Who do you say I am?

This question can grab us by tender hooks in our image conscious society. Whether we want to participate or not, we are often and slyly caught up in the vicious cycle of wearing or not wearing a certain style or label, driving or not driving a certain car, living or not living in a certain neighborhood, doing or not doing particular activities. Why are these things important to us? While we might rationalize that a certain brand name or activity is better in some way, if we were to be honest with ourselves our real impetus is our need to fit in or appear to have the qualities that this label or that vehicle claims to impart.

But then again who doesn’t want to fit in? Even those who claim to be anti-establishment have their own codes of conduct and dress that creates a commonality in their uniqueness. Anyone who has had to shop for back to school clothes and supplies is painfully aware of the innate need to fit in and the abject fear of being excluded.

So the question becomes who decides? Do we allow the outside images of us determine who we are or do we define ourselves differently? If we call ourselves Christians, we are held to an unworldly standard. Jesus’ message to his disciples of old and his disciples today is that we are Christians not because of what culture determines is of value, but what God values.

As Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Perhaps the better question is: Who do I say I am?

If I say I am a Christian then I am someone who:

• truly accepts and welcomes every person
• acts out my concern for the welfare of others
• expresses my love and gratitude to Christ daily

(continued on next page >)
A MESSAGE FROM REV. JANET

continued from previous page

• asks Christ for guidance in all my decisions
• listens for Christ’s will and acts on it instead of and before my own plans and will
• gives regular worship attendance primacy in my schedule and life
• reads and studies my Bible regularly
• models the importance of prayer in all situations
• teaches children about their rich Christian heritage and faith
• regularly and actively participates physically, emotionally and fiscally in a church community

And while all of us fall short of perfection, if you find yourself equivocating about more of these statements than not; perhaps it is time to reassess your personal commitment to Christ.

Jesus asked his disciples, that same question, “Who do you say I am?” not for his own security and edification but to evaluate the spiritual maturity of his followers. It was and still is the single most important question He could ask. For our honest answer to that simple direct question determines how we will approach the world and everyone and everything in it.

If we believe and accept:
• that Jesus is the Christ, our Lord and Savior who is Emmanuel, “God with us”
• that nothing can separate us from God’s love and forgiveness except our own refusal to follow.
• Christ’s call to “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Then we will have no problem living out the prior list of Christian characteristics. Not because we should but because we can’t help ourselves after experiencing Christ’s steadfast love and presence in our daily life.

If you don’t know the joy of that kind of intimate relationship with Christ, fear not. It is a wonderful opportunity to “Fall into Faith” this September. Check out the worship and adult study opportunities that appear throughout this month’s newsletter and choose one in which to participate.

Even one single committed act has the power to free us from the tyrannical clutches of culture and send us dancing into the heart of God. Give it a try, make a plan, and do it today.

For even while the hours of daylight are rapidly waning, we can hold fast to Jesus who promised, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” — John 8:12

See you in church,

Rev. Janet
Cabinet News

The Cabinet held a Retreat at St. David’s Church on Tuesday August 9th, for the purpose of discussing the book *The Second Resurrection*, by Bill Easum. This book was read by many in the congregation, and it was suggested that the Cabinet discuss it, in order to better understand how to inspire greater participation by the members of the church. The fact that only three members of the Cabinet showed up, spoke volumes about the situation of our church. On the heels of this disappointment it was necessary to call off the Vacation Bible Camp, because there were not enough volunteers who were able to properly prepare for such a big event.

Reverend Janet has been working hard to plug the holes for a long time, and has realized that this cannot continue. As the Spiritual Leader of our church, she should not be vacuuming carpets, moving furniture, or performing myriad other tasks that should be performed by volunteers.

When Janet was offered the position of Senior Pastor, she was assured that the church would take over leading Christian Education, Vacation Bible Camp, and teaching Church School. Initially, there was a core of people who volunteered to meet the needs, but they very quickly got burned out, and are now reluctant to volunteer for fear of being overwhelmed, again. I know that there is concern about not having children in church, and not having any Church School. The call had gone out for weeks, for someone to fill the position of Leader of Christian Education, and since no one is willing to take on this job, it demonstrates that our talk about the children being our future, is only talk...there is no action to try to change the situation.

September brings the start of choir and handbells. We are looking for people willing to help resurrect our Church School program, by having weekly multigenerational programs for the children. At this time Denise Butler and I have volunteered to be teachers, and would like to have four or five other teachers, so that we might rotate, making it a manageable commitment. If no others volunteer to help with this effort, it too, will be abandoned.

I have faith in our church and its members, and I am praying that the Holy Spirit will speak to all of our hearts, as we start a new church season.

Yours in Christ,

*Beverly Heald*, Cabinet Chair
985-7096, bheald08@roadrunner.com

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**Volunteers Needed**

Office help needed — can you lend a hand?

