This past Sunday was Transfiguration Sunday, when we remember Jesus’ ascent to the mountaintop with his disciples John and Peter. At the top of the mountain, Jesus is transfigured (changed) as his garments turn gleaming white and a light shines around him brighter than anything the disciples had ever seen. Needless to say, they were overcome with wonder, because they were allowed to see the greatness of Jesus for a brief moment. It’s a wonderful story of being able to see beyond the ordinary and glimpse the glory of God.

This story got me thinking about how we are occasionally enabled to see beyond the ordinariness of our daily lives. When I lived closer to Boston I tried to visit the Museum of Fine Arts at least once a year. I would look at the new exhibits and many of my old favorites, and it usually took me about an hour or so before I could fully enter that world of beauty and begin to appreciate it. The interesting part for me was that I never knew what was going to grab me – reach out and call to me. Some work of art, usually a painting, would lift me to a thrilling place, a place where I could only stare in wonder and say a very quiet, “Thank you, God.”

William Willimon, a contemporary Methodist theologian, points out that we hunger for beauty in our lives and that’s why we attend concerts and art museums, and yes, worship. We want to be lifted beyond our humdrum lives and routines and witness something greater than what we are used to. When it happens we are transformed not only for the moment, but forever, because the beauty is inside us and it grows and we begin to hunger for more of these awe-filled experiences.

The thing is that we can experience these glorious moments in our everyday lives if we remain open to the possibility. There are many opportunities in our lives when we can feel a deeper connection to God. Sometimes it happens during a profound experience such as the birth of a child. Other times it can be as simple as watching three sets of cardinals at my bird feeder in the pure white snow. Maybe it’s the natural beauty of a dish of tulips and roses on a wintry day, a re-connection with a long lost friend, or even the sound of a clanging buoy as I walk out my door.

(continued on next page)
The reality of our lives is that we all have our dark times—those times of isolation, depression and illness, and when those times come we wonder where the light of God is. Where is the glory when we need it most? When we think about Jesus’ own experience we can see that he went from the mountaintop of transfiguration to the valley of the cross where it seemed the light would never be seen again.

The season of Lent is an austere season and it reminds us of the stark seasons of our lives. Yet because of stories like the Transfiguration we are reminded of past experiences that took us deeper and closer to God. I have decided that as this year’s Lenten discipline I am going to try to be doubly aware of the grace-filled moments that show me just for an instant the glory of God. I know that those moments surround me if I just pay attention, and they will sustain me until the light of Easter morning comes to pass once again.

Blessings,

Rev. Pat

Cabinet News

We have been blessed with the interim ministry of Reverend Pat Smith. She has brought the spirit of warmth and hospitality to our church and we express our great appreciation.

The Christian Ed committee has been continuing to prepare for Church School each Sunday. Although we have not seen the hoped-for growth in this area, we know the Holy Spirit moves among us when we see the children on the chancel steps with the Pastor.

The Search Committee is hard at work interviewing and hearing pastoral candidates preach at other churches. The hope is to have a settled pastor by June. God is leading the search and the prayers of the congregation are necessary to the discernment process. If you have a question or concern, you are encouraged to speak to any of the members of the committee. We want to find the pastor who will be a true spiritual leader, and everyone is important in achieving that end.

The time is coming for the Nominating Committee to think about who they will ask to serve the church in the next church year. I ask everyone to think about your own gifts and talents, so that when you are called, you might be able to offer your best to Christ Church.

This has been a year full of hard work and we are not done yet. But the hope for the future is ever present and with Christ at our center, we will continue to move forward.

Blessings to all who have been going to Bon Appetit and Biddeford Adult Education. Being the hands and feet of Christ feeds our spirits and deepens our faith.

Faithfully yours,

Beverly Heald  Chairperson

Christ Church Cabinet
Congregational Life

St. Patrick’s Day Concert & Corned Beef Sandwich Supper
Saturday, March 15, Concert at 4:00 pm., Supper at 5:30 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 Breto 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, with a $1 discount for purchase in advance.

