



Note from the Pastor

January 2016

One major part of a pastor's first few years with a congregation is meeting people and building relationships. As most of you know from experience, behind almost any successful job, healthy family dynamics, or high functioning community endeavor are vital relationships. When we think about relationships from a faith perspective, we can see that they are central to what God is about. God in Christ, the Word made flesh, is all about God making more enduring connections with people. Indeed, another way to speak of salvation is as "being in right relationship with God." In Jesus' ministry, he repeatedly demonstrates that his relationship with God (love God...) and his relationships with other people (love your neighbor...) were the primary motivators of his ministry. As Jesus so often is, this is a good model for us today. Research into healthy congregations shows that among the factors for vitality are significant, healthy, and growing relationships both among the people of the congregation and between the congregation and the surrounding communities. It is these relationships that form the basis for ministries with people and organizations in conducting ministries.

A next step in continuing to develop my relationships with year is a forthcoming series of meet and greet events (see the listing below). Whether I have worked with you a lot or whether we haven't met yet, I encourage you to attend one of the events. Not only will this be an opportunity for us to get to know each other better, it will also be an opportunity for you to tell me about Gray Memorial UMC. What excites you about this church? What are your hopes and dreams? What do you see as the challenges we face? What is God calling us to be about today and in the coming few years? I will look forward to meeting with you at one of these events (please sign up so our hosts can prepare for you-we will have inserts in bulletins on January 3 and 10). If you would like to come, but none of these times work for you, contact me and we can arrange another time to meet.

Happy New Year.

Grace and peace, Rev. Tim

Meet and Greet Events

Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.; hosts: Bob and Norma Thompson, 157 Powers Road, Caribou

Tuesday, January 19 at 1:30p.m.; host: Margaret Cyr, 43 Rose Street, Caribou

Sunday, January 24 at 11:20, a.m. after worship, Church Library

Wednesday, January 27 at 9 a.m. at the church; host: Debbie Nichols, GMUMC Fellowship Hall

TBD--gathering with GMUMC youth



Caríbou Clock

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church 2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69 Caribou ME 04736 <u>E-mail: graymemorial@outlook.com</u> Date: January 2016 Pastor: 492-0371 Church Office: 498-2103 Website: http://www.bgmumc.com

Greetings from the Church Office!

As we begin another new year, I am grateful for my family and friends, especially my "family" at Gray Memorial UMC! A big thank-you goes to Shirley Bowman for her help in filling in when I am away and whenever I need an extra set of hands in the office!

| hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas! May your New Year be filled with joy, prosperity and good health!

Please remember to notify the church office whenever you move or change telephone numbers and/or email addresses so that | can keep our Database current and | can put a note in the next Newsletter! Remember to update your own Pictorial Directory!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier Church Secretary

Note from Rev. Tim:

Our Lenten study during the adult class time on Sunday mornings during Lent will feature the book *Giving Up Something Bad for Lent*. During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be. Our seven session class will begin on February 7. Suggested donation for the book is \$7 and comes in paperback or as an ebook. If you would like us to order a copy for you, please see Rev. Tim or call the church office by January 17.



November 29th & December Prayer Joys and Concerns:

<u>Prayer Concerns</u>: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Judi & Ken McKee, Florence Gallagher, Ben, Jordan & John, Pat Hoff, Dean & Diana Rauch, August Wells, Keegan Wakana, Betty Branscom, Cathy Griffeth, Bonnie Hayward, Glenice Craig, Avis Hume, Stanley Jordan, Robin Reed, Theresa Ross, Corry Saunders, Renee Licheterman, Neal Genz, Cassie Westman, Anjar Adamson

On Family Death: Family of Hunter Smith (Justin & Tiffany); Adams Family (death in family); Family of Kenneth Ewing;

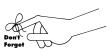
<u>Other</u>: Nation of Israel; All who serve in harm's way; victims in San Bernardino; Countries of Palestine & Isreal; Cherie Black (leaving us!); those traveling for the holidays; nice to see Desmond on Dec 27th; refugees in the Middle East; Southern US - storms

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A MAILING ADDRESS FOR PEOPLE OR FAMILIES YOU PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST SO WE CAN SEND THEM A NOTE FROM REV. TIM. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

Correspondence/Messages Received:

Card from Theresa Wunderlich:

Dear Gray Memorial United Methodist Church Congregation – Thank you for your prayers. Prayers are very powerful and I truly believe in them. I pray that God will walk with me and help heal me. I will not know anything until February. So I ask you all to keep me in your prayers. May God Bless you all. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holly Holiday. Sincerely, Theresa Wunderlich Thank you, Rev. Tim Wilcox for your prayers also.



