



The Church on the Cape Newsletter

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January - February, 2009

Church Officers

Pastor

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

Secretary

Religious Ed. Director
Sue Stedman
967-3550

Organist/Choir Director

Beryl Samia
646-3788

Custodian

Joe Fairfield
590-3206

Church Council Chair

Ellen Doubleday
967-4486

Treasurer

Elaine Triplett
967-3051

Financial Secretary

Jim Lennon
967-0408

Finance Cmte. Chair

Al Moulton
967-2616

SPRC

Tom Bradbury
967-5673

Ass't Lay Leader

Roy Bruton
985-2121

Trustees

Dave Chisholm
967-2692

Ministry of Caring

Debbi Lord 967-1295
Debbie Parsons 985-9196

Cargo Shop

Ruth Lovejoy 967-5021
Donna Rooney 282-6791

Women's Fellowship

Susan Baracco
967-0471

Prayer Chain

David Emery 967-1391

Men's Group

Joe Fairfield 967-8862
Rich Parsons 985-9196

Pastor's Letter by Rev. Ruth Merriam



What a beautiful Christmas we had!

November 30 - the first Sunday in Advent. That was the Day of Dedication of the stunningly beautiful "Angel of Hope". It transformed the Carl Bartlett Fellowship Hall into a true sanctuary, and has filled

us with its presence ever since. How can we thank Bill and Annie Hidell enough?

On December 7, we had snow - but that did nothing to dampen the effect of Sally Ewton's and Pastor Bill Gardei's heartwarming performance in "The Landry's Christmas".

In-residence playwright and songwriter, Tom Bradbury took us back to another time and another church at Cape Porpoise: so different, yet so very much the same.

On December 14, the Ice Storm of 2008! The church could offer neither light nor heat...yet even that didn't keep people away. Almost 80 of us worshipped together in the Carl Bartlett Fellowship Hall and both the darkness and the coldness vanished into thin air.

On December 21, another storm - 14 inches! But that didn't seem to stop people from coming to hear the choir's Christmas Cantata - "The Wondrous Story"! And what a beautiful cacophony of sound - proclaiming the momentousness of God's gift. That evening, in the midst of the blizzard, we held a Winter Solstice Walk - A Vigil of Peace in honor

of those we love. Yes, you read that correctly. White and waxed luminary bags, containing sand and candles, lit the way as we walked the labyrinth - right next to the white lit trees of the Treadwell Meditation Garden. Listening to the snow fall while at the same time hearing the roar of the surf was a surreal experience.

Then came Christmas Eve - with beautiful solos, and the sound of violins and a lively and excited cast acting out the Christmas story. At 10:00 pm that night, we observed the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. And the best way for me to describe it is to borrow the words: O Holy Night!

Truly God was with us ('Immanuel') during this special season. And our prayer is that

God was with you and with all those to whom we tried to reach out - through the Holiday Food Box donations, the Angel Tree gifts, the efforts of the Winter Solstice Walk, and the Alternative Christmas Fair. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

And now as we begin a brand new year, I close with some words from a Bob Dylan song!

"Leave your stepping stones behind, something calls for you.... Strike another match. Go start anew..." Have a Blessed New Year. And may the light of Christ guide you along the way!

His...Yours,

Ruth Merriam, Rev.

"Angel of Hope" Stained Glass Window Dedicated

(Sunday, November 30, 2008) An impressive new stained glass window was dedicated in the Carl G. Bartlett Fellowship Hall following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Titled the "Angel of Hope Window", it is an adaptation of an original Tiffany window installed in the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.



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“Angel of Hope” Window continued



Designed by glass artist Susan H. Pratt Smith of Northwood, New Hampshire, the window displays the figure of a woman looking up to Heaven with the Latin word for hope, ‘SPES’, displayed along its side.

The Tiffany style, developed by Louis Tiffany in the late 1800s, used sophisticated glass-firing techniques to create a unique stained glass picture. The new “Angel of Hope Window” is vibrantly beautiful as light passes through the art work.

The window was given to the church by Annie and Bill Hidell and is dedicated to our two pastor emeriti, Sherwood Treadwell and Bill Gardei, and our current pastor, Ruth Merriam.



