



# THE CHURCH ON THE CAPE

*A United Methodist Church*

*P.O. Box 7663*

*Cape Porpoise, ME 04014*

*Rev. Dr. Ruth Merriam, Pastor*



**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER**

**PASTOR**

Rev. Ruth Merriam  
967-5787 (church)  
967-9816 (home)

**SECRETARY  
RE DIRECTOR**

Karen Dombrowski  
967-5787 (church)  
967-5174 (home)

**CUSTODIAN**

Dave Doubleday  
967-4486

**ORGANIST/  
CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Beryl Samia  
646-3788

**TREASURER**

Bob McLaughlin  
967-3051

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Jim Lennon  
967-0408

**CHURCH COUNCIL  
MENS GROUP**

Joe Fairfield  
967-8862

**SPRC**

Tom Bradbury  
967-5673

**TRUSTEES**

Frank Kember  
967-2535

**MINISTRY OF CARING**

Debbi Lord  
967-1295

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Weedie Falls  
967-4029

**CARGO SHOP**

Joyce Hutchins  
967-5744

**WOMEN'S GUILD**

Barbara Milanese  
967-0898

**EVENING GROUP**

Alice Bruton  
985-2121

**FAX NUMBER**

967-2001

Dear Members and Friends,

The Church on the Cape is unique. One way is that we operate on a different calendar from most churches. Lots of people I know 'take off' during the summer months - but summer for us is 'peak season'. We will have two services, and lots of special events: we will have a Vacation Bible School, we'll have an American Girl Tea Party (Kaya, the Native American from 1764 will be featured) weekly Nature Walks (including a Mud Walk!), Mark Thallender, the man who lost his arm in an accident will present an extraordinary concert on August 7 - all kinds of exciting things. And meanwhile, everybody will be changing sheets, some will be cooking - because if 2005 is like every other year "Company's coming!" It's going to be fantastic, but what it means is that in September, school starts up, meetings resume, Christmas comes, and when do we get to rest? When is our sabbath?

So, this year, we plan to do something about that. And we've taken steps. We've rescheduled our Family Fellowship Night for March, the Poland's Bible course will begin in April, the Ministry of Caring meetings won't begin again until March though they continue to care for our friends and neighbors, we're saving our big Bowling Night for later in the Spring, and we're going to take some time to rest a little.

In one of the Newsletters I receive, the pastor wrote: "January, though we have slowed down our pace, doesn't mean a slower faith... Even the trees that look dead and barren during winter are still having their life processes going on inside of them. Like the trees and plants around us, we are invited to use this precious time to replenish and recharge ourselves."

So, we can freely say, "Let it snow!" Enjoy the quiet, savor the peace, and watch for God in the beautiful stillness of this season.

With heartfelt love,  
Rev. Ruth Merriam

Web Site: [www.churchonthecape.org](http://www.churchonthecape.org)

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## **FAST and FEAST**

**Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church quoted this Lenten advice:**

**Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.**

**Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.**

**Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.**

**Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.**

**Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.**

**Fast from pride, and feast on humility.**

**Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.**

**Fast from fear, and feast on faith.**

## **LENTEN SERIES**

In observance of Lent, the Saco Bay Cluster has definitely decided to again host the Wednesday Night Lenten Series. As in the past, each session will last from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We start with a supper of bread and various soups, then the program begins at 6:30 p.m., and we close in worship starting at 7:15 p.m. These have proven to be very popular; a wonderful way to be in the spirit of Lent. The programs are creative, often 'hands-on' and they are something the whole family can participate in.

**This is the schedule for 2005:**

**Wednesdays:**

**February 16** - Goodwins Mills UMC, 55 Church Street, Lyman, ME 04002

**February 23** - West Kennebunk UMC, 160 Alfred Road, West Kennebunk, ME 04094

**March 2** - Christ Church in Kennebunk, 6 Dane Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043

**March 9** - Buxton UMC, 276 Chicopee Road, Buxton, ME 04093

**March 16** - The Church on the Cape!

**Come join us. You'll be glad you did!**

## **COURSE POSTPONED**

In honor of the need for a Winter Respite, the "Heart of Christianity" course has been rescheduled for April. Meeting on Tuesday mornings (from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) the first session will take place on April 5. Based on Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith" we will be taking a valuable look at the very essence of Christianity. Borg presents a rethinking of the Gospel; one that will be challenging, and hopefully inspiring. Revs. Sally and Ted Poland come ready to welcome a wide diversity of opinions as we look at the text together. Come join us!

