Dear Friends,

Greetings from your new interim pastor! I can’t tell you how much I’m looking forward to joining you as you finalize the search process for a settled pastor!

I’ve heard nothing but great things about the work Rev. Allison Smith shared with you and I hope we can continue down the same paths of growth and discernment for however long I am with you. You are on an exciting and important journey and I am pleased to be a part of it.

Beverly Heald has done a wonderful job of introducing me to you, but let me add a bit more. I have been ordained since 1992, ministry being a second career for me. My first was as an elementary music teacher in Rochester, NY. During my active ministry I served two churches: the first in Maynard, MA for 10 years, and the second in York Beach, ME, also for ten years. Since my retirement I have been doing a great deal of pulpit supply and had the pleasure of doing a sabbatical interim last summer in Alfred for 3 months. I continue to be a member of the Church and Ministry Committee of the York Association (for the better part of 10 years!), and help organize monthly clergy gatherings for the Association. The York Association does important work within the Maine Conference and I am very proud to be a part of it.

I have two grown children: Ryan and his wife Dana live in Oakland, CA, and my daughter, Molly, and her husband Chris live with my two grandchildren in Shawnee, KS. You will quickly surmise that they are too far away, and I miss them very much!

I will share more as we spend time together, but this is a beginning. I hope to get to know many of you as we share our life’s journey in faith in Jesus Christ. May God bless our shared ministry in the months ahead.

Blessings of hope and joy,

Rev. Pat
We were sad to learn of the recent death of Arthur Dugas, Sheila Moody’s brother-in-law and Sarah Dugas’ grandfather. Condolences can be sent to his widow, Marjorie Dugas, Villa Crest, 1276 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 03104

Cabinet News

The Cabinet is well aware of the changes taking place and is feeling a sense of loss and sadness with Allison’s leaving. For the last two years, she has brought hope and understanding to the difficulties faced by the Cabinet and Committees – too few people – too many tasks -- too little money -- too much unfinished business, etc. She saw a lot of potential in Christ Church and it is our responsibility to continue down the path of hope to fulfill the potential set before us.

There is much excitement with the start of Pat Smith’s ministry, and she is committed to making a smooth transition, and becoming part of our church family. Let’s do our best to welcome her and remember to wear our name tags!

The Cabinet thanks Rev. Jim Anderson and Rev. Gordon Miller for leading worship the last two Sundays in January. Having pastors from our own church family eases the transition period and is a true blessing.

Warren and Ron are making plans for the third annual Saint Paddy’s Day Concert and dinner on Saturday March 15th at 4:00 pm. Come and join in the merriment as traditional Irish songs make you want to get up and cheer!

The Cabinet has approved a request from Ramblers Way Farm on Main St. to use the Dane St. parking lot Monday through Friday each week for some of their employees. In return they will give a generous donation to Christ Church. They will be using six parking spaces on the north side of the lot. Arrangements have been made for the snowplowing to be done, and for them to park in other places when the church needs the spaces.

As we move forward, let us keep Allison and her family in our prayers, and open our hearts and minds to the new ministry of Pat Smith.

Blessings and Peace,

Beverly Heald
Chairperson
Christ Church Cabinet

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Check the Calendar!
A lot goes on here at Christ Church, and to keep track, we have an online calendar on our website www.christchurchkennebunk.org
Please let the Office Manager know if you have events to add, or notice any errors: Jane King 985-4494 jkchristchurch@gwi.net
Community Events

St. Patrick’s Day Concert & Corned Beef Sandwich Supper
Saturday, March 15, Concert at 4:00 pm., Supper at 5:15 pm.
This event has been a big success in previous years, so be sure to mark your calendar – you don’t want to take a chance on missing it! Last year there were over 100 people in attendance! To plan for the supper, we would appreciate reservations or advance ticket purchase, available in the church office from 10:00 to 2:00 Mondays, and 9:00 to 1:00 Wednesdays and Fridays. Our Music Director, “Maestro” Warren King has gathered half a dozen of the finest musicians and singers in the area to perform a varied program of nostalgic Irish music for your entertainment. There will be heartbreakingly sweet-singing tenors, and beautifully sentimental violin and flute players, as well as some rousing sing-along opportunities, all accompanied by the Maestro. Our Master Chef Ron Breton will be preparing a delicious meal of make-your-own corned beef sandwiches, with freshly cooked and hand-sliced corned beef, a selection of condiments, sauerkraut, coleslaw, and homemade potato salad, as well as beverages and themed dessert. Suggested donation for the concert only is $10, or $7 for senior and children. For the supper alone, suggested donation is $7 or $5 for children and seniors. For both events together, the suggested donation is $15, or $10 for children & seniors.

