofing a mobile home, building a ramp and securing windows and doors and weatherizing homes for the long, cold winter ahead.

Brenda and Irving Ouellette are the Team Leaders from Bath UMC. You may contact them at 207-729-3089 or 802-673-2759 for registration or to request information. Their e-mail address is: [irvbren@gmail.com](mailto:irvbren@gmail.com).

Some have asked if there are service opportunities for persons who are not comfortable serving in the field. There is plenty of work to be done right at the Economic Ministry Center: sorting, pricing, cleaning, cooking, creating and organizing.

If you are not able to join the Mission Team, remember this important work in your prayers and con-

sider making a financial contribution to help pay for the roofing and building supplies that will be needed. You can give your contribution to Pastor Neil or to Letty Race or mail it to the Ouellettes at 32 Willow Grove Road, Brunswick, ME 04011.

If you are being called to this ministry, remember: when God called Moses from the burning bush he answered, "Here I am, Lord."



*Fall is here: let's get homes ready for winter.*

## UMW Craft Fair Scheduled for November 5

Fall is getting closer and soon it will be the UMW Craft Fair again, so mark your calendar for Nov. 5!

We will be having the "Cookie Walk" again so please start saving coffee cans (large and small). We will have a box soon in the

Narthex to collect the cans; for now, deposit them on the table in the coat room.

We also need all kinds of crafts. You may see Jeanne Daniels, Pat Brown or Deanna Wayman to donate your crafts or other items. We are always looking for

"gently used" sale items. You can bring those any time and we will store them upstairs. Baked goods for our "Sweets" table can be frozen if you want to prepare ahead. Also, plants and berry bowls can be donated at any time.

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*If you have news to include in our October newsletter, please send your information to the church office at [bathumc@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bathumc@myfairpoint.net) or leave a written message on the Secretary's Desk. Digital photos are always welcome!*

## Committee News and Notes

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** The building committee met August 17. Plumbing the 2 upstairs classrooms has begun, which includes baseboard heat, sinks in each classroom and a commode in the connecting bathroom. The committee will get estimates for carpeting the two rooms, the hall outside them and the stairs (which will include treads) The bathroom is already tiled. We will also get estimates for the preparatory work for installation of the elevator. There is a great deal that must be done before the elevator itself can be installed and we can go ahead with that, finishing with the elevator itself when we have the funds. Josh Valentine would like to take on an Eagle Scout project of finishing the dry wall and ceiling in the upstairs hall, painting it and installing a door to close off the unfinished area. The committee is very grateful for this gift of time and talent from Josh and all who help him.

**WITNESS/OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** **Wanted:** Volunteers for the committee! Please see Pastor Neil, Cathy Leonard or Edna Reid if you would like to work with us on this committee. Our meetings are the second Sunday of the month after church. Upcoming projects are the Salvation Army family gift program. We hope to be able to sponsor at least one family for a Thanksgiving/Christmas food basket and our Chrismon Tree. We are looking for ideas on ways to expand our Project 5000 this year. If you have any ideas, we'd love to hear them. Home visits are going well. If you

would like to help visit shut ins (or know someone who needs a visit), please speak with Pastor Neil. This fall we will be starting a monthly service at Winship Green. If you have a half hour once a month, join us and the Winship Green residents for hymns and prayers. On Sept. 17 this committee will sponsor the first supper of the season. Cathy and Edna would like to thank Irving Ouellette for hanging the new Mission Board in the narthex. We invite any committee to post their missions on the board. We have many ideas for new projects but need more members for this committee. Won't you consider joining us?

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUG. 30, 2011:** The elevator fund is at \$36,802 and the Building and the Building Fund is at \$31,363 as of Sept. 12. The Building Committee is taking bids on the elevator shaft. After paying staff salaries and automatic deductions to the Conference for pastor benefits and facility insurance, the General Fund is only at \$404 on Sept. 16. The Church Supper planned for Sept. 17 normally results in at least a \$900 cash inflow and will help pay some bills. Compared to 2010, General Fund income is down and expenses are up. There has been insufficient resources in the General Fund to fully pay our monthly \$3194 mortgage 3 times this year. The Methodist Foundation's Sr. Loan Officer and Program Manager (Dan Hussey) is concerned and has asked us to respond with corrective action. On Sun. Sept. 11, the Finance Committee met and approved a

\$10,000 **loan** from the Building Fund to cover the back payments to the mortgage and help pay a portion of the \$1900 in Mission Shares we are in arrears. The Finance Committee will meet again on Sept. 21 to consider other actions that might be taken to improve the balance of the General Fund. The Building Committee met on Sept. 12 and concurred with the actions of the Finance Committee.