BRIDGE BREAKFAST
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014, 9:00 am

The ladies of Christ Church invite you to a Spring Bridge Event that will include a delicious home cooked breakfast prepared by Ron Breton, our chef, and the ladies of the church. This is to be held downstairs in the dining hall. Bridge Players of all levels are welcome as you will be playing with your table mates only. You should bring your appetite, playing cards, score sheets, and pencils. The cost is $20 per person and we ask that you please sign up as a table of four by April 18th, and return the completed form below and your $80 check to the church office. For additional information please call 985-4494 or 985-4496

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RUMMAGE SALE

The Christ Church Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 3, so please remember to set aside clean housewares, clothes, small appliances, and tools as you go through your Spring cleaning. Sorting clothes by type and size is much appreciated!
ARE YOU A LEADER IN THE CONGREGATION?
Do you consider yourself a leader within your church? The Ministry Development Council needs your help! They are looking to gather opinions from people like you about what contributes to ministerial effectiveness within your church. Through collaboration with Work Effects, a leadership consulting firm, they are developing a state-of-the-art assessment for ministerial effectiveness. By taking a brief survey to assist in the research, you will be helping to provide the critical data needed. Results will be confidential and anonymous and will only be used for the research and development of the assessment. Are you interested in playing a role in finding and equipping the next generation’s leaders in ministry? It takes 5 to 10 minutes of your time to complete the survey. If you are a denominational leader, you can choose to complete the survey with either your congregation or a congregation with whom you work in mind. To take the survey, go to http://ncmdc.org/survey

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 8:30 am 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  information data base
www.buildcommunity.org  Volunteering through United Way of York County
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 April 6; be sure to remember your contribution to ease hunger for our neighbors. This month the food pantry is in particular need of Pancake / Muffin Mix, Pancake Syrup, Beef Stew, Mayonnaise, and Canned Ravioli or Canned Spaghetti-O’s.
**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.

**Search Committee**

The Search Committee has begun observing candidates to be our next settled pastor. 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.

**Bible Study**

Bible Study with Reverend Jim Anderson resumes Monday, March 10, at 10:00 am. The study will focus on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, using a Study Guide by Richard Wilke, “He Set His Face to Jerusalem: A Lenten Study for Adults,” which costs $10. We invite all members and friends of Christ Church to join us. Please let Jim Anderson if you want to attend. Jim is at revjima@yahoo.com, 985-8823, 70 Hampton Glen Dr., Kennebunk, ME 04043. Come join in this time of reflection and preparation for the Easter season. welcome and Bibles are available to borrow, so come enjoy the discussion and bring a friend!

**Ola, Amigos!**

You are invited and encouraged by our Missions Committee to join with the York Association to participate in the tenth annual AMIGOS Project for Honduras school children. Our purpose is to provide lunches for school age children in a poor, rural mountainous region in Honduras. A York Association mission trip group discovered in 2004 that when children are not in school in the summer season, a time of planting and no harvest, there is little food and hunger and starvation is common.

Our mission is to continue a nutritious lunch program, through the schools and our UCC church partner in Honduras, without a break. Nutritious food is needed for good health and growth, working brains and energy to live. The program has been simplified by raising money and sending several of the York Asso. Missions Committee members to Honduras to purchase food for the summer program. It has been learned that this is a more efficient and worthwhile process than purchasing food in our country, filling buckets and shipping these to Honduras. Please help to show Christian love to our neighbors in the poorest country in all the Americas and break the cycle of poverty and lack of education. Donations are payable to Christ Church with a designation for AMIGOS. Questions? Contact your AMIGOS Coordinator, Judy Cadmus, 985-6788, judy1060@maine.rr.com.