From the Financial Secretary - Jim Lennon

At its October meeting, your Church Council voted to forward all Thanksgiving Offerings from the Operating Budget to the Kennebunkport Health Office for winter fuel assistance to local residents. Gifts in the amount of \$1,140 were sent in the name of Church on the Cape and have been gratefully acknowledged and received. *(Ed. Note: In addition, the Ministry of Caring donated \$1,500 and the Outreach Committee donated \$2,183.34 to fuel assistance for a total of \$4,823.34.)*

On behalf of the Finance Committee, thanks are extended to all members and friends who chose to support the church's 2009 Operating Budget. We are blessed by each who pledge a dollar amount or offer a pledge "as able".

It is never too late to make a commitment to the financial strength of your church. To date \$137,348.00 has been pledged to the budgeted goal of \$152,000.00. Share in the joy of giving.

Mary Kraus Scholarship Available for 2009 by Jean Moulton

In Memory of Mary, the Ministry of Caring is offering a one year scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 to an active member of our Church Family who is pursuing a career in one of the areas of mental, physical or spiritual health at an accredited institution.

To apply for this scholarship, please send a letter to Mary Kraus Scholarship Committee, c/o Ministry of Caring at the Church on the Cape, giving information regarding where you are attending, what field you are pursuing, and a brief statement as to why you should be considered for this scholarship.

If you have any questions, please call Debbi Lord 967-1295 or Jean Moulton 967-2616. All letters will be held in strict confidence. Deadline for letters of interest is May 1, 2009.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party by Alice Bruton

(Monday, December 8, 2008) Thirty-five women from Church on the Cape met in the Carl G. Bartlett Fellowship Hall for their first annual Women's Fellowship Christmas Party and pot-luck supper. A feast of appetizers, salads, meats, casseroles and desserts was enjoyed by all in the beautiful new hall. Karissa Sharkey provided guitar Christmas music for group singing and Alice Bruton and Susan Baracco presented a short special program to honor some of our women.



Thirteen women were honored by the Women's Fellowship for their dedication and many years of work for the Church on the Cape through their affiliation with the previous Women's Guild and Evening Group. Alice thanked the women for their many, many years of service and for the continuing women's ministry at the Church on the Cape. Each honoree was called by name and if present, asked to say a few words about a favorite memory from their history with the women's groups. Alice read a poem appropriate to the occasion about Friendship and emphasized how important the friendships of the women have been over the years. Not only did the women enable many projects around the church but they enabled each other and shared in joys and in sorrows over the years. These women are special and their dedication to the Church on the Cape is awesome.



Those present who were honored with a small gift and a Christmas plant were: Caroline Lush, Joyce Hutchins, Prudence Wills, Lillian Bartlett, Barbara Milanese, Virginia Bradbury, and Harriett Eaton.

Also remembered, but unable to be present, were Marie Campbell, Ruth Wright, Druscilla Landry, Betty Anderson, Beryl Bilderback and Louise Nelson.

This was a special evening of food, fellowship, music, remembering and a celebration of the season, the birth of our Saviour – the babe in the manger – Jesus the Christ.

New Members Join the Church in November, 2008 by Jean Moulton

Mary Ann Becker moved back to Kennebunkport from Florida in 2007. She and her family had previously owned property at Goose Rocks Beach and were neighbors of the Dombrowskis and she has always loved this area. Shortly after she moved back Scott & Karen invited her to church and it was one of the best invitations she has ever received. Her son is also back with her.

Gabidson and Erin Lee Boisrond were recently married at the Church on the Cape. Gadidson is from Haiti and came here early this fall. Erin has been in the Cape Porpoise area for awhile. She is a special education teacher and enjoys her work very much. They are both involved in Partners In Development.

Beth Doty was born and raised in Saskatchewan, Canada. She graduated from nursing school and moved to CO and became a US citizen. During her nursing career she also served an 8 year tour of duty with The Air Force Nurse Corp. In



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New Members continued

1987 she began a second career as a Reg Investment Rep and retired in 2007. She loves the sea and has been in Kennebunkport for 25 yrs. Beth is also a hospice volunteer at SMMC.

Isabel Fitzgerald Dumas has been coming to church for about ten years when she began church shopping with Tyler. She has three children Tyler, Leah and Sydney. The children are active in choir and church school. She enjoys teaching and being with the children. The family moved here from VA in 1991. As a family they enjoy the great outdoors.