### **DAMARISCOTTA MISSION**

**TEAM:** Miracles have abounded at Damariscotta UMC in large part due to the love and prayers of you, the members and friends of Bath UMC. Our shared ministry began 8 months ago and here is what has happened: **Building improvements** include new faucets in bathrooms, chair cushions for folding chairs, and energy efficient lights in the fellowship hall. **Summer church suppers** strengthened our sense of community, introduced people to DUMC and raised revenues. (Thanks to all of you who attended!) **Outreach:** items donated to UMEM, monies and food donated to Newcastle Food Pantry, monies donated to Damariscotta Energy Assistance Program and monthly hymn sings at Hodgdon Green Nursing Facility. **Attendance:** up from 10 to 17+, 4 new regular attendees, 50 present on July 31st for the Oak Grove Gospel Singers and 1 new member!

## Public Supper Dates and Menus

Sept. 17: Pot Roast Harvest Supper  
Oct. 15: Roast Pork Supper  
Nov. 19: Turkey & All the Trimmings  
December: No public supper  
Jan. 21: Lasagna/Spaghetti Supper  
Feb. 18: Roast Pork  
Mar. 17: Chicken Pie

April 21: Spiral Ham  
May 19: Pulled Pork and Baked Beans

There will be chicken pie takeout sales scheduled in October and periodically thereafter: watch your local paper or bulletins for more info.



*Like good food and fellowship?  
Here's your chance to be involved!*

The success of these events depends upon the continued support of each of you. Please remember to watch for sign up sheets to see how you can be involved in these fun (and essential!) events. Thanks for all your past support and your continued interest and enthusiasm.

## Lay Leader Notes

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Rian Lewis

In the 6th chapter of Matthew, Jesus reminds us that even the lilies of the field get everything they need to survive, and never need to worry. And they are easily able to fulfill their part of God's plan, which is to sit there looking beautiful. Okay, and exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide. But they get what they need because God always provides everything needed to fulfill His plan.

I'm reminded of the sale of the Beacon Street Church a few years back. As I recall, there was an offer from a man that wanted to build a recording studio there. He had plenty of capital and would have restored the church to its 1853 condition. But the neighbors were less than friendly and he took his business elsewhere. Apparently our church was not meant to become a recording studio.

Not long after that, we connected with the Elim Community Church, a congregation in need of a bigger, better building away from the center of town. And lo and be-

hold, our old building fit their needs. When we were ready to move out, we had another congregation ready to move in. Today a thriving ministry exists at the old Beacon Street Church. Stop in there sometime and listen to the music. I can't help but believe that somehow God was at work in all this. We needed to move; they needed a church. God needed two healthy congregations spreading the gospel. Everybody wins!

So, why am I bringing this up? Because, once again, we have a need. We have an unfinished second floor, no elevator, and our bills are stacking up. We need funds, above and beyond our general budget. And each and every time I see the assorted pieces of our old pipe organ being stored throughout the church, I wonder if we are really in tune with God's plan for us. Does he want us to save the organ so that some day, maybe after most of us are long gone, the church can expand and incorporate a pipe organ into the sanctuary? Or does he want us to sell the organ, install our elevator, finish our second floor and start populating our Sunday school class rooms and

nursery with children and adults eager to hear the claims of Christ and learn about God's love? Do you suppose there is a congregation out there somewhere in need of an organ for their sanctuary? Could our organ be providing inspiration and joy somewhere else, rather than slowly deteriorating with each change of the seasons? Will it even be salvageable when the time comes to reassemble it?

It is time to answer those questions. We will be planning a gathering sometime in the near future to give testimony, ask and answer questions, and hopefully make a decision about the fate of our organ. It cannot be a decision based on the personal wants and desires of any individual or small group. It must be a decision that truly reflects what God wants us to do on Oak Grove Avenue. Please consider the issue prayerfully and be prepared to talk about it later this fall.

## Thank You To These Fine Helpers

Ken Young

We want to thank Al Lindsey of Midcoast Marble and Granite for cutting and donating the granite stone for our cornerstone and Tim Daigle of Daigle's funeral home for engraving it. We want to thank Dick Valentine for re-mounting our church direction signs and installing them at the appropriate locations. We want to thank Louise Hudson for donating many volumes to our church library from her late husband's collection. We also want to thank Jeanne Daniels for books and library furniture given in memory of Jim. The library remains a work in process. Hopefully the books will all be sorted and shelved soon! We do ask that if anyone borrows a book to please leave a note to that effect on the table in the library. Finally, many thanks to George Race and to contractor Michael Huston for their work in finishing off the window trim in the stair well and the class rooms on the south side of the second floor. We look forward to the work Josh Valentine will be doing upstairs for his Eagle Scout project. Go Josh!