Our secretary, Jane King, is scheduled for surgery in mid-September. While she is out of the office, we’ll need volunteers to answer the phone and help with bulletins, etc. If you can come in for even one 2-hour shift, that would be very helpful. There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall to cover her absence, starting Sept. 19, for about 4 weeks.
News from the Christ Church Conservation Corps.

Many thanks to Connie Belyea, Marcia Carter, Rhoda Fredericks and Rita Mae Manchester for watering the flowers and keeping them looking beautiful through those hot days of summer.

A fall work day will be held in late September or early October (date not set at this time) and we will do some basic yard prep for the coming winter. All are welcome to join in.

The “hens and chickens” planted in the back, near the brown-eyed Susans, have done very well and if anyone has any extra that they might be thinning out of their garden, we would love to add some more.

Thank you for your contributions to the Urn Fund and the CCCC which make the flowers and other projects possible.
Christ Church’s Informal Wednesday Worship Service
7—7:45 pm
6 Dane Street, Kennebunk
Contemporary music, graphics,

New time 6 pm starting Sept 7th with church school for all ages!

Q & A’s, relaxed atmosphere where EVERYONE is WELCOME
No exceptions!
This is not your parents’ worship. Come as you are.

Come STRESSED... Leave 😊 BLESSED!

COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Phone/email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Sheila Moody</td>
<td>646-3183 <a href="mailto:sheilamae2@yahoo.com">sheilamae2@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.11</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Jeff Behrens</td>
<td>985-1509 <a href="mailto:jbehrens1@roadrunner.com">jbehrens1@roadrunner.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.18</td>
<td>Pastor/Parish</td>
<td>Carol Holmberg</td>
<td>467-3216 <a href="mailto:nana2@roadrunner.com">nana2@roadrunner.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.25</td>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td>Bev Heald</td>
<td>985-7096 <a href="mailto:bheald08@roadrunner.com">bheald08@roadrunner.com</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

We will have our Fall Rummage Sale on Saturday October 15, so please set aside household goods, collectibles, and winter clothes in good condition for us to sell.

We will need helpers to sort the week before, and helpers to run the sale on Saturday.

Can you volunteer?

For more information, contact Rhoda Frederick: 985-6055, or rhofred@roadrunner.com.

Two women from our church have been invited to attend:

{A Time Apart}

to pamper their mind, body and spirit on Sept. 17th, 10 am – 2 pm
at Portsmouth United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. (Hosted by United Methodist Women)

Would you like to go? Let Rev. Janet know ASAP!
Don’t miss the last couple of summer concerts at The Colony Hotel with Warren King

The Colony Hotel will present their annual summer concert series — with our own Warren King! Performances are from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Although there is no admission charge, donations for various causes are accepted. Here are Warren’s September concert dates:

September 4: Flute & Piano
A native of Kennebunk and mother to two young daughters, Rachel Barter manages a full schedule of flute students in her private studio. Ms. Barter holds a Bachelor’s of Music degree from the University of Southern Maine. She has played with the Strathclyde University Symphony Orchestra in Glasgow, Scotland and the Nova Scotia Symphony. She participates in master classes throughout New England. Currently, Ms. Barter plays with the Casco Bay Concert Band. Recently she has been flute faculty at the Southern Maine Music Academy at USM and a participant in the National Flute Convention in New York City. Warren King will accompany her. The concert is free, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation, suggested at $5 or more, to the Wood Island Lighthouse Organization, which will provide a brief presentation about their activities.

Sunday, Sept. 11: Duet Piano
The season finale will be a rescheduling of the duet piano concert cancelled by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene! This is the much-anticipated combination of “Maestro” Warren King and his former college roommate, David Pihl, now a professional recording artist, sharing one piano bench for an entire hour without getting in each other’s way (we hope!) The concert will benefit the Animal Welfare Society, as originally planned.

For more information on the concert series, please contact Warren King at 985-8759, see his website www.livemusicmaine.com, search Facebook for “Maestro Warren King,” or email livemusic@roadrunner.com.

Thank You

to Kennebunk Savings Bank for donating a surplus copier for our office after ours died last month!

UCC News

Share a Smile

Host a Honduran Pastor

The Honduras Partnership is happy to announce that it is still possible to host a pastor of the Evangelical and Reform Church of Honduras for either Sept. 23–26 or Sept. 29–Oct. 2.

Due to the unusual procedure around procurement of visas, we just found out that 4 more pastors than we initially expected can come next month, and this could mean an opportunity to expand mission awareness in your congregation. There is a sponsorship fee to help pay their expenses, but also a scholarship that can help to defray up to 1/2 of the $300 cost.