REMINDERS

DATE	LECTOR	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Jan 3	Mary Lou Brown	Ruth & Emmett Ross	Ruthann Weeks	Education Committee
Jan 10	Richard Clark	Mary & Mike Ayers	Joelene Boucher	Evangelism Committee
Jan 17	Margaret Cyr	Penny Shaw & Duska Franklin	Joelene Boucher	Finance/Stewardship Comm.
Jan 24	David DeMerchant	Debbie Barnes & Joelene Boucher	Joelene Boucher	Worship Committee
Jan 31	Bob Ellinwood	Shirley Bowman & Diane McDonough	Jennifer Branscom	NO VOLUNTEERS!

Usher Coordinator for January: David DeMerchant

January Evangelism Greeters: Jan 3-Mary Ouellette; Jan 10-Betty Branscom; Jan 17-Ruthann Weeks;

Jan 24-Ruth Ross; Jan 31-Samuela Manages

Communion Stewardess for January: Ruthann Weeks

Acolytes: Jan3-Darrell Adams & Friedrich Wilcox; Jan 10-Matthew Smith & Miles Collier;

Jan 17-Lauren Craig & Alden Wilcox; Jan 24-Caleb Brown & Darrell Adams; Jan 31-Matthew Smith & Miles Collier

<u>Child Care Volunteers</u>: Jan 3-Diane Fitzpatrick; Jan 10-Meagan Irving; Jan 17-Diana Locke; Jan 24-Samuela Manages; Jan 31-Debbie Barnes

Each individual or committee is responsible to make arrangements for changes to these various calendars.

Please contact the church office if any changes to these lists are made so the weekly bulletins are correct! (Note – TBD means "To Be Determined")

* * January Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday during Coffee Fellowship.

Remember your birthday & anniversary by a special offering each year.



- 2 Colleen Harmon
- 3 Jennifer Branscom
- 4 Jennifer Espling, Betty Fowler, Jennifer Norsworthy, Vicki Steggall
- 5 Elizabeth Cochran
- 7 Anthony Morrow, Katie Smith
- 10 Aaron Greenier
- 12 Steve Belyea, Lauren McHattie
- 13 Sheila Pelletier, Bessie Thornton
- 14 Michelle Nichols, Alan Pangburn

- 15 Edgar Gagnon, Parker Stallings
- 16 Julie Ordway
- 18 Phil Brown, Francis Cyr
- 20 Tanner Sterner
- 23 Jean Cashman, Carter Irving, Ken Peters
- 26 Sheila Belyea
- 27 Paul Pangburn
- 29 Winnie Brown, Katie Pelletier
- 30 Louis Greenier, Michael Scott, Phil Turner
- 31 Mona Johnson



8 Elsie & Ken Doody

26 Tammy & Ken Albert

22 Norma & Bob Thompson

If your name or the name of someone in the Gray Memorial Family does not appear on this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office, 498-2103.

Corrections are <u>ALWAYS</u> appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.



Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

Date	Attendance	Operating Fund Offering
November 29	104	\$2,768.01
December 6	101	\$5,238.25
December 13	112	\$8,847.00
December 20	175	\$3,455.13
December 24	177	(donations reported with those received 12/27)
December 27	61	\$8,417.73
*****	******	***************************************

Needed to meet 2015 Budget: \$3,858.53 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations each week for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of December 30th, the balance is \$17,586.38. Our unpaid "debt" to this account remains at \$2,705.86.

<u>Changes to 2013 Pictorial Directory</u>: Alley, Roxann: deceased November 21, 2015 Griffeth, Rex: deceased October 28, 2015 Stallings, Debra: new address - 11662 Tamarisk Blvd., Fishers IN 44037

A Fond Farewell

December 13, 2015

Dear church family,

In January, I will begin working at Bonny Eagle Adult Education in Buxton, Maine. Although I have felt called to move into adult education for some time now, applying for the position and then accepting it when it was offered was not a simple decision because of the cherished relationships I have established here in Caribou. I may have been born in Portland, Maine, but "Aroostook County" has always been my reply when I'm asked where I am from.

Bessie Gray Memorial has given me so much. Whether it was through the opportunity to greet people or be a lector on Sunday mornings, to participate in fulfilling conversation in adult Sunday school or in Disciple Bible study, to lead the children in fun games during summer vacation Bible school, or to worship during the weekly service, Bessie Gray has taught me to offer myself to others, to reach out and share blessings.