**Veterans’ Assistance**

Veterans Serving Veterans, a grass roots-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
LOCAL OUTREACH

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. There is a box for them 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 carpoolls 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 gratefully enjoying the "Breakfast Boost" our volunteers are supplying for the morning break between 10:00 and 10:15. Our volunteers create and serve nutritious snacks and finger foods on **Tuesday and Wednesday** mornings. 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**. 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. Or you can simply contribute a nutritious dish you of your choice. The servers carpool from church at **9:00 a.m.**. Take a chance; you will probably find the experience rewarding and fun!

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**CALENDAR**

**Office Hours this month:**
- Week of March 3: Mon. & Wed. 10-2, Fri. 9-1
- Week of March 10: Mon. 10-2, Wed. & Fri. 9-1
- Week of March 17: Mon. 10-2, Wed. & Thur. 9-1
- Week of March 24: Mon. 10-2, Wed. 9-1 Thur. 10-2

**Community Holy Week Worship Services**
- Daily, Monday – Friday, April 14-18, 12:00 noon
- Easter Meditations at Kennebunk Baptist Church
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, Church on the Cape
- Good Friday, April 18, 7:00 pm, Village Baptist Church
- Easter Sunday, April 20, Sunrise service at Gooch’s Beach, Narragansett Point

**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](http://www.christchurchkennebunk.org). Please let the Office Manager know if you have events to add, or if you notice any errors: Jane King **985-4494** [jkchristchurch@gwi.net](mailto:jkchristchurch@gwi.net)
Christ Church plans a Summer 2014 Pledge Drive to support our ministry. You will be hearing more about Stewardship over the next few months. The following are some questions and answers to encourage you to think about the topic.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I don’t pledge but I put money in the plate regularly. Isn’t that the same thing?
   No, it isn’t. By pledging you are helping the church plan for expenses and revenue. The Cabinet makes an annual budget, based on our pledges received, not on the money we receive in what is called “loose offering” each Sunday. It is truly very important for each member family of the church to make an Estimate of Giving each year, no matter the size.

2. Are there other reasons why I should be pledging instead of giving as I go?
   Oh yes, we are glad you asked! By pledging you are fully participating in the life of the church, and we promise it will make you feel more connected to your church family. Also, when you pledge, you are giving the Cabinet a definite amount upon which they can depend. When you give as you go, your giving will more likely depend on your attendance – not always, but in general this is found to be true.

3. What if I feel I can’t pledge “enough?” Your letter last fall mentioned a suggested amount that is higher than we can afford to pay.
   Please know that the amount of your pledge is not what is important. The act of making a faith commitment and joining in helping the Cabinet do their job for all of us is what is important. If your financial circumstances are uncertain, we suggest estimating at a level comfortable to you.

4. What if my financial circumstances change after I have made my 2014 Estimate of Giving? May I change my estimate?
   Absolutely, you can decrease or increase your Estimate of Giving at any time and you need not offer any explanation. Life changes in ways we cannot foresee and we fully appreciate that. If this happens you can either submit a revised Estimate of Giving or contact our Finance Committee directly. All correspondences concerning pledges are completely confidential.

5. I give a tremendous amount of time to our church and feel that my time is my pledge. Don’t you agree?
   There is no question that our church depends on all of us to give of our time, our talent and our treasure as we can. We are blessed with the talent we share in our church, and the church would simply not function without the time given by so many dedicated volunteers. If your financial circumstances are such that you truly cannot make a dollar donation, sharing your time and/or your talent is an essential and treasured gift. We ask everyone who can afford to support the church financially to do so with an Estimate of Giving, at the level that is suitable to their circumstances. Our pledges pay for those expenses that cannot be donated by our time and our talent – salaries, benefits, oil, electricity, office supplies, buildings, maintenance, etc.

6. Is my Estimate of Giving confidential?
   All faith based pledges are honored and respected and are held with strict confidentiality

Your Stewardship Committee;
Helen Newton, Jim Anderson
My Sister’s Keeper will hold an informational meeting, 5:30 pm Tuesday, March 11 at St Martha’s Church, 30 Portland Rd in Kennebunk. This is a lay mentoring ministry for women in transition from incarceration to community and is open to women of all faiths. Participants must have the ability to listen and provide positive support to the women in need as well as attend on-going training sessions.

