With a beautiful spring day outside my window as I write, I find my thoughts happily skipping from one thing to another. So this message will contain its own skipping around, and on such a fine day I think that’s okay!

First, one of the many joys of the (somewhat) warmer weather is being able to walk the hundred yards or so to the ocean at night. What a gift! I often go over later at night when no one is around (Yes, that still happens at Long Sands Beach for a few more weeks). All is well with the world as I watch the waves go in and out, and I am reminded of the constancy of my God who continually calls to me. I may sometimes be away from the sound of the water but I can never move away from God. What a comforting thought!

The second thing I want to share with you is from a daily devotional I’ve been reading entitled “Glimpses of Grace”, written by Madeleine L’Engle. She tells the story of a worship time she was leading:

“A teacher of small children told us of a child who said to her, ‘Jesus is God’s show and tell.’ How simple and how wonderful! Jesus is God’s show and tell. That’s the best theology of incarnation I’ve ever heard.”

We often speak of Jesus being “God with us”, and I remember professors who went on and on at length about the concept of incarnation. But I have never heard a better/clearer description than what that child said. I have learned a lot about children and their responses over the years, and I must say that more often than not, they “get it” better than anyone. Talk to a child about God and listen. You will hear some pure and joyful things.

Lastly I want to share with you how I see you as Christ Church always coming together as the body of Christ. The apostle Paul was so right when he spoke of how each part of the body has its own contributions to make, and none of us can make this body work without each other. Whether it’s printing and folding the bulletin, repairing umpteen things around the church (thank you Dick Cadmus), providing the beautiful music we have in worship, preparing for coffee hour, counting the offering, or simply showing up to worship, everyone has something to contribute, and I applaud you all. I continue to be amazed at how God has walked with you through some rough times and some wonderful times. What a comfort to know that presence will always be there. The skills, talents, and spiritual gifts of your congregation are diverse and rich, and I am blessed to be among you for even a short time.

Enjoy the spring and give God thanks.

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 all who 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

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE! AND THAT MEANS C-A-M-P!

Camp Mechuwana, the summer camp of the UMC, has overnight camps for children, adults, and families of all ages and compositions. Programs are offered in the arts, sports, outdoor living, science, and Native American skills, as well as a day camp children 5-11 years old. Scholarships are available. More information is available in the Fellowship Hall, or call Carol, 377-2924, mechuwana@myfairpoint.net or www.mechuwana.org

Online registration for Pilgrim Lodge, the UCC summer camp, has begun. The schedule is at www.pilgrimlodge.org_/schedule Campers from the previous three years will receive a camp brochure. To get on the mailing list, or to receive information on registering using paper forms, Karen Steelhammer, 724-3200, karen@pilgrimlodge.org
The ladies of Christ Church, with the help of our wonderful chef, Ron Breton, hosted a very successful Bridge Breakfast for forty-four guests on April 29. The guests were highly appreciative of both the food and the hospitality. The following people worked as a team to ensure that the second annual Bridge Breakfast was a huge success: Ron Breton and Judy Cadmus - food preparation; Betty Schofield and Carol Holmberg – Dining Room setup and decorations; Rhoda Frederick -- Coffee and Beverage Table; Brenda Kanbar and Sally Valdatta – Wait staff; Beverly Heald – Greeter; Bert Cowgill -- cleanup and setup for our next event (Rummage Sale); and Gail Preble served as Floater to be available in all areas. There were eleven tables of four, and we received many compliments on the breakfast, the appearance of the dining room, and the warmth and friendliness of the church volunteers. This fundraiser serves not only to raise funds for the church, but to bring members of our communities into our building to see that we are a vibrant congregation that work together to serve the community. A very sincere thank you to all who gave their time and talent and helped to raise the $800 for Christ Church programs locally and throughout the world.

**RUMMAGE SALE**

The Christ Church Spring Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 3**, so please remember to bring in clean housewares, clothes, small appliances, and tools you no longer need. Please sort clothes by size and men’s, women’s, or children’s, if you can. Donations can be dropped off from Monday, April 28 through Friday, May 2, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help with set-up, selling, and clean-up. If you can volunteer for even an hour, it would be very much appreciated.

**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 Women’s Fellowship has placed a “Dollars for Veterans” bank in the sanctuary for donations in honor of Memorial Day. All funds collected will be used to purchase toiletries for veterans, donated to Veterans Serving Veterans, a grass roots-program founded in Sanford in 1994, which provides warm clothing, blankets, and basic necessities to local veterans in need. 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](http://Veteransmilitarysurplus.blogspot.com). In November, nearly **$50** was raised – let’s see if we can top that in May!

Women’s Fellowship meetings generally involve activities such as making seasonal favors for shut-ins, planning for fund-raising 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 cooperative dinners 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. 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 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.gsfb.org](http://www.gsfb.org) donate to Good Shepherd Food Bank
- [www.buildcommunity.org](http://www.buildcommunity.org) Volunteering through United Way of York County
- [www.smaaa.org/meals_on_wheels.php](http://www.smaaa.org/meals_on_wheels.php) Volunteer with Meals on Wheels for Southern Maine

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 May 4; be sure to remember your contribution to ease hunger for our neighbors. This month the food pantry is in particular need of: **Instant Potatoes, Rice, Pancake/Muffin Mix, Peanut Butter, Stuffing, Canned Vegetables**, and **Canned Ham**.

**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 been interviewing and observing candidates to be our next settled pastor. They will be making a recommendation to Cabinet soon. If that recommendation is approved by Cabinet, there will be a congregational meeting June 1 to vote on calling that person. If you have any questions about this process, please speak to someone on the Committee: 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.

