



December 2015

Over the years, I have had many enjoyable experiences of Christmas: caroling, Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve services, Christmas trees, family gatherings, beautiful decorations, thoughtful gifts, making Christmas candy, and many more. There have been numerous moments with family, friends, church, and community that have warmed my heart. Each of these memories have made me think of a warm, friendly, joyful season. I think of Jesus in a straw-lined manger surrounded by family. Echoes of “Joy to the World,” “Silent Night,” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” fill my mind. It often seems ideal—too ideal.

Statistically, Christmas is the time of year when more people are depressed or feeling down than any other. Why is this? I think it comes partly from celebrating the holiday in unrealistic ways. We are told we are supposed to be happy and give selflessly. Instead, many feel pressure from not living up to the season’s ideals. From having so little time for the deeper meaning of the season to trying to keep up with cards, food, parties and gifts, many don’t find Christmas at all peaceful. This can be even more so if there are difficult or painful anniversaries. Recall that Jesus’ birth was hardly idyllic. He was born to outcast parents and placed on what was likely a crude manger in a cave. John the Baptist reports Jesus came to “burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” in Luke 3. Hardly “Jesus, meek and mild,” right? Then, as now, Jesus came to bring good news to a world that needed healing and refocused priorities.

I believe God dared become human so we could more fully identify with God and God with us. God wants us to realize the image in which we were created. Christ came not to erase our struggles (or joys) but to give us hope no matter what life brings...to show us God’s ways and mold us in God’s image. A romanticized version of Christmas doesn’t align with a world broken by personal loss, war, wayward relationships, and selfish ambition. Yes, Christmas is to be a time of joy. Yet, when overwhelmed with the season’s to-do lists it can lose that joy. When we focus on God’s love for us—even in the face of difficulties—found in the ministry of one born in a lowly stable, we can’t help but be grateful for what God did 2000 years ago, what God is doing right now and what God promises to do in the future.

May the joy of the Christ child be born anew in us in this season and all year. May this year’s celebrations capture both this sense of wonder and connect with the reality of our world.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Tim



Caribou Clock

*Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church
2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69
Caribou ME 04736
E-mail: graymemorial@outlook.com*

*Date: December 2015
Pastor: 492-0371
Church Office: 498-2103
Website: <http://www.bgmumc.com>*

Greetings from the Church Office!

Can you believe it is already December? Where did the year go?

Many exciting things occurred during November (and previous months), many of which are pictorially reflected in this Newsletter. I truly appreciate all who provide these glorious pictures – it helps us each to remember the many enjoyable and wondrous things we do here at the church! I hope you enjoy them.

I wish to thank the volunteers who help to mail the recent Stewardship letters on November 24th – Shirley Bowman, Mary Lou Brown and Diane McDonough – without them, that mailing would not have been possible!

I also thank Shirley Bowman for filling in for me when I am away – she truly is a blessing!

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

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



November Prayer Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Concerns: Debbie Sharp, Judi & Ken McKee, Florence Gallagher, Anna Roberts, Dean Rauch, William Cashman, Barb Davis, Eddie Ouellette, Shirley Pervier, Stacey Wood, Sandra Monson, Gary & Marilyn Langley, Rodney Nichols, Susan Clark, Dean & Diana Rauch, Ken Peters, Maxine Boucher, Theresa Wunderlich, Jerry Pelletier, Bonnie Hayward, Cathy Griffeth, Betty Branscom

On Family Death: Family of Rex Griffeth; Family of Caleb Long; Family of Norman St. Peter; Family of Doris Martin; Family of Dana Kirane; Family of Roxann Alley;

Other: Prayers of joy for Jeffrey Alden & Kaitlin Gangle on their engagement!; Bobbi Pelletier - safe travel; Nation of Israel; prayers of joy for Doris Jeffery (retirement!); Family of William Cashman; Family of Joshua Churchill; Del Ramey - transitioning parents to new housing situation; all who serve in harms way

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:

A message from Anna Roberts: "I would like to thank my Church Family for all the cards, prayers and visits while I was in the hospital and rehab. God Bless You All." Anna



REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Dec 6	Debbie Nichols	Mary Ouellette & Debbie Nichols	Ruth Ross	UMW/Jennie Lyon Circle
Dec 13	Bobbi Pelletier	Diana Locke & David Wakana	Ruth Ross	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dec 20	Del Ramey	Ruthann & John Weeks	Ruthann Weeks	SPRC
Dec 24 (4pm)	TBD	Norma & Bob Thompson	TBD	No Coffee Fellowship
Dec 27	Dave Belyea	Diane & Bruce Fitzpatrick	Ruthann Weeks	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator for December: Dale Sharp

December Evangelism Greeters: Dec 6-Betty Branscom; Dec 13-Ruth Ross; Dec 20-Samuela Manages;
Dec 24-TBD; Dec 27-Debbie Nichols

Communion Stewardess for December: Debbie Barnes

Acolytes: Dec 6-Darrell Adams & Caleb Brown; Dec 13-Mari Witmer & Alden Wilcox; Dec 20-Lauren Craig & Miles Collier;
Dec 24-Darrell Adams & Friedrich Wilcox; Dec 27-Matthew Smith & Friedrich Wilcox

Child Care Volunteers: Dec 6-Samuela Manages; Dec 13-Norma Thompson; Dec 20-Dawn Westman;
Dec 24 (4pm)-Debbie Barnes; Dec 27-Jennifer Craig

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")

* * December Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

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



1	Mike Ayers, Carole Doody	17	Peter Bentum
3	Bob Sawyer	18	Donald Cole
7	Bonnie Ward	22	Judith Blackstone
9	Jeffrey Alden, Janet Chandler, David Doody	23	Diane Fitzpatrick, Alison Kieffer, Katherine Scott, Meghan Scott
10	Pamela Danforth, Paula Richards	24	Dylan LaForge, Carol Norsworthy
11	Elsie Doody, George Knorr	27	Dan DaCosta
12	Leslie Anderson, Steven Scott	28	Nick Pelletier
14	Libby Collier, Connie Ennis, Claire Hodgkins	29	Ken Albert, Jody Smith
15	Ryan Fitzpatrick, Dawn Frost, Zelma Merritt	30	Kathleen Forbes
16	Leland Frost	31	Katherine Strom



1	Pat & Warren Dobson	24	Jeanette & Ken Peters
3	Penny & Ivan Shaw	26	Ruthann & John Weeks
7	Gwen & Bob Ellinwood	28	Dawn & Jeffrey Frost

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 ALWAYS 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
November 1	123	\$4,008.00
November 8	104	\$8,914.12 (includes \$1,750.00 from Harvest Supper)
November 15	109	\$3,107.49 (includes \$201.00 from Harvest Supper)
November 22	126	\$3,217.24
November 29 (will be reported in next month's Newsletter)		

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

We will have additional opportunities this year to again make a difference at Gray Memorial United Methodist Church through our ministries. You will receive special envelopes during December Worship Services that you may use to make a special contribution toward the ministries of our congregation. These gifts assist in our mission through pastoral services, educational and fellowship programs, a facility available to the community, and mission work in northern Maine, New England and throughout the world.

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations each week for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of November 23rd, the balance is \$16,873.64.

In November, we paid \$690.00 for the work done to replace the three pillars by the church entrance and \$750.10 for the electrical work done in Rev. Tim's church office (electrical work expense considered an additional "debt" the church owes this account). Our unpaid "debt" to this account is now \$2,705.86.

