



Church on the Cape Newsletter

September 2023



welcome
to our church family

Church on the Cape United Methodist Church in Cape Porpoise, Maine, welcomes Paul N. Stephan as the Music Director, organist, and pianist. The inaugural service is this Sunday, September 3, at 10:00 a.m., following the Hymn Sing at 9:45.

Paul was Minister of Music at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City for fifteen years, where he was a choir conductor and piano/organ accompanist. Paul managed and directed weekly and special event music programs, including program content and rehearsals, and created virtual choir videos for streaming services during the Covid pandemic. He also developed music outreach programs.

Paul has also served as director of music ministries at Church on the Village (formerly Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church), also in New York, and also choirmaster and organist for The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Paul has taught voice, piano, composition, and organ. He is the recipient of the Bristol Award for his show, "Three Tenors in Search of an Act." Paul is a graduate of Ithica College and the University of Utah.

Please join us for Worship and to Welcome Paul.

Disciple Bible Studies Now Disciple Fast Tract

Since 1987, DISCIPLE Bible Studies has reached millions of people worldwide, introducing the grand sweep of Scripture in a thirty-four-week format. Now, DISCIPLE FAST TRACK maintains the integrity and principles of the original study, but can better meet the needs of a hectic world. Participants still receive a thorough introduction to the Bible but in almost a third less time. FAST TRACK is not a replacement for the original; it is simply a practical option.

HOW IT WORKS

The course uses much of the same content from the original DISCIPLE Studies Manual, but the class time and course length have been adjusted for busy lifestyles.

FIRST-HAND TESTIMONY FOR DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES, WHICH IS WELL WORTH READING:

I knew more than most things that I wanted to be a Disciple. I wanted my heart to be better prepared. I wanted my hands to be busy doing something meaningful. I wanted my spirit to be resilient enough not to give up so easily. I wanted to know more. I wanted to do more. I was then ready for my heart to be changed. I looked for a mentor. Someone who radiated "Disciple." It did not take long, as I was fortunate to be surrounded by a church full of those who clearly knew their own discipleship. I asked everyone the one question: What changed your heart and deepened your faith in Christ the most? The answer was always the same. They engaged in the study called "Becoming a Disciple Through Bible Study."

LESSONS LEARNED

I signed up with hesitation because I knew the course was long and, at times, arduous. What I hadn't been able to predict was the payoff. Through the chapters of the study, I began to see the consistency of the loving Father of the New Testament, with whom I was quite familiar, was the same loving Father in the Old Testament. The chapters were sometimes long, and I didn't always understand or even like the material. I found some concepts challenging. The videos helped tremendously, but what made the biggest difference in my understanding was when the other group members showed their curiosity and sometimes their outright

confusion as we worked on some passage or topic together. This was what I considered to be my first lesson in Discipleship. It was through the figurative and sometimes literal gnashing of teeth, we grew together. I learned that by all appearances, we thought we would not be able to relate to one another, but we quickly learned that when we spend a lot of time with someone, we often discover that we have much more in common with each other than differences. This was my second lesson in Discipleship. There were many other lessons we all learned together, and almost the entire group has now completed the four Cokesbury Discipleship Studies. We were mostly able to stay together, all 12 of us.

MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS

Because of our time together, we all have reached a consensus and have joyfully discovered that our faith and trust in God have deepened. Our relationships with each other and those around us are more loving. Our understanding of Scripture has increased. We are more alert to the call of the Holy Spirit. We learned, too, that we cannot meet every need. We are, however, prepared to look beyond what is immediately available to us, and do what we can in response in a meaningful way. We have discovered we are "on the road to the New Jerusalem, in the company of saints." Our hearts were changed together. In our group, there is no secret handshake; we simply celebrate the love of Christ, and we call one another Disciple.