Caroline Fitzgerald moved here in 1991 from Virginia. She runs "Get Out There Fitness" program which exercises on the beach in Kennebunk. She is an avid outdoor person and enjoys all exercise and fitness activities.

Ralph and Louise Hurlbutt moved here from Philadelphia. They enjoy travel quite a bit. Ralph was involved in international banking for many years so they have had many opportunities to visit great places. They have a shop in Lower Village and Louise has been in the Interior Design business for quite some time.

Helen Sargent and Dick Lindholm join our "snowbird crowd" Helen and Dick were recently married after reuniting after the death of their previous spouses. They knew each other as children in Wellesley and even went to their Senior Prom together. Dick would be glad to share the picture with you.

Laurel Wiley and Brian Strack were married in the church in December. Laurel came here to visit her family and met Brian and the rest is history. Brian has two children, Anna and Joshua. Brian is involved with the Fire Dept and KEMS.

Ed. Note: More pictures of our new members are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule. In 2008, 31 new members joined our church - a record year.



News from our Sunday School by Sue Stedman

The church family all enjoyed another memorable performance from our children on Christmas Eve afternoon. It was a time filled with love, laughter and music as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.



As we enter the new year, our Sunday School and Nursery classes continue to be places where learning and laughter are always taking place. Our children continue with their enthusiasm to learn all that is

put in their path.

We have started a new learning unit – "Easter, Peter's Story". The children are learning about Peter and how he told Jesus that "I will feed your sheep." The children decided that they would also like to help Jesus feed His sheep. From now until Easter the children will be collecting money to help the Food Pantry during the Holiday. They have put large decorated boxes in the Entryway, the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. Our goal is to collect as much as we can before Easter so that the children can go shopping and help to purchase foods that can be used during the Easter Holiday. We thank everyone in advance for their support!

Enjoy more photos on page 5.

Just So You Know... by Susan Baracco

Our sympathy to....

Cynthia Doolittle in the loss of her mother
The Bennett family
Bob McLaughlin in the loss of his brother

Continued prayers are requested for...

Jim Docherty as he recovers from surgery
Liz Hand who is home and recovering
Deb Lord who is healing from cataract surgery
Heather Chisholm who was hospitalized
Arnold Whitehouse who was hospitalized
Linn & Bob Harris for a safe and successful permanent relocation to Tennessee
Bill Gardei as he recovers from surgery

Congratulations to...

November birthdays:
Annie Hidell
Kerri Lovejoy
December birthdays:
Harry Milanese
Rich Parsons

January birthdays:
Leah Dumas who turned 10

Congratulations...

to our brave members who took the New Year's Day Plunge at Kennebunk Beach:
Isabel Dumas & Leah Dumas
Caroline Fitzgerald
David Smith

Visitors to our church in November & December were from:

East Hartford, CT
Georgia
Vermont
Kennebunk, Wells - ME
Rhode Island
Boston, Hampden - MA
Northwood, NH
Ghana, Africa

Please keep us up-to-date on happenings in our church family. Contact me at 967-0471.

Remembering the Christmas Pageant



Nine Week Alpha Course on Christian Faith to Begin in February by Mimi Mills

What if a friend invited you to a gathering of other friends to talk about the meaning of life? What if you shared a meal and could talk about questions of faith and life and God that impressed or challenged you most? Does it sound interesting?

In some manner most of us are asking “what makes life meaningful?” We want to share goodness and offer something of value to the world. The good news is that all of this and more can be explored in a comfortable and low-key manner within the company of friends. Every Monday night in February and March from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (except the 16th of February and March when time will be 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.) friends can meet in the parlor over food and conversation at the Church on the Cape. You will explore questions and share experiences that will inspire and enhance your understanding of God and what God has to offer you in your life.



Mimi Mills will guide this discussion using Alpha, a widely used and wonderfully successful program that was created in England in 1977 (revised in 1997) and more than 500,000 participate world-wide each year.

What makes Alpha so successful?

The answer is clear - fellowship, people feel as if they are heard and the materials and discussions address the questions that are most important to them. Alpha is designed for friends and fellowship. It is for people who are already committed to faith and those that are interested in the questions of faith. In a relaxed atmosphere people can come together to explore their questions of faith and find answers, to offer their opinion and engage in thoughtful discussions like “Who is Jesus?” and “Why and how should I pray?” Every person’s questions are important and conversations will be shared and guided in an open and thoughtful manner.