## **SAVE the DATE!**

**The new date slated for our 2005 Nomination of Officers will be held immediately after church (11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, January 30, 2005. The sole purpose of this Special Church Conference is to elect the candidates as presented by the Lay Leadership Committee.**

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### 2004 Year-End Report

Dave Sutter

The generosity of the congregation permitted the Outreach Committee to dispense over \$10,000 to various groups far and wide. These were as diverse as encouraging free enterprise in two villages in Africa and childhood education and home construction in Haiti, and helping local folks in need of food and fuel oil. Three thousand dollars were provided in the budget. Three more were allocated by the Administrative Council in January, \$572 were raised in the Something Beautiful for God Desert Theater, and over \$3400 was raised in the 3rd Annual Alternative Holiday Fair.

Here's a list of the groups we supported, a note about their goals, and the amount contributed to each during 2004:

Bon Appetit Community Dinner Program in Biddeford.	\$ 200.00
<b>Camp Sunshine providing weeklong summer camping for children with life threatening diseases and their families, at no cost.</b>	<b>3,920.00</b>
Caring Unlimited providing support, shelter and legal assistance for victims of domestic abuse in York County.	1,000.00
<b>Food Pantry for people in need in Arundel, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport.</b>	<b>500.00</b>
Fuel Assistance Program to help people in Arundel, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport who need help with heating costs.	267.99
<b>Habitat for Humanity Building homes for families to complete with 'sweat equity' and buy with extremely low mortgage rates.</b>	<b>1,905.00</b>
Heifer Project supplying farm animals for food and procreation in rural areas. These were 'matching funds' to money raised by the Sunday School in its Spaghetti Supper and Carwash activities. The Committee issued the challenge and the kids met it dramatically!	500.00
<b>Partners in Development providing education for a young member of a family, who can then teach others, and to help provide materials for construction of their home in Haiti.</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
Maine Migrant Workers providing Spanish language Bibles and hymnals and a few necessities to migrant workers in Machias.	350.00
<b>Princess Basma Hospital providing medical services to children with birth defects or injuries due to accident or military action in the Middle East.</b>	<b>200.00</b>
Sarah Ewing Project providing a portion of the cost of sending Sarah to Peru.	350.00
<b>Village Enterprise Fund seed money to encourage two native Africans and their families to undertake some sort of free enterprise in their villages.</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,392.99</b>

The Committee expresses its deep gratitude for the honor, privilege, and responsibility bestowed upon it by the Administrative Council, the Charge Conference, and the Congregation to dispense diligently these funds in the service of God.

One of the things we most love about the Church on the Cape is its incredible spirit of generosity. November includes Pledge Sunday, which involves asking for money. Thanksgiving includes a special offering (which this year went to Fuel Assistance), Christmas includes the purchase of Angel Tree gifts as well as a response to the annual Christmas letter. And in addition to all of that, you are “invited” to give a financial gift to the staff! Whew! Yet through it all, I never heard a single rumble of discontent. No one said “That’s it!” No one objected. Instead, you gave and gave again! On behalf of Dick, Julie, and myself, I thank you all, most sincerely, for your extraordinary gift. The first place we spent it was for Tsunami Relief, and we look forward to a whole host of other ways we will be able to use the rest of the money ~ for His Sake. With heartfelt gratitude,  
Ruth, Dick and Julie

### **Your Kindness Appreciated**

Louise Fairfield would like to thank each and everyone for the many cards, gifts and well wishes received on her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in November. Happy New Year to all!

### **Angel Tree Ministry**

Karen Dombrowski

Christmas time at the Church on the Cape was a very busy time. Our Angel Tree Ministry was very strong for the second year in a row. 26 prisoners children received 2 presents each from the Church on the Cape family in the name of their parent who is currently in the prison system. I had personal contact with many of these families and can attest to the incredible blessing our church family was to them. Imagine the delight these children felt on Christmas morning opening a gift with their fathers or mothers name on them. I would like to extend a special thank you to Amy Stedman, who donated her brand new bike she had won doing community service in our WWJD contest this summer. We delivered the bike to an 11 year old girl who didn’t have one. I would also like to thank Greg Dombrowski who delivered the gifts to the many homes. And I would like to thank our generous church family for taking the time to spread their good fortune and love to those who could really use it at this point in their lives.

### **Harvest Fair 2004**

Joan Lennon

A lead article on December 12, 2004 in the Maine Sunday Telegram reported the significance of church fairs which happen throughout the state of Maine, most taking place in the fall. What the article highlighted concerning church fairs was every bit of what was experienced here in Cape Porpoise at Church on the Cape on November 20<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful fall day, a perfect day for the annual harvest fair. We enjoyed fellowship, lots of fun, the opportunity for neighbors to greet each other in an informal setting, and sharing in the joy of living in this wonderful place. For many churches, our included, these fairs are fund raising events with a portion of the proceeds included as a part of the church budget.