Disciple, Jennifer Murray

"I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God, which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I would be pleased to further share my experience with Disciple Bible Studies with you. More information can also be found at cokesbury.com under Disciple Bible Studies

September Lectionary

September 3, Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (UMH 828)
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Title - **Where Two or Three Are Gathered**

September 10, Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost, Grandparents' Day

- Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
- Psalm 149 (UMH 861)
- Romans 13-: 8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon Title - **Exodus-The Journey Begins**

September 17, Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Exodus 12:1-14
- Exodus 15: 1-11
- Romans 14: 1-12
- Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon Title - **Catching Up on Exodus**

September 24- Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

- Exodus 16:2-35
- Psalm 105: 1-6
- Philippians 1:21-30
- Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon Title - **What Has the Master Given?**

A decorative border of green leaves and branches surrounds the central text area. A single white feather is positioned at the top center, above the title.

Thank You for Your Generosity

The Feeding: Matthew 14:13-21

Both the Old and New Testaments are full of feeding or bread stories – stories that tell of God’s providing for the people. Today’s feeding of the 5,000 occurs in all four gospels signaling that it is an important story in the early church. Each version has its own information and beauty to be shared. In the Gospel of John, one of the disciples says that there is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish. “But what are they among so many?” he asked.

Would the story have been different if the boy had not shared? Think of the stories you know where the outcome is determined by stinginess or generosity. If you argue that the feeding of the 5,000 is a miracle story, and therefore, Jesus does not need the boy or the loaves and fish in order to feed the crowd, what does the story mean to us? The issue with miracles is that they enable us to look at God’s responsibility and not our own. Jesus calls us back to our job. When the disciples suggest that Jesus send the people away to get something to eat, Jesus says, You, give them something.

God feeds the people when we support Bon Appetite and serve at their soup kitchen. God feeds the people when we pay our mission shares/apportionments. God feeds the people when we give to UMCOR and when we have our Alternative Christmas Fair that helps over a dozen agencies in our three communities. We are a generous church. Thank you for all you do and give. Keep up the work.

Rev. Sammie



CHURCH NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

On September 3 and 10, we will be receiving new persons into the church membership. The pastor will be calling several of you who have been long-time attendees but never joined. The next couple of Sundays, we will be talking about Jesus' founding of the church in the Gospel of Matthew and today's reasons for joining. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call Sammie.

ROLL RECORDS UPDATE

We are continuing to update our rolls. Please call the office with any changes to your contact info.

UMCOR UPDATE

Thank you all! Last Sunday, thanks to you, the church took in \$400.00 for the Fire Victims in Hawaii, plus a generous individual has pledged \$5000.00 for this need. Also, this week, several checks have come in for UMCOR for our neighbors in Vermont. When thinking of contributing to a worthy cause, remember that with UMCOR, 100% of your gift goes to the project's need. Any donations today should go in the UMCOR envelope. Thank you again for your continued support.

CARGO SHOP MEETING

Wednesday, August 30th at 9:30 a.m. for all who are currently serving or are interested in learning more about working in the Cargo Shop.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Please sign up as a volunteer to host Coffee Fellowship time after worship. We are having "Left Overs" today. We may have to hold it monthly if people do not volunteer. Feel free to keep it simple with a couple of choices: juice and coffee. Everyone is invited; bring something if you can.

POTLUCK

On **September 10**, there will be a potluck following Worship sponsored by the Education Committee. There will be a brief announcement about the new Bible study class being offered on Tuesdays following the picnic lunch meal at **11:30**. Please sign up in order to receive the study manual.

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

New England Annual Conference Study on the United Methodist Church

There is a new study available on iPad or computer for those thinking about becoming a new member or those who just want to know more. The series is about how the United Methodist Church became a denomination, where we are now, and our hopes for the future. You can find the study on the New England Conference website at <https://www.neumc.org/>, and click on "Summer Study."

We Celebrate Nancy Chamberlin's Music Ministry

For well over a year, 15 months to be exact, Nancy Chamberlin has been quietly and creatively guiding the voice choir and Song Sisters as the search for a new Music Director was underway. Nancy's life of experience teaching music around the world, informs her in a gentle and welcoming way. Never a crossword, even when her best-laid plans hit a snag. When she senses a singer's frustration, asking, "How are you doing today?" she recalls the answer from her student in Liberia: "I try." Nancy reminds us that in trying, we are honoring the Creator and the gift of singing we've been given.