FREE HELP WITH INCOME TAX RETURNS
Free tax help is available at the Kennebunk Free Library from 9:30 am to Noon every Thursday from February 6 through April 10. Although the library is closed to the public in the mornings due to construction, the doors will open at 9:30 AM for those seeking tax assistance. Sign-up begins at 9 AM at the front door. Tax help is provided at the KFL courtesy of the AARP Foundation. Tax help sessions are on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations. Services include answering tax questions and e-filing tax returns. Bring previous year’s returns and any other related tax documentation. KFL provides copies of some of the most frequently used IRS tax forms. Maine State tax forms are available only by calling 207/624-7894, writing to Maine Revenue Service, PO Box 9107, Augusta, ME 04332, or online at http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms. KFL offers its computers for downloading these forms for 25¢ per page; KFL Staff can help download forms from the internet; but they cannot help with tax questions. For more information, call the Library at 985-2173 or email kfl@kennebunk.lib.me.us.

FREE FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CLASSES FOR WOMEN
The Maine Centers for Women, Work & Community offer free classes on finances and employment at their York County Center in Saco, with classes beginning every month from February to May. See the schedule in the Fellowship Hall or call 286-1722 www.womenworkandcommunity.org
Please Save these Dates and Plan to Send a Delegation from your Church

NEW DIMENSIONS ALL-CONFERENCE CONVERSATIONS

March 1, 2014 – 1st Parish, Saco
March 8, 2014 – Westbrook-Warren
March 15, 2014 – South Parish, Augusta
March 22, 2014 – Hammond St., Bangor

Each Meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM.

Lunch will be provided.

On behalf of the Conference Coordinating Council the New Dimensions Conference Transition Team has been looking into ways to engage the broadest spectrum of the people across the Conference in a conversation regarding the most faithful and effective Conference Staffing and Governance Leadership models as we endeavor to move forward together.

We have engaged the services of the Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ and current partner of The Columbia Partnership to help us through this discernment process.

A first step in the process will be these “All-Conference Conversations. The Regional Meetings planned will be identical in agenda and scope, but spread out across the state to provide access to the greatest number of people.

Sponsored by
The Maine Conference United Church of Christ

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The UCC Women Leaders of New England are very excited about Celebration IX, which is their big event being held March 28-30, 2014 in Portland, Maine. This event is open to all women - lay and clergy, ages 14 and up. We've just agreed to extend the deadline for the discounted registration and want to let our church know ASAP.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Christ Church Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 3, so please remember to set aside clean housewares, clothes, and small appliances, and tools as you go through your Spring cleaning!
Work at **Pilgrim Lodge** This Summer!
Do you hear the call?

Pilgrim Lodge is seeking hard working, joy-filled people to work at camp this summer. If you, or someone you know would be an asset to the PL staff, please visit [http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/summerjobs.html](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/summerjobs.html) to complete an online application. Jobs vary, but include all aspects of community life. You must be 18 by June.

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**Pilgrim Lodge**
**Online Registration Opens February 12!**

Three weeks until registration for Pilgrim Lodge 2014 opens! Camp Brochures will be mailed in early February but you can look at the schedule right now at [http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule)
All campers from the previous two years will receive brochures in the mail, but if you'd like to be added to the list please call 207-724-3200 or email karen@pilgrimlodge.org

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**United Way of York County**
is seeking volunteers and providing training throughout the Spring. They are especially in need of volunteers to read to the vision-impaired, to provide counseling in school, to weatherize houses, and to help staff the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Kennebunk. Please visit [www.buildcommunity.org](http://www.buildcommunity.org) for events and more information.

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**Alzheimer’s Education and Care:** Aging Excellence, at 185 Port Road, Lower Village Kennebunk, invites anyone who is caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s Disease to call 967-5400 or just drop in for free advance, informational publications, and to arrange for respite care, **Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm.** They also offer home visits for shut-ins.

