

October 2016

# THE GOOD NEWS

Newsletter Christ Church Federated, Kennebunk Maine

## From Your Pastor's Pen



Most of you have by now laid eyes upon our BE THE CHURCH banners, and based on the feedback we've received, you like them. Each time I see one I smile a bit, and in turn I feel that much better. Which is to say, the longer I live with them, the more time I have to reflect on them, the more I appreciate the reminder to "be the Church." Moreover it strikes me as a fresh and timely reminder, for which in turn, I'm all the more grateful.

We've all sung the song "I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together," concluding with "the Church is the people" which is copyrighted 1972. So it's a wee bit dated. Now I love oldies and goodies, so I'm in no way dismissing it. My point is, to my ear our banners capture the same oldies and goodies stuff but with an updated, twenty-first century twist and urgency. "Be the Church," not merely "we are." We've been the Church since the day we were baptized. We've been reminded since the seventies that "we are" the Church and during that time Churches generally have declined. So today you're reminded to "be the Church" as clearly the clock is ticking; as clearly more from us is required than merely singing "we are the Church."

Now our banners don't merely begin and end with an updated, urgent plea "be the Church," they go on to

detail many of the most significant ways we, who since our baptisms carry Christ's name, are to go and do and be the Church. And I like that too...cuz frankly, Churches today appear to need things detailed. Now you can read the banner as well as I; you can embrace your mission as well as I can say to you to do so...so I won't. We're all adults here. Equally, the truth is no banner, no list, no itemizing of the tasks and responsibilities and character traits of a Christian is exhaustive—there will always be those things done at precisely the right moment that makes all the difference in the world that could never have been dreamed up or named, much less added to a list, before that moment arises in your life and you have your chance to love with the love of Christ...selfless, generous, without judgment. But having said that I will say this: The Church can't be the Church if it doesn't gather for worship. You and I can't be the Church if we don't gather for worship. And to the shame of our banners, that is not listed on the banners. Ouch.

Friends, this is an exciting time of the year to "be the Church"...so many things are happening and we have so many very dedicated folks doing so much...still worship attendance requires your immediate attention! Recently I've had the pleasure of meeting at worship folks who have deep roots with Christ Church going back decades, and

they have returned! What a joy for me and for them it has been. We also have some brand new friends joining us for worship, and again, what a joy. And then again we also have many dear friends with deep roots who we haven't seen or heard from at worship in eons. And there is no joy whatsoever in that fact.

Just today I stumbled upon an obscure passage in Jeremiah (29:4-11 if you're interested in reading it). In short the mouthpiece of God is speaking on the theme of community building, i.e., Church community building. He depicts a rather idealized place, a place where people may thrive...because they are all the more blessed and life-filled together than scattered. A concluding line really struck me: "...in its welfare you will find your welfare." Wow! In the community's well-being is *your* well-being! This was written some twenty-five-hundred years ago and it is *still* news to tens of millions of inactive Church folk today! And then, brilliantly, the prophet of the Lord goes on to say that anyone who says otherwise is deceiving you! Again, Wow! And again, news to so many today. Double Wow!

Friends, you are the Church, we are the Church, the Church is its people—be the Church! Today! (Well, wait till Sunday if you must.)

With Christ's love, Pastor Mark

## A Message from the Cabinet Chair

Greetings,

I would like to begin with a big thank you to all the Cabinet members and all Church members who work so hard in keeping Christ Church moving forward. Without your support we would not be where we are today. I am proud to call you all my Church family.

There are three things I like to focus on in our Church: Spirituality, Personal Growth, and Fiscal Responsibility.

Spirituality: We have had a couple of members, membership and vitality committee members, who have visited to other Churches to observe what works and what we could do differently. Here are a few changes we are focusing on. Joan Cowgill has been working hard at rewriting our membership list and has assigned members to specific members who have been reaching out to members. This has been very effective and I have received some very positive feedback from this. Also, we have been working with Warren King about bringing in new music to revitalize our musical pallet. This also includes possible monthly concerts open to the congregation and public.

Personal Growth: We will and have worked with the four staff members on ways they can improve their working ability with trainings and education. I have challenged myself with speaking in public and learning about the Robert Rule of Order. I encourage all of you to grow.