Worship on August 13 was a lifting up of the tender messages we received from certain popular standards and show tunes. Spiritual Meaning to Secular Songs was what our all-music service was called. It was Nancy's inspiration which took shape over several months with input from all the choir members.

Nancy is busy preparing the Director's office for Paul N. Stephan, the new music director, organist, and pianist who will debut September 3rd, after joining the staff September first. Church on the Cape is indebted to Nancy for the many hours she has given to the music program here.

Story by Susie Goodwin

Photos taken that morning show Nancy receiving a thank-you bouquet of roses from Pastor Sammie and Administrative Assistant Jen Murray, and on the following page, a special cake celebration with the choir.



Members Of The Choir Are Celebrated With A Special Cake In Coffee Hour:



Front Row: Liz Phillips, Susie Goodwin, Amy Hall, Debbie Parsons, kneeling in front is Amy's daughter and guest vocalist Leah Hall, Debora Berry, Nonie Freeman, Faye Kerr, Ellen Conway, Helen Farnsworth, and Nancy with roses. Back row: David Smith, Marshall Chamberlin, Rich Parsons, Ann Hand, Marilyn Crocker, Sharon Miesel, and Ginny Hammar.

Photo by Jen Murray



Thank you, Choir

For the beautiful music on Sunday mornings,
For your dedication in attending rehearsals,
For inspiring us to lift our hearts,
minds and voices in singing praises
to our Lord,

Choir, we thank you!

Source: Newsletternewsletter

THE BELL TOLLS FOR US BY BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

English poet John Donne (1572-1631) penned these words that ring with truth today:

Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know for
Whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

Another hate crime, the murder of three African Americans at the hands of a white supremacist armed with an AR 15 semi-automatic weapon, happened on Saturday in Jacksonville, Florida.

Public outcry seems to be a whimper. We are becoming so used to our culture of violence and hatred that it barely makes the news anymore. I can only reflect on how much more solidarity we need as a nation so that when our own people are murdered our collective voices rise loudly in unison to decry the horror.

I call all of us to remember these constant shootings are personal. These are crimes against humanity, and that is us. The slain are your siblings, your neighbors, your beloved.

During World War II as the Nazis were invading Europe and murdering and incarcerating Jews, the American public, for the most part, ignored the Holocaust. The United States turned back a ship full of Jewish people who were trying to escape death.

Denmark was different; the Danes stood in solidarity and the Jewish people were protected in a national rescue effort. They smuggled 7,000 Jews to safety in Sweden; another 500 who were deported by the Nazis were sent to a ghetto in Bohemia where the Danes continued to protect and advocate for them.

Why did they do this? They saw their Jewish citizens as their people, their family. We need more of this in our country.

It was 60 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., before a crowd of 250,000 people.

There was an event in Washington this past Saturday commemorating this, the most important racial justice demonstration in U.S. history.

Yolanda King, Dr. King's 15-year-old granddaughter, spoke:

"Today, racism is still with us. Poverty is still with us. And now gun violence has come for our places of worship, our schools and our shopping centers."

The beloved community that we claim to be as Christians needs to speak out (and advocate and legislate) when any member of our human family is being oppressed and murdered.

Let us grieve the death of each one. It is our own.

Let us individually check our souls for racism and implicit bias.

Let us collectively own the racist history of this country and name freely that "liberty and justice for all" is still a long way off.

Until everyone is free, none of us is truly free.

The bell tolls for all of us.

To: Church on the Cape Board Council, August 21, 2023

Subject: Education Committee Report

The Education Committee met on August 15 to review and discuss the results of the responses from the survey presented to the congregation concerning the desire for additional Christian education in our church. The results were tabulated to show strong interest in a Bible Study of the Old and New Testament, a book study group, and a DVD discussion group for several DVDs

Pastor Sammie shared two texts, one each for the Old Testament and the New Testament, which she and Russ would teach/facilitate. Each volume covers 12 sections with homework and an outline for discussions. We propose to give each section two weeks of preparation (although it only requires about 3 hours of homework per section). The title of the text is Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study.