Thanks to all who were a part of this fall’s fair in any way.

Total cash receipts from Harvest Fair 2004 amounted to \$4,192.10 with \$2,823.00 added to the church operating budget.

All other blessings are beyond calculation.

Church fairs are grand events in Maine!

## From the Music department

This has been a VERY busy year for the Music Department. We have purchased Choir Chimes and started a Chime Choir Group which is enjoying their experience very much. We have been blessed with the funds to purchase the new editions of supplemental hymnals, which have been dedicated in Mary Kraus' name. The purchase of a Roland Keyboard has completed our "music making instruments". The youth choir continues to grow in numbers, as does the Cherub Choir. The Senior Choir has fluctuated up and down, and with the upcoming winter months, there will be fewer in the choir each Sunday, until all of the travelers come back to Cape Porpoise.

Numbers do not make for an inspired group to be doing the Lord's work. No matter how many are in a choral or instrumental group, the congregation always reaps the benefit of that group's commitment, both to the group as well as the Lord.

The Easter program that the Senior Choir did was very inspiring; the community outreach in June of "Songs of the Golden Age" was VERY well received. This fall the choir chimes have been appreciated by the congregation as have the young instrumentalists who have shared their gifts. The Christmas season was enjoyed by those in attendance, and we even found a few more people and their gifts who are members of our church.

We have a very early Easter Sunday in 2005 (March 27th), so all the choirs will be getting ready for that season right after the New Year. In June we are planning an evening of show tunes, to be held in Atlantic Hall. Watch for that date!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of the music in the church. It is a pleasure serving you and seeing so many people enjoying the various presentations.  
May God Bless you all in the New Year.

In His Service,  
Beryl Samia

## Education

Susan Baracco

- The Education committee will gather for its first meeting of 2005 on Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to provide suggestions and input.
- Angel Tree ministry was a success again in 2004. We collected and distributed gifts for 26 children in the Kennebunk and Biddeford areas. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a wonderful Christmas for these families.
- The Christmas Eve pageant was presented at the 4:00 PM service and proved to be a delightful experience for all. The pageant highlighted some of the amazing talent within our congregation through singing, acting, and humor.
- The new Sunday school curriculum, which began on January 9<sup>th</sup> focuses on honesty and truthfulness. Anyone interested in sharing a personal story on these topics is welcome to spend 5 to 10 minutes with the kids at the beginning of Sunday school. You also have the option to submit a story in writing. Please see Karen for details.

### Directory Changes/Additions

Nancy and Sherwood Treadwell  
**985-2431**  
**45 Plymouth Grove**  
**Coventry Woods**  
**Kennebunk, Me 04043**

Nancy Libby  
New email: [nancydl@verizon.net](mailto:nancydl@verizon.net)

**The Men's and Women's Bible Studies, held on Wednesday evenings, are open to all who would like to participate. Bring your Bible and a desire to learn more about what God's Word is all about. Questions?? Get in touch with Jerry or Beryl Samia 646-3788**

## Evening Group Notes Alice Bruton, President

### From the Financial Secretary

Jim Lennon

**Pledges for 2005:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, THANK YOU members and friends of Church on the Cape for your very strong support of the 2005 operating budget. Pledges received total \$112,892.00. We went beyond the goal set in the budget of \$112,000.00. Ours is a blessed congregation.

**Asian Disaster Relief:** Responding generously to this urgent need, contributions received at the church on the first two Sundays of this year total \$2,992.00. All receipts will be forwarded in the name of our church to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) where 100 percent of all gifts go directly to the cause intended. There is still time to give. Collections will be received throughout the remainder of this month.

Congress has passed and President Bush has signed into law a bill allowing contributions to this cause received until January 31, 2005 to be included as a deductible charitable allowance for tax purposes in 2004. These will be included on your 2004 statement of giving to the Church on the Cape.

**Thanksgiving Offerings:** Offerings received at the Thanksgiving Eve community service and those received in the special envelopes from our members and friends were used to provide fuel assistance in the Kennebunk/Kennebunkport community. The amount given was \$1,812.00. Thank you for your generosity.