If your church would be interested, please e-mail Bruce Burnham at mehpcomm@gmail.com or call him via 207-602-8191. Or contact Rev. Janet.
Keep On... Keepin’ On

“Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.” — Psalm 126

Reflection by Ron Buford

Life sometimes knocks us down. It happens to everyone. The key is to get back up and keep moving. The psalmist offers a simple formula for getting through tough times:

First, remember ways God has brought you through past tough times;

Second, ask God to do it again, and;

Third, show that you believe by moving forward before there is tangible or visible reason to do so—even while weeping, sow seeds for the future you envision, though the path may be uncertain and you may just not feel like it... yet.

You may be worried about a job, finances, a relationship, illness, fears about aging, trouble with kids, aging parents, an old hurt, or just “the blues.” Whatever it is, God specializes in restoring life’s greatest fortunes — love, joy, peace, and more — even before we feel it or see it coming. Leave the “how” to God as you focus on your hope. There will be a harvest. Go out, look for it. But it may come in a surprising new way or from surprising places. Be open. Don’t miss it. Weep freely, but always with nagging, unrelenting hope in God.

Gracious God, I need your help right now. Please restore my life to better times. Forgive me for the way I tend to forget the ways you have been with me in the past. For the faith I lack as I say these words, please help my unbelief and send your Holy Spirit to pray for me when I doubt and forget. Guide me. Teach me. I’m getting up and out... today, thanking and praising you now. AMEN.

“Still Speaking Daily Reflections” like these, from the United Church of Christ, are available free by signing up at www.ucc.org.
Shaker Hill Apple Festival

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Shaker Hill Road - Alfred, Maine
www.shakerhillapplefestival.org

York County Shelter Programs

- Juried Art and Crafts Fair
- Silent Auction
- Yard Sale
- Book Sale
- Bakery at Notre Dame
- Horse-drawn Wagon Rides
- Antique Car Rides
- Pig Raffle
- Farm Booth
- Environmental Booth
- Lunch Wagon
- Healthy Food Options
- Live Music
- Tim Janis - Sept. 24
- Children’s Activities

Free Parking
Free Admission

Located on the beautiful grounds of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, formerly a Shaker village.

Giles Family Farm at Notre Dame Orchards

- Apple Picking
- Pumpkin Picking
- Picnic Tables
- Orchards and Farm Store open 9-5 every day

Visit the Brothers’ Apple Store

Friends of Alfred Shaker Museum

- Shaker Demonstrations
- Shaker Farm Exhibit
- Chili & Chowder Lunch
- Yard Sale
- Book Sale
- Continental Breakfast
- Wagon Ride Through Old Shaker Village
- Museum Shop
- New Shaker Mural
- Pie Sales
- Children’s Fish Pond

Proceeds from the activities sponsored by York County Shelter Programs benefit homeless children.

Proceeds from the activities sponsored by the Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum go to completing the restoration of the former Shaker Carriage House.
Please join Hospice of Southern Maine for a special event.

SAVE THE DATE!
I Can’t Remember. I Can’t Forget:
Spiritual Journeys of Alzheimer’s Patients and Combat Veterans at End of Life

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
The Landing at Pine Point
Scarborough, Maine

For more information, call (207) 289-3678 or email pastoralcare@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org
Registration begins in mid-September
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 4 | Communion Sunday  
9:00 AM Knitting Ministry  
10:00 AM WORSHIP  
5:00 PM Warren King at the Colony Hotel  
6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | Labor Day  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 304 | 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study  
7:00 PM Krazy Krafts Nite | 1  
10:00 AM Worship at Huntington  
7:00 PM Finance Committee | 2 | 3 |
| 5 |  | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10  
1:00 PM Panzieri wedding  
4:00 PM Hicks wedding  
7:00 PM BSA Adventure Crew |
| 11 | Patriot Day  
9:00 AM Knitting Ministry  
10:00 AM WORSHIP  
6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 304 | 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study  
7:00 PM CABINET MEETING  
7:00 PM Krazy Krafts Nite  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 14  
6:00 PM Informal Worship & Church School | 15  
11:00 AM Women's Workshop  
12:00 PM Kennebunk Clergy Group | 16 | 17 |
| 12 |  | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 9:00 AM Knitting Ministry  
10:00 AM WORSHIP  
6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 304 | 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study  
7:00 PM Krazy Krafts Nite  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 21  
6:00 PM Informal Worship & Church School | 22 | 23  
First Day of Autumn | 24 |
| 19 |  | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 9:00 AM Knitting Ministry  
10:00 AM WORSHIP  
6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 304 | 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study  
4:00 PM Bon Appetit Community Meal Program  
7:00 PM Krazy Krafts Nite  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 28  
6:00 PM Habitat for Humanity  
6:00 PM Informal Worship & Church School | 29 | 30 |
| 26 |  | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

**LECTIONARY**

**September 7:** Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149, 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**September 11:** Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114, 103:1-13; Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