Colossians 2:6-7 states: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." I may be uprooting and moving to another place, but I will take with me a heritage. Thank you so much for welcoming me and giving me the chance to grow as an individual in your community, to establish solid roots in Jesus. Know that I will employ all I have learned and will extend myself as you did for me.

God bless you, Cherie

WORSHIP SERVICE PICTURES (photos by Dale Sharp unless otherwise noted)



Angel Tree Gifts!



UMW Mission Recognition Pins presented by Gwen Ellinwood to: Bill Thomas, Ruthann Weeks, Pat Dobson, Shirley Bowman and Charlene Gage (absent)



The Sunday School and "Terrific Tuesday" children practice for "The Christmas Story" play – Dec 20, 2015



"The Christmas Story" scene with the children singing!



The Three Wise Men arrive at Jesus' crib!





The Sanctuary was nearly full for "The Christmas Story" presentation!



Members of the congregation join Rev. Tim as he offers a blessing to Cherie Black who is moving away! We will miss you Cherie!

OTHER "KODAK MOMENTS"



Eyzic helping with Christmas Tree sales on Saturday, December 5th! (photo by Neal Genz)



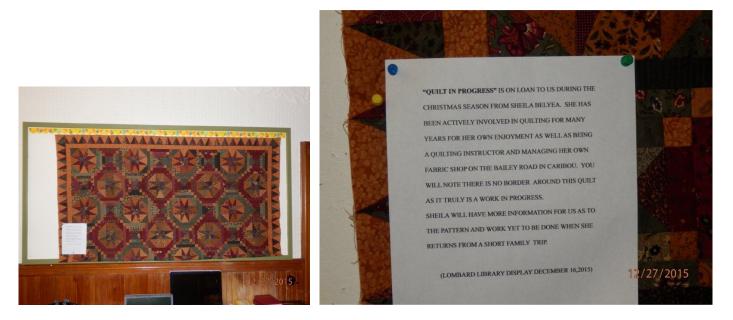
December 12th.....working in tee shirts selling Christmas trees! (photo by Neal Genz) (What a difference in weather!)



December Birthday & Anniversary Cake – December 6! (photo by Dale Sharp)



Special Birthday Cake for Jesus on December 20th!



Sheila Belyea's "Quilt in Progress" on display in the church Library!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 12-17-15

<u>ATTENDEES</u>: Diane McDonough (chair), Claire Hodgkins, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Bobbi Pelletier, Kathleen Forbes, Debbie Barnes, David W DeMerchant, Bill Thomas, Mary Lou Brown, and Shirley Bowman

Diane McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM in the church kitchen. Rev. Tim said a brief prayer. The Council approved the minutes of the last meeting as printed and published and then the following committee reports were presented:

<u>CLUSTER</u>: No Report, but Bill Thomas reported there was a small turn out at the Thanksgiving Cluster service at Grant Memorial last month. Rev. Tim reported that we got an invitation to a Blue Christmas service in Limestone from Pastor Steve Dale to be held Monday night, Dec. 21st at 7 PM.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: No Report.

<u>EDUCATION</u>: An appreciation plaque dedicated to Scott Branscom has been placed in the Fellowship Hall Sunday school area to show our appreciation for making the Bulletin Board/partition for that area. There will not be any Sunday school on Dec. 20th but the children will be putting on a play during the service. They will be having a birthday party for Jesus after church and help is wanted.

<u>EVANGELISM</u>: The Angel Tree project is going well with 25 families being served. We will be putting their Christmas packages together on Saturday, Dec. 19th and are looking for helpers for that day. Contact Ruth Ross or Betty Branscom if you are available. Betty appreciates all the help she has received from Ruth Ross in the transition to the Chair position. Betty will be scheduling Greeters for Jan., 2016.

<u>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</u>: Shirley Bowman reported that the Regular offerings for November amounted to \$19,619.86 and offering from other sources of the Operating Fund brought the total to \$22,014.86. Reimbursements amounted to \$13.00, and offerings for Special Funds for Church Use was \$2,642.57 of which \$1,022.00 was for the Seed money account. Offering Not for Church Use totaled \$57.00. The total offerings for November amounted to \$24,727.43.