Changes to 2013 Pictorial Directory:

Fowler, David: new address – 8117 Cedar Hollow Road, Greensboro NC 27455-8200

Penny, Eloise: new address – 166 Sweden Street, Apt. 14, Caribou ME 04736

SUMMARY HARVEST SUPPER 2015

REVENUE:

Total Dinners----133 (INCLUDES 36 TAKEOUTS)	\$1,817.00
Donations	221.00
Food Sales Saturday Evening /Church Sunday	77.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,115.00

EXPENSES:

Del Ramey Supper Supplies	\$34.00
Sleepers Turkeys, Peas, Containers, ETC.	130.00
Bob Thompson Supper Supplies	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$164.00
NET PROFIT	\$1,951.00

NET PROCEEDS FROM THE HARVEST SUPPER WILL BE APPLIED TO CHURCH'S OPERATING FUND ACCOUNT. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING (YOUR TIME, PRESENCE, AND FINANCIAL GIFTS) IN MAKING THIS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HARVEST SUPPER AND REACHING OUT IN FELLOWSHIP TO THE CARIBOU COMMUNITY.

GOD BLESS,
BOB & DEL

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



Rev. Tim with the
Children on November 1st.



November 1st: Honoring our Saints

Candles were brought to the altar by/for:

Claire Hodgkins for Peter Finkel
Kendra Melvin for Paula Johnson
Elsie Doody for Jeanne Pelletier
Sue White for Melanie Fengler
Ruth Ross for Juanita Lancaster
Linda Richards & Mary Lou Brown for
Constance Harmon
Debbie Nichols for Wayne Nichols



Candles on the altar, honoring our saints. (photo by Bobbi Pelletier)



Our new "Time Capsule"!



Rev. Tim & Mary Lou Brown (talking about the new Time Capsule)



Rev. Tim with Mary Lou Brown, explaining the process of getting the new capsule made and what the contents are. (see other pictures and the letter from Mary Lou later in this Newsletter)



Rev. Tim blessing the new Time Capsule!

OTHER "KODAK MOMENTS"

Scenes from UMM's Breakfast & Meeting on Saturday, October 31st:



Breakfast enjoyed by all in attendance!



Guest Speaker-Chief Mike Gahagan (Caribou Police)

Constructing the “1913” pillar and the other two Sweden Street pillars by Rene St. Peter (photos by Mary Lou Brown)



The cavity in the “1913” pillar waiting for the new Time Capsule!

Installation of the new handrail made by Greg Theriault



The new Time Capsule and its contents ready for sealing and putting into the "1913" pillar!



New Time Capsule with all its contents was available to look at on November 15th!



Paul Powers prepares to seal the time capsule!



Welding the seams!



New Time Capsule all done!



Time Capsule placed in the "1913" Pillar cavity!



Rene St. Peter seals the new Time Capsule into "1913" Pillar!



Special cake for Coffee Fellowship – Sunday, November 1st!



Jennie Lyon Bakesale – November 14th! (photos by Bobbi Pelletier)



Gwen Ellinwood, Barbara Van Kir, Audrey Bubar & Betty Branscom prepare for the UMW Bazaar – November 14th!



Joelene Boucher, Diane Fitzpatrick & Barbara Van Kirk prepare for UMW's Soup Luncheon!



Tables set for the UMW Soup Luncheon!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 11-19-2015

ATTENDEES: Diane McDonough (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Mary Lou Brown, David W. DeMerchant, Debbie Barnes, Margaret Cyr, Judi Greenier, Roy E. Alden, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Bill Thomas, Shirley Bowman, and Bobbi Pelletier

The meeting came to order at 2:40 pm in the church kitchen with Rev. Tim saying a brief prayer followed by the Council voting to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed and published. Next, Diane McDonough called for committee reports as follows:

CLUSTER: No Report

COMMUNITY SERVICE: A notice to our congregation: The banner that was first used for our entry in the Caribou-Cares-About-Kids parade last August is available to be used by any event, indoors or outside. It is made of vinyl with large black lettering, features the Methodist logo, and includes the eight-foot pole. The pole is a gift to Gray Memorial from Steve Sterner.

November 15 our Committee hosted a soup-and-sandwich luncheon at coffee fellowship. We especially want to thank Tyra Sterner, Libby Collier, Miles Collier, and Macie Towson for helping to host this event preceding our 2015 annual church conference.

At our November 1 meeting, we established \$650 for the 2016 Church budget and rolled over a current line item balance of \$153 into the **2015** operating budget.