The **Bar Harbor Congregational Church**, UCC, is seeking a part-time Organist/Choir Director. It is anticipated that this position will require 10-15 hours per week Compensation is negotiable, based upon qualifications, but will be in the $13,000 to $15,000 range. Benefits include 4 weeks paid vacation.
For more information or to submit resume, please contact: Nancy Howland Bar Harbor Congregational Church, 29 Mount Desert St, Bar Harbor, ME 04609 **288-3280 office@barharborucc.org**
Congregational Life

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

The Women’s Fellowship meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm, except in summer. All women are welcome, including friends or neighbors who are not members. The meetings generally involve activities such as making seasonal favors for shut-ins, planning for major church events such as dinners, rummage sales, and Pine Cone Fair; and programs on topics of interest to women. In recent months, the ladies have expanded their ministry to include the entire congregation by asking us to volunteer to deliver their crafts to the shut-ins, which is rewarding for all concerned. There are also dinners in December and May with great fellowship, games, music, and fun. The December dinner was attended by over 25 women, who enjoyed a very sociable evening, and all went home with a small gift or two.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The men of Christ Church get together with some friends from nearby churches for breakfast and conversation the first Thursday of each month at the Cockpit Café near the Sanford airport.

REMEMBER THE HUNGRY

Hunger or food insecurity is a very real and growing problem in Maine. Many Mainers have been hard hit by the recession. The USDA estimates that 14.7 percent of Maine households, or approximately 200,000 individuals, are food insecure, about half of them children! The number of Mainers who are food insecure has increased significantly in recent years. Maine ranks 5th in the nation and first in New England in terms of food insecurity.

Hunger in Maine (Source: USDA)
- Population: 1,328,361
- Food insecurity rate: 14.7 percent of households, or approximately 200,000 people
- Maine ranks 3rd in the nation and 1st in New England in terms of food insecurity
- Child food insecurity rate: 24 percent, or nearly 1 in every 4 children, are food insecure (about 84,000 children)
- Senior food insecurity rate: 5.46 percent of seniors are food insecure
- Maine ranks 17th in the nation, 1st in New England in terms of senior food insecurity
- Since 2004 there has been a 50 percent increase in the number of Mainers facing hunger.

Web sites for more information and action:
- [www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org) information data base
- [www.buildcommunity.org](http://www.buildcommunity.org) Volunteering through United Way of York County
- [www.gsfb.org](http://www.gsfb.org) donate to Good Shepherd Food Bank

On Communion Sundays, we bring non-perishable food to dedicate at the altar for the Church Community Outreach Services’ food bank, serving people in need in the Kennebunks. The next Communion Sunday is March 2; be sure to remember your contribution to ease hunger for our neighbors. This month the food pantry is in particular need of Cereal, Muffin Mix, Beef Stew, and Oatmeal.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee is a communication link and sounding board for the pastor and the congregation. We are here to hear your concerns, questions, or joys and then get a response back to you. The people on the committee were part of the Transition Team when Pastor Allison first came to our church, and have now shifted their focus to being the communication link as the transition period moves on in the search for a settled pastor. The committee is: Beverly Heald – 985-7096, Jim Anderson – 985-8823, Carol Holmberg – 467-3216, Kristen Holmberg – 467-3216, Marcia Carter – 985-7366, and Gail Preble – 967-4095. They look forward to hearing from you.
THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee received eight resumes of potential candidates to be our settled Pastor from the Maine Conference UCC, and they have selected three to consider in greater depth. The winnowing process will continue over the next few months until it becomes clear who is the Pastor that God has already chosen for us. The Committee is Rev. Jim Anderson and Dick Cadmus (co-chairs), Denise Butler, Rhoda Frederick, Beverly Heald, Carol Holmberg, and Elizabeth Schofield. May our prayers and thanks and God’s guidance be with them as they progress with their work.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Jim Anderson leads Bible study every Tuesday at 10:00 am, at his home at 70 Hampton Glen Drive, Kennebunk. The group has spent some time in the Old Testament, reading some fairly violent history, but now they’re returning to the more peaceful New Testament. All are welcome and Bibles are available to borrow, so come enjoy the discussion and bring a friend!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The current projects of concern for the Missions committee are to serve dinner at Bon Appetit on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Volunteers may meet behind the church at 3:45 PM to car pool to Biddeford.

The nutritious breakfast/brunch snacks served to Biddeford Adult Education resumed the week of January 20th when classes began for the winter/spring term. Volunteers to help with this project are always needed to prepare foods for the Tuesday and Wednesday AM snacks.

The Bicycle Bonanza team continues to collect used bicycles of all sizes to be refurbished for local families in need and in the spring these bikes will be ready for distribution. Sr. Theresa Coutour, GED teacher at Biddeford Adult Education is our contact person who determines the families with the greatest needs.