Fiscal Responsibility: Cabinet has been very creative on ways to save money and still be able to get our needs met. We are always looking at ways to increase revenue and decrease expenses. Our goal is to be at or just below our budget; God willing. At this time we are just below budget.

Many thanks for submitting your input to help make our Church a better place. I have paraphrased some of the suggestions and will try and do my best to look into everything and look forward to working with people to address these issues.

(1) We are looking into tokens (pens, key chains, flyers) to pass them out-where is the biggest bang for our buck. (2) Relocating the front office would require rewiring all the computers and phone system. No one would have the ability to be directly at the front door. I am aware of your point about the back door access. Most people visiting go to the front door. (3) Handicap

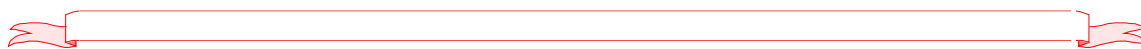
signs and elevator information on the front door and "Church Service 10:00 am" on back door are being explored. (4) Once we have enough children for Sunday school we can talk about getting a Sunday school teacher. A stipend is very possible. (5) Warren and I are looking into the feasibility of having a winter's farmers market here at the church. (6) Church is now availed for all those who want to pray, meditate, or keep warm. This is available during office hours. Please use the office door to enter and leave. (7) Having local restaurants sponsor church meals is a great idea and will be explored. Outreach committee will be doing a walk through to gather specific items for the refugees and those in need from the rummage sale. What a great idea.

Thank you, thank you and thank you! For all you do and for simply being you. God bless you all.

Daniel R. Moisan

Cabinet Chair





## Why Bible Study?

Study of the Bible is an important part of developing our faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To be most effective, Bible Study is not the kind of study that allows us to recite endless amounts of scripture, allows us to rattle off the names of prophets, king, locations, and rules. It is most effective when it allows a deeper understanding of God, when it draws us into a deeper knowledge of God.

It can be fun to excel at the game of Bible trivia, to be able to pronounce the names of all those people and places, and to know where all those kingdoms, cities, and shrines were located two millennia ago. The fruit of productive study is thinking about how they affect the person we want to be today.

At Christ Church we have been working with a series of guide books produced by the United Church of Christ 'God is still speaking' writers group. Their "primary purpose is to listen and hear God speak. This also means that it is not their primary purpose to teach us all about the Bible or all about a particular book of the Bible. To be sure, they hope that together we will learn a great deal about whatever book of Scripture is our focus. But the primary purpose is not simply learning information about the Bible. It is hearing "God speak." There is a difference.

## Christ Church Bible Study Plans

At Christ Church we are planning an Autumn, Winter, and Spring study program of 1 to 2 months on a specific book of Scripture or topic using a 'God is still speaking' type of guide. We will also do a specific church season type of study during Advent and Lent to supplement our observance of the season. Last year we added a book read on anti-racism as a response to a UCC Maine Conference challenge.

This year we will be reading and discussing the book of Genesis. For Advent, we will be using a guide that has a daily lesson like an Advent wreath which we will discuss each week. We have been meeting on Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. If another time slot works better for the participants we can change the schedule. Everyone is invited not just members of the congregation or Christians. Rev. Jim Anderson



As one who looks forward to Christ church Bible study I urge others to join us on Monday mornings at 10:00 am. We are studying the book of Genesis. Our discussions are powerful, meaningful and engaging. With his deep knowledge of the Bible Jim Anderson gives us much to think about and discuss. Let's build our Bible study participation. Let's grow together.  
Your Cabinet Member, Brenda Kanbar

When you are reading this, the Fall Rummage Sale will have already taken place. We hope the new time this year (9:00 to noon) was more comfortable for all of you who helped on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as for our customers.

We thank our many church members and friends who donated items to sell and who helped throughout the week to sort clothes and treasures and arrange our merchandise on the tables. We always appreciate our willing workers who contribute their time and effort to make this a successful event. We thank you all.

Rhoda Frederick and Sheila Moody



Rummage Sale



## Project Christmas Child

For a number of years the Missions Committee of Christ Church has sponsored Operation Christmas Child which is organized by Samaritan's Purse. We fill shoeboxes for either boys or girls of a specific age and take them to a gathering point where they are shipped throughout the world for distribution to children who probably have never received a box of gifts before as well as a book about Jesus Christ. We are going to use regular shoeboxes this year. Please begin to gather items and we will soon let you know the date on which we will be collecting them. Thank you for your generosity to the children.