**Pledge Envelopes for 2005:** Please pick them up from the table in the narthex.

### Church History Tidbit

Ellen Doubleday, Historian

The park in Cape Porpoise at the corner of Main Street and Mills Road where the flagpole and lobster trap "tree" are located today was the site of the first church in this town. At that time, the town was called Arundel but it was renamed Kennebunkport in 1821. Although the folks in town were not too keen on paying a minister, an earthquake in 1728 shook the town. This event seemed to stimulate interest in erecting a church. It served the community well until a controversy over location led to the burning of the church by arson in April 1763.

The Evening Group meetings have been set up for the next five months and we would like to invite all the ladies of the church to come to one or all of these meetings. We are extremely informal and we would like to have to join us for any program that is of interest to you. Please note that some of these dates deviate from our usual first Monday of the month meeting. In April and May we will meet on a different Monday night.

- February 7<sup>th</sup> – Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship – 7 p.m. Donna Rooney, Chairman
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Pat Smith from York County Extension "Invasive Plants" – 7 p.m. Debbie Parsons, Judy Emery, Linda Hanna, Co-Chairmen
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Doubleday speaking about the trip she and David took to Iceland - 7 p.m. – Ellen Doubleday, Chairman
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – a visit to Annie Hidell's artist studio – 7 p.m. – Ruth Merriam, Chairman
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Banquet – Heather Chisholm, Chairman

Our February meeting is right around the corner so plan now to attend. Equest is a nationally recognized, accredited, nonprofit program that provides: equine-assisted therapy to individuals with disabilities; training for instructors; educational programs; and research for validating and improving methods. We will hear a representative of the local Equest riding academy speak about therapeutic riding opportunities that challenge disabled riders to achieve their maximum potential and rewards their efforts. This promises to be an exciting and informative program. Won't you please join us?

## Women's Guild

Barbara Milanese

As we enter 2005 we are planning on trying to have another successful year. The ladies did fabulous this year. The Church Fair was so successful for our group. We are so excited we were able to up our pledge to the Church. We will try to do that again.

The ladies worked hard and work so well together. It is a pleasure to work with them.

We treated ourselves to a wonderful lunch at The Silver Tureen before Christmas. Our whole group was able to attend except Betty Anderson who is back in Connecticut.

We are still selling knives throughout the year. Ask myself, Louise Fairfield or Jane Anderson if you need anything or we can order anything you might want.

They do

make good gifts for anytime.

We were so fortunate to be able to obtain the many items we took over to the Alfred Shelter. The Nonantum Resort gave us hundred of towels, washcloths, sheets, blankets, bedspreads and hundreds of amenities.

As I said in Church you had to be there in Alfred to see the people waiting and how happy they were.

The Shelter told me they have never had gift with that volume all washed and folded all ready to be passed out. Our group thanks Ross Anderson and Harry Milanese for the use of their trucks and Bob McLaughlin for his muscle power.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join our group. See any one of us. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30am.

News: Harry Milanese celebrated his 75th birthday in Connecticut with a wonderful surprise party given by our children.

We will be leaving for Mexico January 22nd until March 22. Have a safe and healthy winter,

## BE A BUDDY!

Easter will be early this year! Believe it or not, Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 9 - which means we will be observing Shrove Tuesday on the 8th. As before, we will be featuring the traditional Pancake Supper. Why pancakes? Come to learn the reason. Then we'll play various games to suit all kinds of tastes. (Karen is up for Twister!) and to cap off the evening we'll have our breath-holding annual Ping Pong Tournament. (Secret: Pastor Ruth wants to win the Women's Division this year.)

What will be extra special about this year is that Shrove Tuesday will not only be a Game Night, it will mark our first Buddy Night!

### What's a Buddy Night?

On Sunday, January 30, children and adults alike will get a chance to put their name in a hat- if they would like to have a special buddy at the Church on the Cape. There is hardly any cost involved; in fact, the financial commitment is only the purchase of a single birthday card. There will be no scheduled outings. The purpose of having a buddy is simply to allow the participants to actually get to know each other. Each Sunday, upon arriving at church, buddies will make a point of finding and greeting each other. On Buddy Night, the buddies will pair up and fill out 'Get Acquainted' forms: i.e. How many brothers and sisters do you have? What is your favorite sport? What is your middle name? What would be your idea of a perfect day?, etc., etc. If we have more adults sign up than we have children, (we'll assign on a 'First come, first serve, basis') and we'll save your name for next February when we have another Buddy Night. Sound worthwhile? It is!