This year's cookie booth income was \$511. Thank you one last time to all our Church family who made our 2015 cook booth possible. So far, we have used \$70 to reserve our booth space for 2016 Caribou Arts and Crafts Fair and have also used \$150 for reimbursement for part of the cost of the Bentum Tree project. The use of the balance of the income will be determined by the Committee at a later date.

November has been our month to provide volunteer help to the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many thanks to Steve Cashman, Jeannette Belyea, Marcia DeMerchant, Diane McDonough, Bill Thomas, Claire Hodgkins, Debbie Nichols, Susan and Richard Clark, Bob and Gwen Ellinwood, and Leland Frost for their time and effort on behalf of Gray Memorial's response to our community's needs. Jessica Feeley, Pantry Coordinator, reported that 92 families were assisted during October. The Pantry Board members are currently asking for help in order to continue with its principle fund raiser, which is the annual public spaghetti dinner scheduled for April 2016. For the past several years, the event has been headed up by Barb and Gary Aiken. Barb has advised that they are very willing to assist with the proposed spring project but are unable to entirely organize and supervise the event next April. A lot of the organizing has already been done, so the most urgent need at this time is for someone to agree to be coordinator. *Would someone from Gray Memorial do the job?*

The Caribou Food Pantry is very grateful for any monetary donations as well as food to help with the board's on-going operational challenges. The Pantry Board is also trying to get the word out that Caribou has a soup kitchen (an organized program which has no connection to the Pantry) serving nutritious meals and is open to any and all people.

During Advent, we are planning to buy radio "spots" and have invited Reverend Tim to be the voice of Gray Memorial to bring Christmas blessings to our community on possibly Channel X and WFST radio stations.

We have discussed a 2015 Living Nativity Scene and are asking for input and volunteers and participation of other Church committees to make it possible. It is the Council's suggestion that an announcement be made during Sunday worship a few weeks before and have a signup sheet.

EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRIES: No Report

EVANGELISM AND PUBLICITY: Rev. Tim says the Committee is going through the visitors' bags to upgrade and re-do brochures. Instead of stickers the Committee plans to make magnets that can be put on refrigerators. It is also developing the list of greeters for December.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Shirley Bowman reported the October tithes and offering as follows:

Regular Offerings	\$12,131.00
Other Sources of Operating Fund	87.00 from Hall Rental and Anniversary gathering
Reimbursements	7.00 Education (Discovery booklets) & Upper Room
Special Funds for Church Use	963.14 most was for Capital Account Seed Money and Mission Shares
Special Funds not for Church Use	50.00 for World Communion Sunday
Total Tithes & Offerings were \$13,238.14.	
Bobbi Pelletier reported the following Checkbook figures for October:	
Beginning Balance	(948.09)
2015 Operating Income	12,218.00
Interest	.17
Mission Shares (from SF)	303.50
Less EFT fee	(17.75)
Less Expenses	(13,627.13)
Ending Balance	(2,071.30)

There was a total in Special Funds on Oct. 31st of \$4,676.89. The Capital Account Seed Money showed a previous balance of \$16,887.00. October deposits amounted to \$444.74. There were no expenditures in October so the total at month's end was \$17,331.74.

At the end of October we were behind \$12,941.02 in Mission Shares. Our monthly budget for Mission Shares is \$2,207.42. Our Dead River balance for the church was \$3,848.70 and for the Parsonage \$1,603.90.

*Note: Youth & Family Coordinator Annual Salary increased to \$4,998.00 effective July 1, 2015, then it was reduced back to \$4,544.00 in September.

Debbie Barnes reported October Budget figures as follows:

Target \$166,824.79; Tithes & Offerings \$139,730.31; Total Expenses \$156,723.51; Unpaid expenses \$16,968.08.

The average attendance in October was 97. The average attendance for the year to date in October is 104. The Finance Committee spent a lot of time discussing stewardship.