We request financial support from the council for the cost of \$15.00 for each text beginning with the Old Testament for up to 12 participants. We hope to follow with the New Testament after this study is complete.

We will begin with a potluck lunch after church on September 10 to share our findings and recommendations with the congregation and allow discussion and a question-and-answer time. We hope to have firm commitments from participants after that date. We will schedule a starting time once the plans are complete and the texts are available.

We will continue to pursue providing a time for the book study group and DVD movie night discussion once this study is underway.

ADDITION FROM SUE ELLERY:

My hope is to have the church order "The Whole People of God" curriculum. I used to be able to order the notebook with everything in it, but now we must register online and pay a license fee. We can then download what we need every week and print it out. "The Whole People of God" is lectionary-based and is set up for all ages (3-teenage). I have used this curriculum in several churches and love it. This year's Sept. 2022-August 2023 costs \$172. They have not posted the 2023-2024 curriculum yet, but I assume that will happen within the next week. Most Sunday Schools begin in September. We are a bit earlier. I will notify the office when the new year is offered.

I am very excited about the upcoming year. I need to tell you that I got six volunteers to be with me in the classrooms while I roamed around with my clipboard after church this past Sunday. I would love one more volunteer to be a backup in case the volunteer for a particular Sunday cannot attend.

Thank you for your support,
Committee Members:

Armit Pak, Deborah Berry, Bruce Donath, Judy Cadieux, Judy Tripp, Sammie Maxwell, and Sue Ellery

Fun, Fund Raiser Cargo Shop Summer Sale

The Cargo Shop summer sale was a fun experience (as you can tell by the expressions on some of the workers' faces in the pictures), and it was also a success from a financial point of view. Counting the income from Saturday and Sunday after worship, the total raised was \$2,908, and after an anonymous donation of \$1,000, \$3,908.

Thank you to all those who baked, made Jams, and worked at the fair. Oh, yes, -and for all those who shopped at the Christmas Fair!





Photos by Marge Smith

"BAKE IT AND THEY WILL BUY..."

We had a beautiful day for our Summer Cargo Fair Bake Sale with upbeat sellers and buyers! A big thank you to all our loyal bakers who made such a fabulous variety of goodies.

Our Christmas Fair will be Prelude Saturday, Dec. 2nd. The bake sale on that day will offer tins of holiday cookies, other homemade cakes, breads, fudge, jams, jellies, and pickles.

Please drop off your cookie tins at the church any time (jam jars are also welcome)! A big thank you from,

Joan Lennon and Debbie Parsons



**A Special Thank You to our Godspell Guests,
Sandy Fisher and accompanying Sacred Dancers,
for Worship Service performances on August 20**

The Hackmatack Farm Playhouse performers sang "Day by Day" and "It's All for the Best" from the musical Godspell. They were terrific! And we are incredibly grateful to music director and pianist Emily Zentist.

According to Wikipedia, Godspell, a musical composed by Stephen Schwartz, is arranged as a series of parables, primarily based on the Gospel of Matthew, interspersed with music mostly set to lyrics from traditional hymns.

Guest Performers noted in the photo below, from left to right, are Michael Robert Krebs, Emily Zentist, Emma Joanis, Izzy Grignon, Zachary Poore, KeYana Reid, and Jason Randlett



Photo by Bruce Donath

Continued on the next page:

Spiritual Dance

We are grateful for the return of Sandy Fisher, who once again led us in spiritual dance with Susie Goodwin as soloist for "Here I Am, Lord." Accompanying spiritual dancers were Amit Pak, Debora Berry, and Jen Murray