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this Month

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### Birthdays:

Karen Valentine	Sept. 1
Cathie Dauphin	Sept. 16
Nat Hicks	Sept. 21
Lori Orbeton	Sept. 22
Pat Brown	Sept. 26
Barbara Johansen	Sept. 27
Ralph Lewis	Sept. 27
Elwin Smith	Sept. 29

### Anniversaries:

Dick and Bev Bartlett	Sept. 6
Pauline & Jim Jarvis	Sept. 9
Frank & Sylvia MacNeil	Sept. 14

May God richly bless each of these people on their special day! If we have accidentally omitted your special day, please call the church office so that we can update our files. Thank you.



Fall birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate!

## BATH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43: 19)*

Our God loves us and saves us and empowers us through our Lord, Jesus Christ. And then he gets after us relentlessly, calling us to move with him into the future he has in mind for us. It isn't always a call that we hear with enthusiasm; in fact, there are times when we wish that God would just leave us alone for a while. We feel tired, we feel that our resources are stretched to the limit and we can't do anything more.

Churches go through such cycles as well as persons. It sometimes seems too much work to be the church in the community, and there isn't enough of whatever is needed to sustain and grow our ministries.

And yet, Christ says, *"Look, I am with you right to the end."* (Matthew 28: 20) The power of God is always with us, and God knows our hearts and our needs and our strength. It was the power of God responding to your faith that brought the vision of a new church to reality. That power is still there for us; our task is to seek God's direction, and be willing to make ourselves available to follow. In God's service, there is no standing still; we are either moving ahead with God, or slipping back on our own. As we think about our future, and how we can follow God into it, let's trust God to supply as he has and as he promises always to do. We know there will be tough decisions and hard choices, but there will also be effective ministry that will grow us and strengthen us in the service of our loving God.

## Parting Words...

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The Building Committee has set up a special work day on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9-noon. They hope to clean up the second floor of the building that day. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

The United Methodist Women will hold their first fall meeting on Sept. 13 at 11:30. This is a brown bag lunch and business meeting to discuss the 2012 program and budget. All women in the church are invited to attend and discover more about our mission activity with women and children locally, nationally and globally.

Speaking of Mission, did you know that we are going to be having a special outdoor worship service on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 pm in Library Park? We hope to use this opportunity to reach our neighbors and to benefit the Bath Food Pantry. We are asking folks to bring a canned good as an offering.

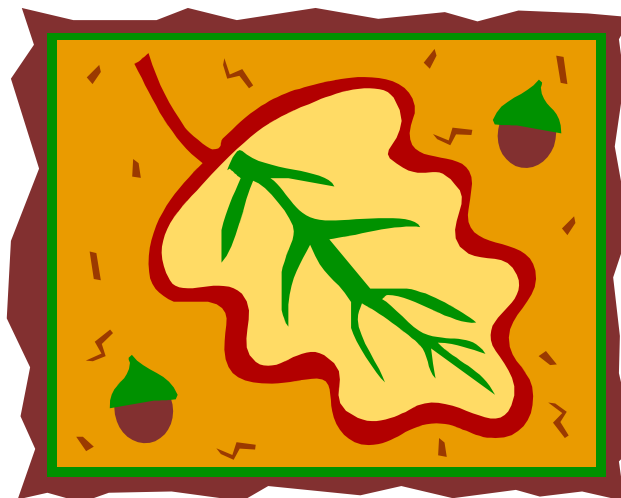
Mark your calendars now for the Annual Charge Conference to be held at BUMC November 2. The SPRC will meet at 6:00 and the entire congregation can participate in the meeting at 7:00.

Busy hands and feet helped make the recent Chicken BBQ Supper a smashing success: we be sending checks to the UMEM for a combined total of \$1,312.62. The EM staff, Kay Webb, Executive Director and the Board of

Directors have all expressed their deepest appreciation for the love and energy flowing from Bath and Brunswick UMC churches!

Already the wheels are turning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UMEM Benefit Supper in 2012 which will be hosted by the Brunswick UMC. Praise God for the support and love and fellowship which made our special time together possible.

Sunday Sept. 25 is Christian Education Sunday in the New England Conference. A special offering envelope will be distributed. Gifts support leadership training in local churches.



*Fall Activities are Starting up! Get Involved with study, prayer and service.*