Bobbi reported the following check book figures:

	0
Beginning Balance	(\$2,071.30)
2015 Operating Income	22,014.86
Interest	.47
*Cookie Booth (SF)	153.00
(This was last year's funds)	
Less EFT fee	(18.50)
Less Expenses	(19,863.09)
Ending Balance	215.44

The current balance as of Nov. 30th in the Special Funds is \$5,433.39. Total amount on hand for Operating Account is \$5.648.83. The Capital Account Seed Money activity for November is as follows:

Previous balance \$17,331.74

Deposits \$1,022.74

Money spent \$1,440.10

New Balance \$16,914.38.

Debbie Barnes reported that we were able to pay \$6,083.82 towards our Mission share debt leaving new total unpaid bills for Mission Shares of \$7,084.62. Our total unpaid EOM bill for Mission Shares due in December is \$11,272.00.

The Dead River Balance for the church is \$4,234.84. The Parsonage balance is \$2,462.22.

Debbie reported the November Budget overview figures:

Target	\$183,507.27
Tithes & Offerings	\$161,793.17
Total Expenses	\$173,460.30
Unpaid Expenses	\$11,770.48

Average Attendance for November was 113 and the average for the year as of Nov. 30th was 105.

Next, the Finance Committee presented the 2016 Budget to the Council of \$195,732.50. It was noted that a few committees slashed their Budget proposals where possible and Staff will not receive any pay increases. Due to our debt, Bobbi requested that no Committee spend any money without checking with her first. Money in the Budget is subject to Tithes and offerings by the Congregation. SPRC did add a miscellaneous item line of \$250 for flexibility. The Budget was passed by the Council and available for anyone to see.

HISTORY AND RECORDS: Mary Lou Brown reported that her committee will take Dec. and Jan. off. She wishes everyone to see the bulletin board in the Library. "A Quilt in Progress" made by Sheila Belyea is on display.

MEMORIALS: No Report.

<u>SPRC</u>: The Committee has set the budget and worked on the Pastor evaluation. The Council members recommend that the liaisons call their individual staff personnel, thank them for their service, wish them a Merry Christmas, and ask how things are going, etc.

TRUSTEES: No Report.

<u>UMM</u>: The UMM met on Nov. 28th for breakfast and their monthly meeting. The guest speaker was unable to come so they continued with their meeting. All men who join their group prior to their Feb. 26, 2016 meeting will be considered charter members. Ken Peters reported there was a balance of \$359.59 in their checking account. Ken Peters has volunteered to be their representative on the Church Council. The UMM are planning to hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 9th as a fundraiser. Ken Peters will be chairman and Neal, Bill Thomas, Del Ramey, Steve Cashman and Dave DeMerchant volunteered to help. Neal Genz, Bill Thomas, and Dave DeMerchant, with help from Roy Alden, put up the Tree of Lights at Margaret Cyr's request.

<u>UMW</u>: Bobbi Pelletier reported her committee served 22 for Thanksgiving dinner. They need more help next year. Her Committee gave Mission pins to Ruthann Weeks, Pat Dobson, Charlene Gage, Shirley Bowman, and Bill Thomas during the Dec. 13th Sunday service. Our World Thank offering netted \$49.00.

UMW will pay for new curtains for the parsonage. Tamara will order them. Ruth Ross volunteered to schedule bakers to supply goodies for Christmas tree workers.

Jennie Lyon Circle held a potluck lunch and Christmas party Wednesday, Dec 9th. Jennie Lyon Circle will pay for the new curtains for the Parsonage. The Prayer Shawl Ministry and Jennie Lyon will not meet in January and February, but the UMW will be meeting Jan. 12th to set the budget and event schedule for 2016.

<u>WORSHIP</u>: The Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 PM with Rev. Tim leading the Lessons and Carols. Our Tree of Lights fund raiser has netted \$700+. We are discussing a "Tape Ministry" for shut-ins. We would tape the Sunday service and distribute to those unable to attend. We need to consider the following: equipment, taping volunteers, tape or CD formats, people to deliver the tapes to shut-ins, copyright laws for taping music, and lastly, list people requesting the tapes or CDs. Grant Memorial in PI is doing this ministry so that is a good source of information.

