



October 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

**MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR**

Dear Friends,

A reminder that our November 8 gathering includes not only the choir festival, which Pat discusses below, but also our annual meeting. David Gaewski, our Conference Minister, plans to be with us, we'll be electing officers and Association representatives to Conference entities and we'll have an opportunity for fellowship and news sharing during a light supper.

Our executive committee continues to meet at different churches with clergy and lay leaders from those congregations. These sessions provide an opportunity for the latter to tell us how the Association might support their efforts. We had some great input at our most recent session at the Belfast church including a suggestion that we explore ways to share choral music among our congregations. If you would like us to visit your church, please give me a ring at 548-2730.

We are planning to focus our spring meeting around a workshop on developing Safe Church Policies, something that the UCC Insurance Board and, perhaps, other insurers are either requiring or encouraging. We'll let you know when we've firmed up a date and workshop leaders.

See you in Bucksport on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Denise Goodman

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Right now, my main concern is the Choir Festival and Fall Association meeting. Both are scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>. Singers will gather at 3 PM at the Elm Street Church in Bucksport to briefly go over the music that we are all singing together as well individual choir pieces. It is expected that EVERY church who has folks coming to sing, will have already learned the pieces. I personally have the music and we've made every attempt to let folks know how to get it, either call me or email me. So far only two churches have responded, Bucksport and Belfast. Anyone else interested? Please contact me! 244-5746 or jpbutler6@yahoo.com

We now have a schedule for the upcoming issues of "Keeping Connected"! Publication dates will be: January 15; March 15; May 15; August 15; October 15; late November, just before Thanksgiving (probably around the 15<sup>th</sup>); December 5 - early enough for Christmas events. We can always send out an interim message if something really important comes up. Please note these dates so you can get articles to me in time. Thank you!  
Rev. Pat Butler

### **NEWS FROM THE ALCYON CENTER**

**Rose Mary Dougherty, "Group Spiritual Direction: Discernment and Spiritual Deepening in Small Groups"** Saturday, November 7, 1-4 pm at The Alcyon Center, Seal Cove.

Rose Mary Dougherty, Senior Fellow of the Shalem Institute, is one of the formative figures of our time in the arena of spiritual direction. As Director of the Spiritual Guidance Program at Shalem for many years, she helped pioneer the model of Group Spiritual Direction. Her writings on this topic include the books *Group Spiritual Direction* and *The Lived Experience of Group Spiritual Direction*.

This session is open to 10-15 people wanting to learn more about the practice of Group Spiritual Direction and who may wish to facilitate a group in their religious community or home. Suggested donation: \$35

- Marjory Zoet Bankson, "A Conversation on Community"  
Friday, October 23, from 2-5 pm at The Alcyon Center, Seal Cove, Maine.

Marjory is a frequent lecturer at Virginia Theological Seminary and The School for Christian Living, and she often leads programs at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In the morning, participants will have the occasion to enjoy some Sabbath-time in the peaceful ambience of The Alcyon Center. During the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to engage Marjory in conversation about a wide-range of topics, including spiritual community. Marjory will speak out of her experience in building community as former President of the national organization Faith-at-Work (now called Lumunos.) Donation: \$35; or \$50 for this event and "The Third Round of Call" (below) Bring something to share for lunch; beverages and fruit are provided.

Marjory will also lead "The Third Round of Call: A Spiritual Path for the Next Stage of Life"  
Saturday, October 24, from 10 am-4 pm at Pacific Hall, West Tremont, Maine. (Pacific Hall is located on Rt. 102, near The Alcyon Center. Directions will be provided to participants.) She is a leading teacher on call and vocation, the subjects of several of her books, including *Call to the Soul* and *The Soulwork of Clay*. Building on her vast experience, Marjory will give us some advance glimpses into her soon to be released book on what she calls life's "third round of call," after identity and vocation, for those of us in the third quarter of our lives. Donation: \$35; or \$50 for this event and "A Conversation on Community" Bring your lunch; beverages and fruit are provided.

November :Thursday, Nov. 5-7 Transforming Conversation Weekend: "Time and Spirituality"  
with Carole Carlson, (Thurs. 11:00 am-Saturday after breakfast)For local church pastors who have been too busy to take time out and reflect onthe daily rhythm of parish ministry. We will reflect together on the sacredness of time and the rhythm of the church season.

Friday, Nov. 6 Quiet Day, , 9-1 pm (We gather for 3 hours of silence, followed by soup and conversation

## **FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC**

### **First Church Harvest Supper, Thursday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This is our annual kickoff for our Stewardship pledge campaign. All the boards and committees get a chance to talk about their plans for next year and we get our first look at the proposed budget for the coming year. A delicious potluck supper is enjoyed but sorry, this is for First Church members only!