HISTORY AND RECORDS: Mary Lou announced the Committee had reached a budget proposal of \$1,000.00 for 2016. Wendy is busy going through old newspaper articles and photos on microfiche for additions to the WWII military service memorabilia. She has found that some information she has uncovered goes back to 1887 and up to the present. The Committee has agreed to keep two copies of church historical items in acid free paper. Wendy wants to make oral history recording of our oldest members such as Florence Gallagher and Anna Roberts.

Betty has requested the use of the east wall of the downstairs corridor (opposite the wall of ministers) to display in honor of her great, great grandfather Rev. James Withee. It would be a collage based on the Dedication of his tombstone with the addition of the placement of the UMC Circuit Rider Medallion as first consulted with and approved by the Trustees and brought from the Annual Conference by Pastor Tom Bentum who was able to obtain the medallion.

MEMORIALS: No Report

SPRC: Bill Thomas reported that his committee met to complete the Pastor's Compensation Package for 2016.

TRUSTEES: The Trustees paid Beaupre Construction \$1,750.00 for repairs to the Parsonage garage roof. Also, money has been given in memory of Connie Harmon. Kristi Bell has done some of the audit work for this year. Dean Rauch also did auditing last year. For many years the auditor has been Mr. Jay Bullard who asked to be relieved of that duty. A suggestion has been made that churches get together and do each other's auditing needs. Judi reported to the Trustees that its total funds had decreased by \$7,000 from last year. Judi requested the New England United Methodist Foundation that earned interest on the Jennie Lyon Memorial Fund be added to the principle rather than returned to the church. Over time that would grow the principle which currently stands at \$10,100.00. The Trustee's Report is on pages 50-56 of the Church Conference Booklet and as follows:

LOCAL ACCOUNTS- Organ Fund- \$4,083.51; Church Clock Account- \$526.23; Heating System Fund- \$7,069.03; Local Holding Account- \$5,030.90; Trustees' CD- \$10,042.34; Checking Balance-\$616.12; and Steeple Maintenance Account- \$1,003.53. The total local accounts balance is \$28,371.66.

The Time Capsule has been placed in the post and all that remains is to try and get a coat of primer on the new posts and some caulking before winter if weather permits. Otherwise it will be done in the spring. The remaining bill of \$690 was paid to Rene St. Peter's Masonry. A plaque will be placed on the post to make future members aware of its location. The Trustees plan to go ahead with the east wall foundation in the spring if a contractor will commit to the project.

The new computer has arrived in Presque Isle and should be installed by 11-20-15. \$619.46 from Bentum computer reimbursement will be used as part payment along with \$225.50 from another source. The Trustees also approved paying \$410.01 from the holding account toward the bill of \$1,254.97. We are unsure if this will include the price of the software.

The Parsonage porch floor has been reinforced with metal posts to stabilize it. There is still a problem with the upstairs bathroom light fixture blowing bulbs which the Trustees will ask John Weeks to look into. The burner on the kitchen stove is still not repaired as Mr. Damboise of Connor Appliance could not be reached.

The Council discussed the need to pay \$750.10 for electrical work to Rev. Tim's office as presented by Roy Alden. It was voted to borrow the money from the capital seed money fund which will need to be paid back at some point. Some options for providing much needed heat to the new pastor's office area were discussed in Council. It is hoped that when the next Capital campaign is done there will be new office spaces so the Trustees do not want to spend a lot of money on a temporary space. It was decided to look into power strips to heat the office.

The Trustees discussed the need to form a new Capital Campaign Committee to determine the next phases of repairs such as what to do to the Sanctuary walls? Do we paint or replace the metal? Or, refurbishing the Fellowship Hall floor? Do we go ahead and build on Office and Sunday school room space? Do we increase parking?

The Trustees approved Betty Branscom's request to use the east wall of the downstairs corridor to display the collage mentioned under History and Records of these minutes. Further, the Trustees agreed that photos pertaining to the original People's Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1887 across Sweden Street along with the early pastors' photos if located, be placed on that same wall.