**OLA, AMIGOS!**

You are invited and encouraged to participate in the 10th annual the York Association, UCC, AMIGOS Project for Honduran school children. The purpose is to provide lunch for school age children in a poor, rural region of Honduras. A York Association mission group discovered in 2004 that when children are not in school in summer, a time of planting and no harvest, there is little food and hunger and starvation are common. Our mission is to maintain a nutritious lunch program through the schools and our UCC church partner in Honduras over the summer. The program raises money and sends several York Assoc. Missions Committee members to Honduras to purchase food for the program. Please show Christian love to our neighbors in the poorest country in the Americas and help 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](mailto:judy1060@maine.rr.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 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 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!

**Christian Education**

**HELP WANTED!**

The Christian Education Committee has adopted a Bible-based Sunday School curriculum with easy, clear lesson plans and related activities, available for review in the office. The children find the Bible readings very engaging. 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](mailto: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** (New England Association of United Church Educators) Conference: “How to Lead a Small Group With Confidence,” Part 1, led by Rev. Anne Robertson, is being offered on Wednesday morning. Part 2 is Wednesday afternoon. Small groups are a key ingredient for church growth and vitality, yet churches struggle to find people who are confident and equipped enough to lead them. This workshop will help participants find their confidence and strength for the task. The Maine Conference offers a **$50 scholarship** to anyone attending from Maine. [www.auce-ucc.org/AUCEhomepage/New_England](http://www.auce-ucc.org/AUCEhomepage/New_England)
Community Events

HOSPICE OF SOUTHERN MAINE VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
Volunteers help form the heart of hospice. Their dedication and compassionate care support the well-being of our patients and their families in immeasurable ways, completing the professional circle of hospice care. Volunteers are needed in your community. Trained and certified hospice volunteers provide an average of 4 hours per week of non-medical aid and support to patients and families, including the following:
• Emotional support to patients and caregivers
• Respite care to allow caregivers time to themselves
• Assistance with light household chores, light meal prep or family concerns
• Help with errands
If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, and would like more information, please contact Kellie Pattie, Manager of Volunteer Services, Hospice of Southern Maine: volunteer@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org 289-3652 You may also visit www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org and click on Volunteering.

KIDS FREE TO GROW
Summer fundraisers to help prevent child abuse in York County and keep kids safe and healthy:
May 15, 6-9 pm, Nonantum Resort, Kennebunkport: Bid Against Child Abuse auction.
July 19, 10 am- 4 pm: Private Gardens of the Kennebunks tour.
September 18, 1 pm, Webhannet Golf Course, Kennebunk: Golf Tournament

SCHOOL OF THE SMALLER CHURCH
Offered by Maine School of Ministry (MESoM); Instructor: The Rev. Dr. David Ray; Beginning May 10 in Winthrop, this course is especially for teams (three or more) from a smaller church and for pastors and prospective and current licensed ministers. There will be four six-hour meetings, each in a different smaller church in the central part of Maine. The dates are: May 10, June 14, October 25, and November 15. The meeting time will be 9 am – 3 pm with a break for lunch.

STAR ISLAND HARMONY
Register now for the Sacred and Secular Choral Singing Weekend at Star Island http://starisland.org, a stunningly beautiful retreat center on a small island off the NH coast, Fri-Sun, Sept 12 - 14. This singing weekend has sold out for the last three years, so register soon! A cappella and piano/choral 4-part harmony singing of American contemporary and classic gospel, spirituals, world ethnic choral music, and arrangements of folk songs. The weekend is great for directors and singers in community, church and hospice choruses, and for those who simply love to sing. Register at: http://starisland.org/conferences/2013-conference-listing/star-island-harmony/ For more information on the program please contact Star Island Harmony Registrar: Peter Amidon: amidonpeter@gmail.com 802-257-1006

UCC HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE
The Maine Conference, UCC, invites you to join in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, a Contemporary Studies Pilgrimage in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan, November 2-12, 2014, $3,091 Round trip from Boston. Optional 4-day Elective: the Wonders of Petra & Jordan, returning November 16, 2014, $1,389. Informational Gatherings about the trip will be held at the Maine Conference Center, 1 Weston Court, Suite 104 Augusta Thursday, May 1, 10 am to noon and 2-4 pm, and Saturday, May 3, 2- 4 pm. Come learn about the holy sites we will visit and get your questions answered. FMI: contact Rev. Darren Morgan, Associate Conference Minister, who will be leading this year's group to The Holy Land. dmorgan207@roadrunner.com or 944-9469
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.

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](http://www.womenworkandcommunity.org)

YORK COUNTY SHELTER PROGRAM RUN/WALK

“END HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER” York County Shelter Programs (YCSP)
Saturday, May 10, 2014, 9:00am; 8:00am registration: 7th annual 5K Run/2 Mile Walk, Kennebunk Beach, beginning at Mothers’ Beach. Participants are asked to raise pledge money for YCSP homeless and hunger programs. Pre-registration on line: [www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.org](http://www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.org) for the link to Active.com or download a registration form. FMI Joan Sylvester, 324-1137 ex 105, joans@vespi.org FREE tee shirt for the first 200 participants!

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.

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
PLEDGE DRIVE Q &A

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

Christ Church
United Methodist Church – United Church of Christ
6 Dane Street  P.O. Box 87  Kennebunk, Maine 04043
207-985-4494
christchurch@gwi.net  www.christchurchkennebunk.org
Rev. Patricia Smith, Interim Pastor: 363-6742, revpalcc@gwi.net