The York Association of the UCC will be presenting the plan for continuing the “AMIGOS Project” which benefits school children in a mountain area of Honduras and the county group is very excited about the process and methods developed in 2013 to improve efficiency and the success rate.

The Missions Committee hopes to increase our concerns and awareness of the many needs in Maine and offer the Christ Church congregation opportunities to show Christian Love.

Judy Cadmus, Chairperson

Veterans Serving Veterans, a grassroots program founded in Sanford in 1994, provides warm clothing, blankets, and basic necessities to local veterans in need. In support of this important mission, the Women’s Fellowship places a “Dollars for Veterans” bank in the sanctuary for donations in November, in honor of Veterans’ Day and again in May, in honor of Memorial Day, for donations. All funds collected are used to purchase toiletries for the veterans. In November, nearly $50 was raised—thanks to all who gave! Over 300 veterans a month are served during the cold months, and the program continues year-round. Veterans with proper ID can “shop” for what they need on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon at 199 Jagger Mill Road in Sanford. Veteransmilitarysurplus.blogspot.com

Christ Church Knitting Ministry is a satisfying way to contribute to ministries in our community. Projects large and small are welcome, such as small prayer squares, seafarers’ caps, and lap robes and prayer shawls. Directions and yarn are available in the knitting room, and you can knit with us Sunday morning, or work at home, as suits you. If you’d like to get involved in this satisfying mission, yarn and instructions are available in the knitting room. As well as hand-knit caps, the Seafarers’ Friend Mission in Portland also very much appreciates donations of books and magazines. These can be dropped off in the Vestry.
**Bon Appetit** is a free community meals program in Biddeford. On the **fourth Tuesday of the month, at 3:45 p.m.**, a team from Christ Church carpool to Second Congregational Church in Biddeford to help prepare and serve dinner for those in need. Volunteers are always welcome to join. See Judy or Dick Cadmus for more information, 985-6788.

The students at **Biddeford Adult Education** have been enjoying the "Breakfast Boost" our volunteers are supplying for the morning break between 10:00 and 10:15. Currently, five volunteers have participated in creating and serving nutritious snacks and finger foods on Tuesday AM and the Wednesday gang is comprised of at least another six or more people. Our special friend Hannah Engel has even returned from her new home in New Hampshire to take part on Wednesdays! When you are able to participate and wish to take a turn, contact Judy Cadmus @ 985 6788 or Carol Holmberg @ 467 3218. Or you can simply contribute a nutritious dish you of your choice. It is not necessary for everyone to make the trip to Biddeford to serve the food, but the contact with the students and staff is rewarding and uplifting. Take a chance; you will probably find the experience rewarding and fun!

**Christian Education**

The Christian Education Committee has adopted a seasonal Bible-based curriculum with easy and clear lesson plans that include all ages. The curriculum is available for review and consideration in the office. Like last year, a rotating team of volunteer Sunday School teachers are each teaching three Sundays a month, so no one gets “burned out.” The lesson plans move sequentially through the Bible, a new reading each week, which the children find very engaging. Everything needed for related activities is provided, making it easy and enjoyable to teach. The teaching team have all found the experience enriching and joyful. As one of the volunteers, Beverly Heald, put it: “This is not my area of expertise, but I had a great time with the children. I found them to be interested and responsive to the biblical teaching, and I got as much from them as they got from me.” If you enjoy interacting with children, please think about it in a prayerful way, asking for insight into how you might be able to help bring God’s love to our children. If you think you might be interested in helping with this crucial ministry, please see Pat or Beverly, or mention it to Jane King in the office 985-4494 jkchristchurch@gwi.net. Nursery and toddler care is being provided by some of our high school youth, with adult oversight. If you think you might like to give this ministry a try, please let Allison know. Both youth and adults are welcome. If you can volunteer even one Sunday a month, the children and families will be very grateful.

**Full-Tuition College Scholarships Available!**

Piedmont College, a small 4-year private liberal arts college in the mountains of northeast Georgia, offers Congregational Heritage scholarships to students who are active in a UCC congregation and have a GPA of at least 3.0. The scholarships range from $17,000 to $21,000 per year, up to full tuition, and the college is actively soliciting applicants. Pamphlets are available in the Fellowship Hall, and detailed information packets with application materials are in the office. FMI: bboonstra@piedmont.edu, www.piedmont.edu