We will ever be indebted to the following people who researched and discovered the information leading to our knowledge of and pictures of past pastors of our church as displayed on the west wall of the downstairs corridor. Rev. Lynne Josselyn, Philip Turner, Avis Armstrong, Jeannette Belyea, Sylvia Akeley, Deanna Whitmore, as well as other former members of the History and Records Committee who share the vision of the Pastor's Wall. Ivan Shaw was the photographer for many of the pastors' photos as well as purchasing the film, choosing photo sizes and frames to be uniform. The sliders for housing the past pastors' photos were created by the combined efforts of Ivan Shaw, Mack Haines, and Scott Branscom. Later it was decided to highlight the current Bishop, District Superintendent, and Pastor in large frames above the past pastors to help members to understand the connectional system of Methodist clergy. This process is ongoing and changes may be coming to expand this project.

Roy Alden stated that utility costs would rise because a larger family is now in our Parsonage with greater needs. We need to budget for this. Roy checked the gas unit in the living room fireplace for safety at Pastor Tim's request. It was found that the furnace switch was off which made it difficult and costly to get enough hot water for showers. Mary Lou called Elvin Thomas to check a fallen wire in the church kitchen stove. Although Al Akeley had reattached it before Mr. Thomas came further checking showed that the wire which is the heat sensor, was wearing thin and if it were to break it would affect performance and possibly cause burning of the food. Mary Lou also reported that the church's kitchen stove was found to be left on after the Harvest Supper. We need to be more vigilant.

UMM: No Report

UMW: Bobbi reported that her Committee would be giving out 5 people Mission pins in December during a worship service. The annual Bazaar netted \$167.50. The Soup luncheon proceeds were \$222.00, and the Jennie Lyon Circle Bake Sale proceeds were \$220.85. The Thanksgiving Dinner project on Nov. 26th has 17 reservations so far. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 20th. Sue White was guest speaker at the Jennie Lyon Circle Pot Luck on Wednesday, Nov. 11th. She gave a very informative talk on the new Caribou school complex project.

WORSHIP: Margaret Cyr reported the following special Sundays:

Nov. 22 Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday

Canned goods and vegetable offerings appreciated.

Cluster Service at Grant Memorial 4 PM

Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent; Baptism

Dec. 20 4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Sunday; Children's program

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Family Service at 4 PM; Lessons & Carols

There will be a "Tree of Lights" erected outside. People can buy a light for \$5 in Honor/Memory of a loved one. The funds will go toward the fuel bill. A form for Christmas flowers will be in the bulletin. 2016 Devotional Calendars will be available for \$6 as soon as they come in. These funds will go toward the operating fund.

PASTOR'S TIME: Rev. Tim is well pleased with the first week of the Advent Sunday school study. Also, the Disciple classes are going very well. Bob Thompson and Tim have been working on video clips for the Advent Study which will also be used during the services in Advent. At least 2 or 3 people have expressed interest in the new members' class to be held after the first of the year. There will be a Baptism on Nov. 29th and another in January. Two volunteers have agreed to host Pastor's "meet and greet" sessions. Thursday, Pastor Tim dealt with a couple in great need and wishes to suggest the church might want to develop plans for these kinds of issues as there appears to be a great need. Also the Girl Scouts need a new place to meet as they are losing their current one. They meet on Thursday nights. The Council discussed the issue and agreed we need more information but are willing to have them if it can be worked out. The scouts would require storage space in all likelihood.

OTHER: Diane McDonough reported she had a letter from the folks at Camp Mechuwana approaching all who use the camp to help fund a much needed walk-in freezer to replace their very old one which is on its last legs.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will be December 17th.
Respectfully Submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

+++++

Jennie Lyon Circle met November 11th, 2015. After a pot luck luncheon, Mary Lou welcomed every one. Twenty one were present including our guest speaker Sue White. She spoke of the proposal to build a new school in Caribou to include pre-k through grade eight. It was very informative and the project is on-going. It is number five from the top to have a government funded school built. Ruth Ross gave a reading called "A Cry for Help". Mary Lou read from the Response magazine, a reading about The World Thank Offering. Many people were remembered in prayer. The secretary's report was read. Ruth Ross reported \$386.70 in the treasury. Cathy Griffith reported that there is a new book available for the reading program called "Troubled Waters". Much UMW business was discussed. Our next meeting will be held on December 9th and a usual pot luck luncheon will be held after which a gift exchange will be enjoyed. We will remember shut-ins with cards and visits at this time of year.
Betty Branscom, Secretary

Letter included in the New Time Capsule:

November 12, 2015
Bessie Gray Memorial
United Methodist Church
2 Prospect Street
Caribou, Maine 04736

To: The People of the Future who will open this Time Capsule.