### **Faith Formation for All Ages**

This is a new Religious Education format that we are using this year. Every 4-6 weeks there is a special Sunday, devoted to a particular topic. In September our theme was “Faith in Action.” During worship we had a visit from “Coach Athleticus” who taught the children about the importance of being on a “TEAM” (Training, Endurance, Attitude, Mission) and how God’s gifts of body, mind and spirit must all work together. Then after worship we gathered to learn about the new Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County and how we can help others by using our hands. We ate lunch together and parted by 1:00. On Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> we will have our next Faith Formation for All Ages with the Advent theme of “Faith in Waiting.” “Brother Advent” is already an annual visitor who comes the first Sunday of Advent to prepare the children for this season. After worship we will make Advent Wreaths and talk about the importance of waiting. If you’d like to know more about this new format, contact Rev. Kate Winters at 338-2282.

### **Reformation Sunday, Sunday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am**

On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, as has become our tradition here at First Church, we will have a guest preacher and reformer of the church. This year the founder of the Methodist movement in 18<sup>th</sup> century England, the Rev. John Wesley will be with us to tell us about his “*heart warming experience*” and his striving for “Christian Perfection.” Also that day, the RE Committee will host their second FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES event focusing on “Faith in History through the lives of the Saints.” Plan to stay after worship and share in a lunch together. And, by the way, Mr. Wesley is in need of a horse, so let us know if you have one to spare!

### **John Wesley**



**All Saints Day Costume Party! Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 3:00-5:00 pm**

If you like dressing up for Halloween, you will really like this! It's a fun event for all ages! Come as your favorite Saint, Bible character, religious figure, or just come as your most "authentic" self, who you are when you are most "You!" and tell us all about who you are dressed to be in the "Parade of Saints!" There will be snacks to eat and punch to drink, along with an "All Saints Jeopardy" game and prizes for the best costumes! Everyone is welcome!

**First Church Christmas Fair! Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

A traditional event at the First Church, there's always something for everyone. Christmas decorations, candies and baked goods, crafts, art, and book sales. Order your hand decorated, all natural Christmas Wreath made by the good folks of First Church! Enjoy some of "Don's famous fish chowder" and catch the Christmas spirit at the First Church!

**Mt. View Singers – "Carols in the Round", Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm**

All are welcome to come and hear the beautiful voices of the Mt. View Chamber Singers, directed by Mr. David Stevenson. A wonderful way to begin the Advent season.

**Live Nativity. Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm**

Sponsored by the Greater Bay Area Ministerium, this is a simple portrayal of the night of Jesus' birth, with all the characters, takes place on the First Church front yard. Carols are sung out in the street and then afterward, all are invited into the church sanctuary for a mini concert. A time of refreshments and fellowship follow in the parlor.

**Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship**

The children and youth work hard to put together a program to remind and inspire us about the meaning of Christ's birth.

**BAR HARBOR**

The Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, seeks an enthusiastic part-time Sunday School coordinator for preschool through grade 12. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Sandra Reed, [smreed@barharborucc.org](mailto:smreed@barharborucc.org) or call 207 288-3280.



The Hancock-Waldo Association Executive Committee is meeting monthly at various churches in the association. Here they are at the First Church in Belfast, UCC, for their October meeting.

### **ELM STREET CHURCH, BUCKSPORT**

#### **Renovation for Elm Street Congregational Church, Bucksport**

Elm Street Congregational Church is getting a new face lift! Crews have been on site working for over a month now getting the many areas of the church building repaired and secured for the cold months ahead. Crews had to install granite blocks around the corners of the building, and also needed to clean the granite that was still usable. The workers needed to work on the sanctuary roof by removing the old shingles and then laying plywood and weather proofing material down along with new shingles. Next, came the vinyl siding workers. Since the church is over 206 years old it was surprising to see very little damage from the boards beneath the wood siding. That was good news. The congregation is looking forward to enjoying the beautiful renovation of the church sanctuary building.

**The Children are Back!** Our Sunday School has once again returned. The children have picked out three mission projects to work on for the school year. The projects include having a penny jar in the church sanctuary. The pennies will be counted next June and will support the church's building fund. Dimes collected in a Sunday School jar will go to the Operation Smile foundation which provides corrective medical action for children with a birth defect of the mouth. And children will ask parishioners to help in the collection of soda can tabs which, through a Shriners' programs, will provide a leg prosthesis for a local girl.

**Music Fills the Air!** Our church organist and music director, Barbara Fenlason has arranged a concert series during the 2009 year.. Each concert costs \$10.00 for adults and children/students are free. Money raised from each of these concerts goes into the church's building fund. Refreshments and social follow each of the concerts.

September, our church hosted a group called "The Voices of Peace." This was a folk-style group of approximately 20 people who performed in the church sanctuary. Those that attended enjoyed hearing the many talented voices in this lively group. Music was definitely in the air that evening!