Suggested items to include: pad of paper, markers/crayons, pencils and pencil sharpener, small toys, socks, colorful tee shirt, stuffed animal, hair care items, wrapped hard candy as a filler. Please avoid chocolate, soft candy, pictures and clothing designs that are not universally appropriate. For more information see Judy Cadmus.

## Shoeboxes for kids



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## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

### Caring about People

I want to share a summary of the many generous gifts and deeds that you and many others in our community have given to the refugees and asylum seekers that fled from their home countries to a safer place to live, here in Maine.

Last winter several of our volunteers at Biddeford Adult Ed. [BAE] learned of an Iraqi family of four who had been set up in an apartment but had no furniture. They were sleeping in their clothes, on the floor with their coats for blankets. At least one of the "Breakfast Angels" purchased a generous supply of blankets that day. I described this situation the following Sunday in church, asked for help and people from within our congregation, friends of Christ Church and members of our community plus former church members donated beds, dining table and chairs, sofas, lamps, bedding, kitchen wares, and winter clothing. I have come to learn that sleeping on the floor means sleeping on a 3-4 inch foam mattress loaned to families placed by Catholic Charities. A rental trailer was filled and delivered within the week.

The adults in this family are both well educated, one with a Masters Degree in Mathematics and the other with a Masters Degree in English. Both adults in this family work per diem jobs and also volunteer to teach English at BAE to new Iraqis.

It was brought to our attention by Sr. Theresa Couture, a teacher at B.A.E., that there were two more refugee families learning English at school and they needed supplies too. One family of seven had fled from Sudan. The husband has been working but the family needed basic furniture. Another rental trailer was filled with a table and six chairs, two dressers, two twin beds, a bunk bed, four mattresses and bedsprings. One of the BAE teachers recruited a young man formerly from Burundi, who had just graduated from Biddeford H.S. to help move the heavy items. [George, the new graduate had been accepted to U.S.M. as a freshman for this fall semester.] Another trip was made later to deliver a double bed for the parents plus another dresser for them and their infant.

Another family had originally come from Iraq and fled to Syria about six or so years ago where the husband, a physics teacher, and wife, an attorney, had met and married. From there they went to Turkey for a couple of years and more recently to Maine. There are three children in this family and the two older sons, aged 3 and 6 needed a bunk bed that one of our church members was able to provide complete with good mattresses. We also discovered there were other issues and they very much needed compassion and friendship.

The Missions Committee of St David's Episcopal Church is working toward a relationship with this family to help with adjustments and mentoring. To be accepted by employers is a difficult challenge for all parties even when an applicant is well educated.

A year and a half ago Rev. Charlie Whiston of South Congo, Kennebunkport, and the Mission Comm. of the church invited a representative from every church in Arundel and the Kennebunks to meet and share the outreach goals of their churches. It became obvious that all of the churches have been working toward similar objectives and we all expressed awe and appreciation for the work and accomplishments of our local church families.

This winter an mail was sent to all of the Pastors and Missions Committee Chairpersons who had attended the outreach meeting to describe our new ministry with the immigrants and I received several positive responses with interest to learn more. I explained the sagas of the new immigrants and invited our church neighbors and friends to assist and demonstrate our concern for all humanity.





## MISSIONS COMMITTEE (Continued)

Rev. Ruth Merriam of the United Methodist Church on the Cape responded to request more information and later sent a generous check from her Church Discretionary Fund. Gail Freeman, Missions Committee Chair for St. David's Episcopal Church, joined in with household supplies and a purchase of a table and six chairs from the Habitat ReStore. She has also stepped in to help supply OTC medical aid and special clothing needed by the youngest Iraqi baby with Eczema. In the treasures sent from St. David's Church were many children's books for the four older Sudanese children. The children were ecstatic with the books. I decided that a bookcase was needed in one of the bedrooms for storage and to encourage reading before falling asleep. I used a small portion of the donations to purchase a small bookcase at the ReStore. What about reading lights near the beds? I shared this need with a BAE teacher who works with single mothers and she said she'd 'be on the look out' at tag sales. Within a couple of weeks two children had all they needed to comfortably read in their rooms. [P.S. these children had been doing well in school and appear to be very happy and adjusted.] They also have bikes supplied by the Bike Program. George, our strong furniture mover, was given a very good bike by the "Bike Guys," Tim Dunn and Dick, to use for transportation to and from work this summer.

