



SEPTEMBER 2010

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

KEY ISSUES ON TAP FOR FALL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Be sure to mark your calendars for the October 16 fall meeting of the Hancock-Waldo Association at the Frankfort Congregational Church.

A representative from the Witness Life Commission of the Maine Conference will be with us to explain what it would mean to become an Open and Affirming Conference. The Commission proposed this move two years ago, but a Conference annual meeting vote was postponed until additional information was available to member churches. This will be an important presentation so that churches will know exactly what this involves and what it does not require of local churches. If your delegates to the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference have been chosen, please encourage them to attend this fall Association meeting.

We will also be acting on a recommendation from our Church & Ministry Committee to adopt a new Conference-wide policy on handling any potential fitness review of the Conference Minister. Please be clear that this is a policy for any future problem, whoever the Conference Minister might be at the time, and is not about any current issue.

As we usually do, we will gather for registration, coffee and conversation at 9 a.m., engage in a brief worship service at 9:30 and then move into the business part of the meeting which also will include adoption of a 2011 budget, election of officers and committee members, hopefully a word from David Gaewski, our Conference Minister, and any other key reports.

Denise Goodman

CONGRATULATIONS

Though not clad in caps and gowns, three members of the Hancock-Waldo Association were duly honored at the Conference annual meeting in June as among the first graduates of the Conference Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership. A round of applause, please, for **Linda Warner** from the First Church in Belfast , **Anne Sewall** from the Northeast and Seal Harbor church and **Nancy MacArthur** from the Ellsworth Falls church. They completed a two-year program that involved intensive one-day and weekend courses in a variety of subjects.

OUR NEW GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATE

Brianna Haynes Morrill was elected as the Hancock-Waldo Association delegate for the next two UCC General Synods at the Maine Conference Annual Meeting in June. Brianna, just wed in late July, is a teacher at Belfast High School and has been very active at First Church in Belfast . In case the name “Haynes” rings a bell, Brianna is the daughter of Roger Haynes, First Church moderator and member of the H-W Church and Ministry Committee, and Beth Haynes, long-time member of the Conference Spiritual Life Commission.

When asked for a nominee from our association, the Executive Committee was urged to recommend a lay woman under 30. Brianna not only meets those requirements but has been very active at First Church in Belfast since earning her master’s degree from the University of Maine several years ago. She sings in the choir and frequently provides vocal solos, was the scribe for our Open and Affirming team and is the First Church liaison to the local Habitat for Humanity program. We’ll be eagerly awaiting her report next summer after the next GS in Tampa , Florida .

FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST UCC

New RE Director

Susan Hall began work in July as the new Director of Religious Education. A life-long Congregational church member, Susan and her husband, George, are settling in after moving here from Connecticut, She’s taught Sunday school, vacation Bible school and a summer one-room schoolhouse program. A graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BA in history and English Susan also has a master’s degree in Education. She has written religious education curriculum, played handbells and served on a variety of church boards. The Halls’ youngest son attends Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, perhaps the inspiration for Susan’s plans to develop some sea-connected activities for our youth. Susan brings new energy and innovative ideas to our RE program and we’re eagerly anticipating an exciting variety of religious education activities for youth and adults.

Sabbatical Pastor

While Kate and Joel are on their three-month sabbatical, including a train trip to Canada’s west coast and a journey up the inside passage to Alaska, First Church is being well-served by the Rev. Dr. Deborah Jenks as our regular interim supply pastor. Deb most recently served as pastor at the Hampden Congregational Church UCC and currently is engaged in a master’s degree program in pastoral counseling offered jointly by Husson College and Bangor Theological Seminary. Our deacons are handling day-to-day pastoral duties and involving parishioners in calling on shut-ins. Kate and Joel will return in late October just in time for our annual Harvest Supper.

Expanded Handicap Parking

If all goes well and the city approves our plan, First Church will expand its parking along Court Street (at the rear of the church), changing from parallel to head-in parking and, in the process, creating additional handicap parking spaces. On any given Sunday we may have at least one parishioner in a wheel chair, four on walkers and a half-dozen or more on canes (depending on the most recent knee-replacement or hip-replacement surgeries among us). Although the new design will be fairly expensive, it will be funded from bequests. It is designed to fulfill our Open and Affirming pledge to welcome and affirm all regardless of physical ability.