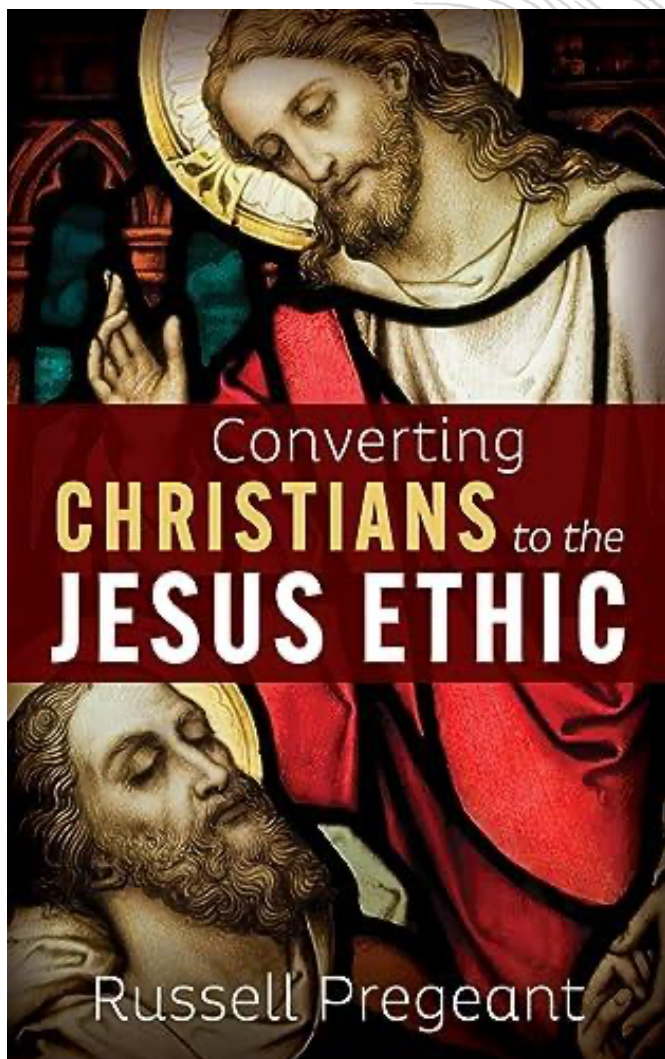
Photo by
Bruce
Donath

Thank You, Sunday School Helpers

Rally Day was Sunday, August 20th, and the first day of Sunday School. The teacher, Pastor Sue Ellery, knew she would need at least six helpers to be with her in the classrooms. Each one would serve once every six weeks. So, on August 13th, she brought her clipboard to coffee fellowship to recruit helpers. And six volunteered and became Pastor Sue's classroom helpers.

Pastor Sue would like to celebrate those wonderful people who enthusiastically volunteered. Many thanks to Amit Pak, Susan Hathorne, Rev. Sharon Miesel, Mary Parker, Marilyn Crocker, and Jane Smith. Pastor Sue was delighted, and our children will be blessed for sure!

Article by Sue Ellery



Book Cover and Back Cover Text For Russ' New Book

Converting Christians to the Jesus Ethic

Most Christians believe that their views on social and political issues are biblically based. But are they really? Sometimes, Pregeant suggests, an exclusive emphasis on Jesus' death and resurrection crowds out the role of Jesus as teacher and example. This obscures the way in which authentic Christian faith cuts against the grain of many of our contemporary cultural values. The result is that some Christians unknowingly allow those secular values to undermine the potential of the gospel to challenge the injustices in our economic system and other aspects of our lives together. The author therefore invites the reader to an in-depth encounter with Jesus' ethical teachings and related biblical materials as a way of recovering that dimension of Christian discipleship. And the irony is this: some readers might find that even though they think of themselves as countercultural, they are in some ways quite captive to values that are actually counterbiblical. There is, however, a remedy for this--conversion of Christians to the Jesus ethic!



John Wesley, Sermon 48 On Self-Denial

The August Newsletter summarized the forgiveness of sin (Sermon 8, "The First Fruits of the Spirit") by John Wesley and closed with God's promise of forgiveness even after repeated sins. While faithful to the sermon's subject, the sermon might have left the impression that one can continue to sin by leaning on God's mercy and repeating belief in God once more.