Mentors are sought in York County to support a pilot program at the Southern Maine Re-entry Center in Alfred which opened in 2013. For program information, visit www.ceumc.org/my-sisters-keeper/. Please pre-register by calling 467-3484 or email susanmsk@roadrunner.com. A light supper will be served.

**INFORMATION ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA**

First Parish UU Church in Kennebunk is sponsoring a panel presentation on dementia on **Saturday, March 22, 3:00 pm**. Featured speakers include Bill Kirkpatrick, Alzheimer’s Association Program Director, Sally Tartre, Executive Director of A Place to Start, Susan Bertin, Atria Life Guidance Director, and Karen Banning, Director of Caring Companion Home Care. Atria will provide refreshments. Seating is limited, so please reserve by calling Karen, 370-1476 A $5 donation is asked, to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association.

**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** though **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

**WOMEN’S CELEBRATION IX**

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.

**YORK COUNTY SHELTER PROGRAM RUN/WALK**

The 7th Annual 5k Run/2 Mile Walk is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, 9:00am** start (registration day of 8:00am). One may register on line through our web site link, www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.org, to Active.com or soon download a hard copy from the site.
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 to complete an online application. Jobs vary, but include all aspects of community life. You must be 18 by June.

Pilgrim Lodge Online Registration is Open!

You can see the schedule at http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule.
If you’d like to be on their mailing list please call 207-724-3200 or email karen@pilgrimlodge.org.

One of the great traditions of Camp Mechuwana is the Music Theater Program. This program began more than 30 years ago. Over those years many changes and updates have taken place to their theater, including new stage, lighting and sound system and the addition of a technical "crows nest". Campers can take part in all aspects of Theater from on stage to back stage, lighting and sound. Each week ends with a performance for parents, friends and the community. Three different weeks covering Elementary through high school. If you are interested in any of these weeks sign up as soon as you can space is limited. More information is at www.mechuwana.org mechuwana@myfairpoint.net 377-2924

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 for events and more information.

First Parish UU Church in Kennebunk is sponsoring a panel presentation on dementia on Saturday, March 22, 3:00 pm. Featured speakers include Bill Kirkpatrick, Alzheimer’s Association Program Director, Sally Tartre, Executive Director of A Place to Start, Susan Bertin, Atria Life Guidance Director, and Karen Banning, Director of Caring Companion Home Care. Atria will provide refreshments. Seating is limited, so please reserve by calling Karen, 370-1476. A $5 donation is asked, to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association.
Christian Education

HELP WANTED!

The Christian Education Committee has adopted a seasonal Bible-based Sunday School curriculum with easy, clear lesson plans and related activities, available for review in the office. A rotating team of volunteer teachers each teach three Sundays a month, to prevent “burnout.” The children find the Bible readings very engaging. The teaching team have all found the experience enriching and joyful. As one of the volunteers, Beverly Heald, said: “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 being with children, please think prayerfully about how you might be able to help bring God’s love to our children. If you are 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 youth, with adult oversight. If you can volunteer even one Sunday a month, it would help!

A new two-part workshop has been added to the NEAUCE Conference: “How to Lead a Small Group With Confidence,” Part 1, led by Rev. Anne Robertson. Part 1 of the workshop is being offered on Wednesday morning. Part 2 is being offered Wednesday afternoon. Small groups are a key ingredient for church growth and vitality, yet many churches struggle to find people who feel confident and equipped enough to lead them. This workshop will look at the fears and obstacles many face in stepping up to lead a small group and will help participants find their confidence and strength for the task. The Maine Conference offers a $50 scholarships to anyone attending from Maine.

Christ Church

Federated
United Methodist Church – United Church of Christ

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207-985-4494
christchurch@gwi.net  www.christchurchkennebunk.org
Rev. Patricia Smith, Interim Pastor: 363-6742, revpatcc@gwi.net