The History and Records Committee of the church: Sylvia and Albert Akeley, Bertha Branscom, Jeannette Belyea, Wendy Bossie, Philip Turner, William Thomas, and Mary Lou Brown are pleased to present this Time Capsule to you today with our love and best wishes.

In January of 2015 the snow plow being used to clean the driveway accidentally struck one of the cement posts that supported the roof over the driveway knocking it over and breaking it open. Inside was the Time Capsule placed there in 1913 by the thoughtful members of the church and their pastor, Reverend James Gray, when it was dedicated by the Reverend John Hamilton, Bishop of the Boston area. On February 8, 2015 we held a reception after our church service. At that time David Belyea, our resident civil engineer, and a friend of the church, Paul Powers, opened the Capsule by drilling a small hole to admit the tip of tin snips to cut open the top. The Reverend Dr. Thomas Bentum, our pastor, carefully removed the items telling us what each item was and its significance in Methodism. In the 1913 Capsule we found a 1912 Book of Discipline, the East Maine Conference Journal of 1913, a description of the church from the architects point of view, a 1913 dime (valued now at \$41.00), a list of the people and companies who

donated money, services, and supplies to build and furnish the church, colored post cards showing the church, a copy of the local 1913 Aroostook Republican newspaper, copies of the church resources such as the Epworth League, Christian Advocate, and Zion's Herald, a nomination blank with names of the people to serve as Stewards, Trustees, and committee members for the Fourth Quarterly Conference, February 17, 1913. All of these items were on display for several weeks in our fellowship hall so people could enjoy them. The 1913 Aroostook Republican was enlarged and laminated by The Northeast Publishing Co. so that it could be displayed in our church and a copy be given to the Caribou Public Library.

In planning for the new Time Capsule we offered members of the congregation and constituents to name items they would like to see included. Our committee reviewed the items listed and found that most of them could reasonably be placed, would be of interest to future generations and would lift up the work of the people in answer to God's call in this time and place. Many people were involved in the decision making and we are grateful for their time and energy.

You will find enclosed in the Capsule the following items: picture of the Senior Choir, program from the Musicale Opus XII, July 19, 2015, copy of an anthem "Precious Lord, Take My Hand", the Charter of newly formed Men's Club with signatures of Charter Members, a United States One Dollar bill with George Washington's picture, a 2015 United States Mint Proof Set, W. Louis Greenier's Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine 2010-2012 Medallion, author Philip Turner's book Ladies First, Saints All given by the Evangelism Committee, "Stained" by Philip Turner (stories of our stained glass windows), Revival by Adam Hamilton (used as an all church study book), Church Conference booklet of 2014, a Family Directory celebrating 100 years, a placemat time line depicting events from 1776-2013, a September 2015 Financial Statement, a 1912 Cook Book of the Industrial Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Caribou, a list of people attending the opening of the Time Capsule in February 2015, a black and white enlargement of the outdoor photo (2013) taken during the rededication of the church by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, resident bishop of Boston area, along with a list of names of those in attendance, Pocket Prayer Shawls and printed explanation of same, a "Discovery" devotional guide, the "Upper Room" devotional guide, an explanation of the Bible Study called Disciple I, II, and III, a map of Caribou with Bessie Gray United Methodist Church depicted and distributed by the Caribou Chamber of Commerce, a "Welcome brochure" explaining the services of the church distributed to visitors and given to area motels and other service agencies in the community, a Historical Booklet of the church showing earlier pastor's photographs and general information, several copies of weekly church worship bulletins, a greeting letter from the Reverend Timothy Wilcox, our new pastor as of July 2015, with his family, wife Tamara and children Friedrich, Alden and Althea.