In Sermon 8 on the forgiveness of sin, for example, Wesley wrote: "At whatsoever time thou truly believest in the name of the Son of God, all thy sins, antecedent to that hour, vanish away as the morning dew. Now then, stand thou fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made thee free. He hath once more made thee free from the power of sin, as well as from the guilt and punishment of it."

In Sermon 86 on "A Call to Backsliders," Wesley nonetheless cautions: "But let not any man infer from this longsuffering of God that he hath given anyone a license to sin. Neither let any dare to continue in sin because of these extraordinary instances of divine mercy. This is the most desperate, the most irrational presumption and leads to utter, irrecoverable destruction. ... To turn the grace of God into an encouragement to sin is the sure way to ... hell."

SERMON 48 EXCERPTS ON SELF-DENIAL AND TAKING UP OUR CROSS

Turning to Sermon 48 on "Self Denial," The denying ourselves and the taking up our cross, in the full extent of the expression, is not a thing of small concern. It is not expedient only ... but it is absolutely indispensably necessary, either to our becoming or continuing as his disciples. It is absolutely necessary, in the very nature of the thing, to our coming after Him and following Him, insomuch that as far as we do not practice it, we are not his disciples. If we do not continually deny ourselves, we do not learn of Him but of other masters. If we do not take up our cross daily, we do not come after Him, but after the world, or the prince of the world, or our own fleshly mind. If we are not walking in the way of the cross, we are not following Him; we are not treading in his steps; but going back from, or a least wide of Him."

"In order to supply this defect in some degree, I shall endeavor to show, First, what it is for a man to deny himself and to take up his cross; and secondly, that if a man is not fully Christ's disciple, it is always owing to the want of this."

SELF DENIAL

[Self-denial is] "refusing to follow our own will, from a conviction that the will of God is the only rule of action to us. And we see the reason thereof because we are creatures; because it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves."

"To illustrate this ... The will of God is a path leading straight to God. The will of man, which once ran parallel with it, is now on another path [inbred sin from Adam] – not only different from it but, in our present state, directly contrary to it. It leads from God. If we walk in one, we must necessarily quit the other. We cannot walk in both. He must choose one or the other: denying God's will to follow his own or denying himself to follow the will of God."

TAKING UP OUR CROSS

"And every one that would follow Christ, that would be his real disciple, must not only deny himself but take up his cross also. A cross is anything contrary to our will, anything displeasing to our nature. So that taking up our cross goes a little further than denying ourselves; it rises a little higher and is a more difficult task to flesh and blood."

"We see plainly then both the nature and ground of taking up our cross. It does not imply disciplining ourselves ... that would impair our bodily health.... [It is] embracing the will of God [when] contrary to our own." [It is the recognition of a higher God-given will – and adhering to His will instead of our own, or being as much like Jesus as one can.]

BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST REQUIRES SELF-DENIAL AND TAKING UP ONE'S CROSS

"It manifestly follows that it is always owing to the want either of self-denial or taking up his cross that a man does not thoroughly follow his Lord, that he is not fully a disciple of Christ."

CONCLUSION

"And he said to them all if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9-23) See that you apply this, every one of you, to your own soul. Meditate upon it when you are in secret: Ponder it in your heart! Take care not only to understand it thoroughly but to remember it to your life's end! Cry unto the Strong for strength, that you may no sooner understand than enter upon the practice of it. Delay not the time, but practise it immediately, from this very hour! Practise it universally on every one of the thousand occasions which will occur in all circumstances of life! Practise it daily, without intermission, from the hour you first set your hand to the plow, and enduring therein to the end, till your spirit returns to God!"

Article by Charlie Benore



Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes, confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

The Church on the Cape
3 Langsford Road
PO Box 2740
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Church Phone: 207-967-5787
Email address: office@churchonthecape.org
Website: www.churchonthecape.org
Pastor: Reverend Sammie Maxwell
Email Address: scmpreach@windstream.net