October brought a wonderful opportunity of hosting the Somerset Consort group. This group included Dr. Carlton Russell, Organist, his wife, Lorna Russell, who plays the organ and viola da gamba and Diana Brown who plays the flute. This trio group wowed the audience by playing various pieces of classical music.

November will bring a concert by Masanobu Ikemiya who is a concert pianist . He will perform a concert in the church sanctuary on Saturday, November 14 at 7 p.m. This talented pianist will mesmerize the audience with various musical pieces that include the classics to ragtime. Come and have a fun-filled evening.

The Hancock-Waldo choir festival will be held here on Sunday, November 8 at 4 p.m. A supper of soup, bread and salad will be in Brown Hall after the performance. Many talented people will be the highlight of the evening as different musical pieces and combinations are played and sung. What a joy it will be to have many people together to combine their voices with others during this wonderful festival!

**Caregiver Training:** Our church has provided “Savvy Caregiver Training” for Caregivers of People with Dementia each Monday from 2-4 p.m. in Brown Hall. This training started on September 28 and will continue until November 2. Kathryn Pears from the Maine Alzheimer’s Association is the trainer for this event.

**Support for Caregivers:** Dottie VanHorn, LSW from Eastern Area Agency on Aging holds an Alzheimer’s support group on the first Tuesday of each month in Brown Hall. This support group is for caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s. All are welcome to attend these group sessions. For more information, please contact Dottie VanHorn at 941-2865 or 469-3926.

**Bucksport Bay Friends:** This is a social model adult day program for people with memory loss or mild dementia in the Bucksport Area. Terrie Perrine is the program director and she and her staff of volunteers help to provide four hours of respite time for caregivers, while their family members enjoy fun, food, light exercise and mental stimulation in a safe and professionally supervised environment. The program takes place each Tuesday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Brown Hall. People are encouraged to bring their loved ones for a **free** day at Bucksport Bay Friends day program. For more information, please contact the program director, Terrie Perrine at 469-1112.

**Remembering Loved Ones:** Each year our church has an All Saints remembrance service. This service will take place on Sunday, November 1. During the service, Rev. Linda Smith will recognize the loved ones that she has done funeral and graveside services for during the end of 2008-2009. Congregation members will be able to lift up names of their loved ones during this special service. The families of those that Rev. Smith did services for will each receive a carnation and will be asked to bring it forward to place in the vase on the altar. The people may take the carnation home after the service.

## **BLUE HILL**

From Steve Merchant: Sorry I didn't send you a write-up on the Blueberry Festival. We aimed for \$5000 and took in ~\$7800; not bad for a first time.

## **DEER ISLE/SUNSET CONGREGATIONAL PARISH**

The Deer Isle/Sunset Congregational Parish Choir is presenting a Vesper Concert on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4 PM in the Deer Isle Congregational Church. The choir, under the direction of Win Pusey, will sing Mass in G by Franz Schubert, A Promise of Living (Thanksgiving Chorus from the opera "The Tender Land") by Aaron Copland and Cesar Franck's Psalm 150. A free-will offering will benefit the Island Heating Assistance program and the Food Pantry. Those who wish may also bring non-perishable items of food as a Thanksgiving offering.

## **FRANKFORT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Frankfort Congregational Church will be holding its annual Christmas Fair on November 21st from 8 am to 12 pm. Among the items being offered are holiday greenery, decorations, baked goods, candy, gift baskets, jewelry old and new, cutlery and cookbooks. The pastor's office will be turned into a room of Christmas treasures filled with nearly new decorations, ornaments and trimmings for the thrifty shopper. New this year will be the Regifting Room with new items that might not have been right for one but perfect for another and Soup to Go-homemade soups done up by the pint for the shopper to take home and enjoy. Have instead of or in addition to our homemade turkey pie! Two raffles will be drawn at noon - a beautiful afghan and a Thanksgiving Dinner basket.

## **SOMESVILLE UNION MEETING HOUSE, UCC**

**HOLLY DAYS FAIR:** November 21, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. complete with a cookie walk, crafts, Homemade breads, jellies, breads, Costume Jewelry, wreaths, and wonderful soups for a luncheon.

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER FOR THE PILGRIM LODGE SCHOLARSHIP:** Friday, October 23 from 5:00pm until food is gone.

## **PRAYER**

O God of all energy and imagination, too many times I find myself living a flat life devoid of dreams and hopes for the future. I reach dead ends, not sure when to turn or what to do. I sense a call to move into the future, but I am often afraid to embrace it. I feel new dreams stir, but cannot see how they could come true. I ask today for simple faith. Not to know more or believe more, but for the capacity to trust in the possibility of new dreams. Amen. ("A Winter Name for God" by R. Scott Colglazier)

## **REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 3**