Heartfelt thanks to all the people who have made this Time Capsule possible! May the future be as bright as the past. We have "stood on the shoulders" of the Saints of this church who have worked tirelessly since 1860 to bring the Good News to the people of Caribou and the surrounding area.

Oh, how we would all like to be present when this Time Capsule is opened, to see your faces, to hear your questions, and know your witness to Caribou and the World in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Press On, Good Friends! Tell the Old Old Story! God loves each of you. Amen.

Yours in Christ, for the History and Records Committee,

Mary Lou Brown, Co-Chairperson

CARIBOU CHORAL SOCIETY PLANS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The Caribou Choral Society will be presenting its 39th annual Christmas concerts on

Sunday, Dec.6, 3:00 PM, at St. Bruno-St. Remi Church in Van Buren;

Friday, Dec. 11, 7:00 PM, at St. Mary's Church in Presque Isle;

and Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:00 PM, at Holy Rosary Church in Caribou.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted.

The Fireplace A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

Brownie bottom peanut butter pie (from Claire Hodgkins)

Ingredients

4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, chopped (such as Ghiradelli)
1/2 cup unsalted butter
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon real vanilla bean extract or paste
1/2 cup flour, sifted
8 Oreos, chopped
1 cup salted creamy peanut butter
1 8-ounce package of cream cheese, softened
1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
8 ounces whipped cream
8-10 Reese's Peanut Butter Cups Miniatures, cut in quarters (Tip: for even pieces, keep miniatures in refrigerator before cutting.)

Preparation

For the crust:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a microwave safe bowl, microwave chocolate and butter in 30-second increments until butter is melted (about two minutes). Stir to melt chocolate. Add sugar, eggs and vanilla and mix. Stir in flour until combined. Fold in chopped Oreos. Spread batter into a greased 8-9" pie pan and bake for 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the pie comes out with fudgy crumbs. Cool completely on a wire rack.

For the filling:

In a medium size bowl, mix peanut butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add powdered sugar a little at a time and mix. Fold in whipped cream. Pour the filling into the crust and top with peanut butter cups. Chill for an hour before serving.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER!!!

Tuesday	01	9:30am 6:00pm	UMW Meeting at Church (note date change!) Prayer Shawl Potluck Supper & Meeting at Church; (note time change!)
Wednesday	02	4:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	03	6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Saturday	05	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
<hr/>			
Sunday	06	8:45am 10:00am 3:00pm	Sunday School Worship - Second Sunday of Advent Caribou Choral Society Concert in Van Buren
Monday	07	1:00pm 6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	08	10:30am 6:00pm 6:30pm	Evangelism Committee Meeting at Church Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Meeting at Pantry; NOTE TIME CHANGE! "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	09	12:00pm 4:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	Jennie Lyon Potluck Luncheon & Christmas Party Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Senior Choir Practice Crown of Maine Quilters at Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou
Thursday	10	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting at Church
Friday	11	7:00pm	Caribou Choral Society Concert in Presque Isle
Saturday	12	9:30am 8:30-9:30am 7:00pm	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library Caribou Choral Society Concert in Caribou
<hr/>			
Sunday	13	8:45am 10:00am 11:30am	Sunday School Worship - Third Sunday of Advent Community Service Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	14	1:00pm 6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	15	1:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Alzheimer Caregivers Support Group in Fellowship Hall Trustees Meeting at Church "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	16	4:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice Handbell Choir Practice Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	17	6:00pm 6:30pm	Finance/Stewardship Meeting at Church Church Council Meeting at Church
Saturday	19	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library

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

Sunday	20	10:00am	Worship - Fourth Sunday of Advent
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
Tuesday	22	FIRST DAY OF WINTER!!!	
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Thursday	24	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Friday	25	FEDERAL HOLIDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED	
Saturday	26	8:30am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting in Fellowship Hall
		8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library

Sunday	27	8:45am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - First Sunday After Christmas Day
Wednesday	30	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice

*Merry
Christmas*