In Demand

Linda Warner, one of our deacons who recently graduated from the Conference Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership, spent two weeks this summer on Matinicus Island, leading worship and preaching at the island church two Sundays. (Unfortunately, she was unable to bring back a copy of the [in]famous Matinicus church's 2007 "Calendar Girls" publication which, we understand, proved to be a great fund-raiser. Apparently it sold out quickly.) A few weeks later, Linda was invited to preach at the Brownville church.

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MONROE COMMUNITY CHURCH UCC

Our Annual "Candy Cane" Christmas Fair, Saturday, October 30th. 9 am to 1 pm at the Monroe Church, 28 West Main St, (Route #139) Monroe. We are continuing to set up with live and artificial trees, displaying our things in a non-conventional way. Coffee and sweet cinnamon rolls, muffins served until 11 am with lunch served until 1 pm (Soups & sandwiches). Come and see something a little different than just your usual Church Christmas Fair.

BLUE HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Blue Hill put on our second annual Blueberry Festival on a beautiful sunny day, August 7, 2010. We offered delicious blueberry dishes for sale--blueberry pancakes, shortcake, smoothies, and more; a silent auction, Yankee crafts and stitchery, used books, jewelry, raffle, live music, antique car rides, a bounce house and many children's games. This was a good way to bring our church members together in the summer, make some money for the church, and provide fun for the whole community.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BROOKS UCC

On November 13th, the First Congregational Church of Brooks, UCC (Route #7 - Brooks Village) is having their Fall Church Fair, 9 am - 1 pm (Usual things - Crafts, lunch, White elephant tables)

ELM STREET CONGREGTIONL CHURCH, BUCKSPORT

Our church restoration project has been continuing throughout the summer. The majestic columns that stand outside the church sanctuary have been fully restored. The columns needed a few touchup's including replacing the rotton areas anda new paint job. Next, came the huge project of installing replacement windows in the church sanctuary. Parishioners can now enjoy having fresh air flow through the sanctuary by simply opening the new windows. The walkway that leads up to the sanctuary has been torn up and will be replaced with granite.

A public supper is held on the second Saturday of each month to help raise money for our building fund. These suppers bring people from the community and surrounding areas to our church to enjoy delicious food that includes homemade casseroles, salads, barbeque hot dogs, rolls and homemade pies. The cost to attend the suppers is kept at a reasonable fee. Parishioners are dedicated to donating food, their time and help in making this a successful event each month.

The 25th annual "Mostly for Fun" trombone concert was held on Saturday, August 7 in the church sanctuary. This annual event helps to raise money for the maintenance of our historic E. & G.G. Hook Organ. Over forty trombonists from Maine, Washington D.C., Virginia, New Hampshire, and Canada volunteered their musical talents to participate in this delightful concert. The audience enjoyed a beautiful evening of music by these talented people.

The Somerset Consort, which is a classical music group will entertain the community in our sanctuary on Friday, September 17 at 7 p.m. This group includes Dr. Carlton Russell, organist, Lorna Russell who plays the organ and viola de gamba and Diane Brown who plays flute. This donation-only event will help to raise money for our church. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy an evening of entertaining music. Refreshments and a social time will follow the concert.

St. John's Organ Society in cooperation with the Organ Historical Society and the Bangor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be having a fall tour of vintage Hook Organs in the midcoast Maine area. Our beautiful and historic E. & G.G. Hook organ will be part of the Hook Holiday program. An organ concert will be performed in our church sanctuary on Wednesday, October 6 at 10 a.m.-12 noon. The concert will feature outstanding performers on this vintage organ, a lecture and demonstration of the Hook Organ. For registration information and a complete list of events, please visit www.hookopus288.org.

SOMESVILLE UNION MEETING HOUSE, UCC

Our next Fundraising Event is the HollyDays Fair in November. And the Mission Committee is going to sponsor or co-sponsor a fundraising event for Pakistan in October, no date has been set.

We will observe International Day of Peace September 21 with church bell being rung at noon. We also plan a s Special Four Directions Litany and drum beat on Septembert 26 in observance of American Ministry Sunday. And we will have a special service Sunday, October 10, to observe Access Sunday and Disabilities Week, A2A.

We'll be participating, too, in the area Juvenile Diabetes Walk In The Park on Sunday, October 10, a 4 mile walk for diabetes starting and ending at The Jackson Laboratory with route taking us through Bar Harbor (Main St.) shore path and back Main. Those who would like more information can find it at this web site:

MDI.Walkinthepark.blogspot.com

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