Alpha will be a nine-week gathering centered on the Christian faith. Everyone is welcomed! Participants will gather for a potluck meal and then a video topic will be presented. The videos focus on questions such as “How can I be sure of my faith?” and “How does God guide us?” and “How can I make the most of the rest of my life?” After the video the group engages in a discussion specific to the topic and is guided by the group leader.

The course is free! And feel free to attend the first gathering on February 2, 2009 to see if this type of course is something you would enjoy. Alpha will be held weekly. You are invited to attend all or some of the gatherings. If you miss a session, return easily the following week as the discussion continues. There is no obligation and you are welcomed!

To register for Alpha, contact Sue Stedman at 985-5787. If you have questions about Alpha, contact Mimi Mills at 286-2892.



SPRC Requests Feedback on the Possibility of Two Services

If the Church on the Cape were to go to two year-round Sunday Services, with a simplified service at 8:00 a.m. and the traditional service at 10:00 a.m., which would you most likely attend?

___ I would most likely attend the 8:00 a.m. service.

___ I would most likely attend the 10:00 a.m. service.

Please cut out and leave this form along your comments in the church office.

2009 Music Notes by Beryl Samia, Organist and Choir Director

New England Brass Band Returns March 22 - 4:00 p.m.



Some of you will remember the NE Brass Band coming to South Church last spring.....it was an awesome concert!!! Once again, we are co-sponsoring the NEBB in March. Once again, the event will be held at South Church in the Port, and once again, you are in for a real treat!! Be looking for the posters and talk to your friends. This is a free-will offering event, so the church should be full!

There are some other dates in 2009, of church-wide importance that people might want to get on their calendars.

August 7 - 7:00 p.m.

Organist Fred Swann will be in concert at our church. Fred is internationally known and is one of the top ranked organists of our time.

August 8 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A day of seminars for organists, choral directors and choir members will be held at our church. This will be led by staff from Fuller Theological Seminary Music division (The Fred Bock Music Center), and in addition Fred Swann, Mark Thallander and Eric Knapp will be holding a workshop during the day.

August 9 - 7:00 p.m.

An organ/choral festival will be held at our church. Some of you will recall last summer's extravaganza. This is something you won't want to miss. This will feature combined choirs from the area, Mark Thallander, Eric Knapp, Fred Swann and Robert Hebble, who is a composer/organist. Mr. Hebble is a renowned figure in the music world.

We are so very excited about this weekend in August. It is our desire to see the building "buzzing" all weekend.

Prelude Weekend, Saturday, December 5 - 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

We will once again have the Living Nativity here at the Church on the Cape. Live Nativity on the front lawn; three hours of music in the sanctuary, given by the choirs of the church as well as other musical artists; refreshments in Bartlett Hall.

This makes for a busy year, and the year has just begun. I hope you are all able to take advantage of the fantastic musical opportunities we are offering. You won't be disappointed!!

A Helping Hand

The current economic situation is a challenge to all of us. As part of our Christian responsibility, the church community consistently steps forward through our various committees to offer a helping hand to those in need.

A new effort to support our members and friends will now be organized through the church office.

If you know of a job opening, if you need someone to do odd jobs or if you are looking for employment, email Sue Stedman at the church office - office@churchonthecape.org and she will send the information out using the all church email list. Sue will coordinate the effort and keep the names confidential.

Thank You....

Jim and I would like to thank everyone for their concerns, prayers, e-mails and cards which we received during the past two months. We feel fortunate to be part of such a caring group.

Thanks again- your concerns mean a lot to us both.

Beryl Docherty

Bob and I would like to thank the Ministry of Caring and the entire church for praying for Charles McLaughlin and their family during the 11 weeks that Charles was hospitalized and upon his death.

It meant so much.

Elaine Triplett and Bob McLaughlin.

The Church on the Cape
A United Methodist Church
3 Langsford Road
P.O. Box 7663
Cape Porpoise, Maine 04014

Return Service Requested

First Class
Stamp

"WITH OUR GREETING, KNOW YOU WILL NO LONGER BE A STRANGER,
BUT WILL LEAVE THIS HOUSE AS A FRIEND." - WRITTEN BY A PARISIONER