With Valentine's Day (Monday, February 14) just around the corner, it's time to start making plans now. And we've got an event scheduled that you will always want to remember. A SQAURE DANCE at Atlantic Hall! We were very fortunate to book our caller: he's Ray Hilton and is known to be a patient teacher. So come, ready to 'Do-Si-Do'. The price of admission is \$5 for adults, and every child (18 years and under) is free. We encourage everyone to join us. This is NOT only for couples, or for families. Each person who comes will get a partner (or partners!). We'll start at 6:00 p.m. and wind up at 8:00 p.m.

June 26 is "Created to Create" Sunday. Last year, as you remember, we featured a marvelous exhibit of paintings from over 14 of our own artists. This year, the theme will be PHOTOGRAPHY. (Annie Hidell has graciously consented to display the work.) So, start clicking.....God has provided us with all the grandeur we can possibly behold.

Last summer, our featured activity was "golf". (Who could forget the "God and Golf" sermon? ) This year, on Sunday, July 17, the featured activity will be "gardening". The accompanying sermon will be preached by an actual gardener - not Pastor Ruth, but her sister, Meg, and then in the afternoon we will take in 'the beauty of the earth' by hosting our own Church on the Cape Garden Tour. (Volunteers willing to share their gardens will be greatly appreciated. What a wonderful incentive to weed!)

## **JUST SO YOU KNOW.....**

### **Congratulations go to the following people**

- Nathalie & Don Lloyd who celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Louise Fairfield who celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 21<sup>st</sup> at a party with family and friends at the Seafood Center
- Pat Bender who had a December 9<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Harriet Eaton who had a December 12<sup>th</sup> birthday

### **We extend our sympathy to**

- The family of Nicole Ames upon the death of daughter Nicole who was just turning 2 years old. Nicole was the granddaughter of Amy Wildes.

### **We ask you to keep the following people in your prayers**

- Beryl and Jerry Samia's daughter, Deanna and her family as she undergoes testing.
- Frank Kember who had surgery in mid December to regulate his heart and has been back in the hospital since to regulate his blood thinners.
- Drusilla Landry who is at home and doing well and has been in church a few times.
- Harrison Seavey and Eleanor
- Bob Stirling who recently had to have a toe removed
- David Sutter who has graduated to a cane and is getting out more and more
- Monica Lyon who is home still recuperating from her second hip replacement
- Marie Campbell who is recovering from face cancer treatments

### **Joys to share and special events**

- Julie and Dick Merriam visited Salzburg, Prague and Vienna the last week of Nov. and had a wonderful time

### **More joys to share and special events**

- Several of our people participated in area Christmas concerts, including Steve Hanna, David Smith, Ted Poland and Adam Baracco. Adam is in the Boy Singers of Maine.
- Our Thanksgiving Eve Community Service offering was \$2,000 for the York County Fuel Assistance program
- Pastor Ruth was presented and enrobed in a bunny head covering by Al Moore in appreciation of her energy (as in energizer bunny) in taking care of our church family when they are ill. She seems to be everywhere all the time.
- The Alternative Christmas Fair brought in \$3,351 for Habitat for Humanity, Partners in Development (Haiti mission), and Camp Sunshine.
- The Angel Tree was a huge success in bringing in the wished for gifts for the children of men and women in prison.
- The donations towards tsunami relief total \$2,992 as of this date with more to come.
- David Smith took not only one dip, but two, in the Atlantic Ocean on New Year's Day. One at Gooch's Beach for Caring Unlimited and one at Old Orchard Beach for Special Olympics.
- The new hymnals, The Faith We Sing, were dedicated on December 14<sup>th</sup> in honor of the birthday of Mary Kraus. These hymnals were funded from a bequest from her estate to Church on the Cape.
- Ruth, Dick and Julie would like to express their thanks for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation.
- Monica Lyon sent a note to be read to the congregation in appreciation of the many cards, calls, meals, visits and other expressions of help and kindness during her long recuperation.
- Nancy and Sherwood Treadwell greatly appreciate all the help they were given during their recent move from Kennebunk Beach to their new condo in Coventry Woods, 45 Plymouth Road Drive, Kennebunk.
  
- There were approximately 40 people at the Saturday morning breakfast at the Kennebunkport Inn on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Pulpit Exchange on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Rusty Davis from Buxton U.M. will be here and Ruth will go to Buxton.
- Remember the Special Charge Conference to be held January 30<sup>th</sup> immediately after church to elect the slate of officers for 2005 for Church on the Cape.
- A big thank you to our Organist/Choir Director, Beryl Samia, for the wonderful music presented by the choirs during the holiday season. Our music ministry continues to be a blessing to us all.



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A United Methodist Church

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Cape Porpoise, ME 04014

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