Special Sundays in January:

January 3 Epiphany

January 10 Baptism of the Lord Sunday; Baptism of Guinevere Barnum

January 17 Human Relations Day; Prayer Shawl Dedication

<u>PASTOR'S TIME</u>: Rev. Tim reported that he has been taping radio spots that will run through Christmas. He can be heard at 8 AM on Channel X which will cost \$16 a spot to be sponsored by the Community Services Committee which will also cover spots on WFST which will also run through Christmas and cost \$1 a minute. These WFST spots will be heard throughout the day about 3 or 4 times. The Disciple 3 classes are on hiatus until January. "The Journey" bible study is almost completed. There will be a Baptism on January 10th. It has been recommended that the kids carry a microphone to people in the congregation wishing to speak so that all can hear well. He and Bob Thompson are working to improve sound issues so that the entire congregation may hear well. The curtain rods for the Parsonage have arrived and the curtains are on order which have been purchased with the discount. The new pastor's computer is here but the software is on order. Pastor Tim will have to discuss with SPRC what he can and cannot accomplish if he is to teach 5 classes in the spring. Some things may not get done that he would ordinarily be free to get to.

<u>OTHER</u>: Mary Lou reported the outreach of Margaret and her mother's program at Caribou Gardens on December 17th, Thursday afternoon. Mary Lou was asked to come along and lead the caroling. Margaret and her mother played several duets on the piano. The residents sang carols and had a wonderful time.

The Girl Scouts are losing their venue and Rev. Tim has reached out to see if our church could accommodate as a meeting spot. The Council decided to invite Connie Anderson, the leader, to our next meeting in January to discuss this possibility. The girl scouts typically meet on most Thursdays between 6 PM and 7 PM. They would need storage space for their file cabinet.

Judi Greenier plans the Living Nativity between 5 PM and 6 PM on Monday, Dec. 21st and Tuesday, Dec. 22nd.

Shirley Bowman reported there was \$17.51 in the can which goes toward our offering for the new freezer project for Camp Mechuwana. The Council discussed the possibility of making this project our focus in January. When asked Rev. Tim said that it costs between \$295-\$330 for a full week at the camp and between \$220 and \$230 for half a week. A parent may come with a child (in a ½ week camp or as a volunteer) for the experience. The Cluster will be organizing transportation for people going to camp.

The next meeting of the Council is January 21st.

There being no further business the Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary.

New Elementary School Project

The citizens of Caribou, Limestone, and Stockholm are invited to attend an information meeting and straw poll for the site selection of the new elementary school (Pre K-8) to be located in Caribou.

January 12, 2016 (snow date January 19th) Information Meeting 6:30 p.m. Straw Poll 7:30 p.m. Caribou Performing Arts Center Questions can be directed to: Laurie Chapman Ichapman@rsu39.org 207-496-6311

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY!!!

Friday Saturday	01 02	FEDERAL HOLIDAY - NEW YEAR'S DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED 8:30-9:30am Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library	
Sunday	03	8:45am	Sunday School
		8:45am	Adult Bible Study
		10:00am	Worship – Epiphany Sunday
		11:30am	Confirmation Class Meeting in Library
Monday	04	1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	05	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	06	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	07	6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Saturday	09	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
		9:30am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
Sunday	10	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship-Baptism of the Lord Sunday; First Sunday After the Epiphany; Baptism of Guinevere May Pethick Barnum
Monday	11	1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	12	9:30am	UMW Meeting at Church (all women are welcome!)
		10:30am	Evangelism Committee Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
		6:30pm	Information Meeting - New School Project - CPAC
		7:30pm	Straw Poll on New School Project - CPAC
Wednesday	13	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Pastor Meet & Greet at Bob & Norma Thompson's Home
Thursday	14	6:00pm	SPRC Meeting at Church
Saturday	16	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship – Second Sunday After the Epiphany; Human Relations Day (special offering); Prayer Shawl Dedication
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
		11:30am	Community Service Committee Meeting in Chapel
Monday	10		Y - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - OFFICE CLOSED
Monday	18		
		1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY!!! (Continued)

Tuesday	19	6:00pm 6:30pm	Trustees Meeting at Church Pastor Meet & Greet at Margaret Cyr's Home
Wednesday	20	4:30pm 6:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	21	6:00pm 6:30pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting at Church Church Council Meeting at Church
Saturday	23 8:	8:30am :30-9:30am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting in Fellowship Hall Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
Sunday	24	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am 11:20am	Worship – Third Sunday After the Epiphany Pastor Meet & Greet in Church Library
Monday	25	1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	26	6:30pm 6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	27	9:00am 4:30pm	Pastor Meet & Greet at Church; host-Debbie Nichols Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Saturday	30 8	30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
Sunday	31	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship – Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

JANUARY 20 - DEADLINE FOR INPUT TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!!!