A short note about the Bike Project, newly named Cycle/Recycle, that has been a mission offspring to fulfill transportation needs of BAE students and their families. Over thirty bikes of all sizes have been refurbished and donated to date and new requests are being accepted.

Pastor Charlie and S. Congo members have been extremely generous with donations of furniture, gift cards for groceries and clothing, bedding supplies, household goods and lots and lots of toys from the Church schoolchildren.

A newly retired pastor in York County called and offered furniture to aid his downsizing and with the help of a friend and his pick-up truck the furniture was collected and moved to Christ Church. The dressers stored at Christ Church will be going to a Burundi family newly reunited this summer. The wife and mother of this family has worked two jobs for the last four years to save enough money to bring her husband and children to safety.

Several other non-specified monetary donations had been very useful to rent a trailer and box truck for deliveries and purchases including one dresser, two bunk bed frames and a small bookcase all from the ReStore, plus two new single foam mattresses, new mattress covers and pads along with several new pillows. With donations of some new pillows and covers, sets of new and used sheets and pillowcases made it possible to provide a full complement of bedding with every mattress. Every mattress that was provided had a new plastic cover, quilted mattress pad, one new set of sheets and one used set. Many blankets and comforters had been donated and at least one each accompanied every mattress.

Clothing has been donated from many caring people and groups, particularly The Kennebunk Care Closet. This will be an ongoing necessity as children grow and seasons change. Clothing had been collected for all family members.

And special thanks to the strong backs and pick-up trucks of many men and a woman including the big guy, my husband Dick, Bo Parker, BAE teacher and her husband's pick-up, young George, Bob Cole, Lindsay Smith, Ed Carroll, and Rick Toomey from First Parish UCC, Saco. The pick-ups and deliveries were solely dependent on these willing and able caring people.

This experience has been so very rewarding to be a part of and we are all grateful for the new friendships that have been established.

Thank you so much for participating and demonstrating your Christian Love.

Continue to spread joy and live peace.

Judy Cadmus, Missions Committee Chairperson



# Pine Cone Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 12

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Christ Church  
6 Dane Street, Kennebunk  
985-4494  
[www.christchurchkennebunk.org](http://www.christchurchkennebunk.org)

*Featuring*

*Dick Cadmus' Seashell Clocks*

*&*

*Liz Roper's Art Work*

*Cookie Walk + Food Sale*

*Grandma's Attic*

Gently Used Holiday Items  
Proceeds benefit Local Heating Assistance

*Local Crafters*

*Hand-Made Gifts & Decorations*

*Silent Auction*

*Luncheon 11-1*

Corn Chowder, Hot Dogs, Brownies

*Door Prize*

- No purchase necessary -





**UNITED METHODIST & CHURCH OF CHRIST PARISH**

**Christ Church Federated**

**6 Dane Street**

**Kennebunk Maine 04043**

**985-4494**

[Christchurchkbk@gmail.com](mailto:Christchurchkbk@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

[www.christchurchkennebunk.org](http://www.christchurchkennebunk.org)



**“WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH ”**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Christ Church is a Federated Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. We welcome all people from every denominational background. We worship God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship and service. Our goal is to grow in our personal faith while serving people around us and in the world beyond us. Our vision is a practical Christianity that applies the historic faith to the needs of people in today's world. Our hearts are open and our hands are extended in faith, love and friendship.



**Join us for Worship!  
Sundays at  
10:00 a.m.  
All are welcome!**

**Rev. Mark .L. Arbisi, Pastor**  
[pmchristchurch@gwi.net](mailto:pmchristchurch@gwi.net)

**Office Administrator**  
Sandra Farrar

**Music Director**  
Warren King

**Sexton**  
Dan Stone

**Cabinet Chair**  
Dan Moisan

**Clerk**  
Beverly Heald

