

A Word from the Pastor

February 2016

Educators have long known that people learn in varied ways. Some people learn best through auditory stimuli. Others learn visually. Still others prefer styles ranging from interactive and hands-on to multisensory or movement-based. Meeting the different learning needs of different students often means a combination of customized learning environments and using varied teaching techniques. Today's classrooms use a wide range of techniques and styles to educate students.

As worship attendance across nearly every Christian denomination and type have declined in recent decades, the question is often asked about why fewer people are going to church. The answer is, of course, a complex one that defies simple explanations. However, when researchers like Dr. Marcia McFee began to ask if the learnings of educators might apply to churches they discovered results that indicated that they do. Some people, for example, find church “boring” not because of the message or the people, but because they are unable to relate well to the communication approach of their congregation. For churches like Gray Memorial, that style is most often one that depends on our hearing. We do have visual elements, but they aren't often central to a day's message. What about people who learn, for example, through experiences? through movement and other senses? through interaction?

One of the approaches to worship that I use is that, over time, we will have an occasional worship that primarily engages different senses than the norm. My aim is to engage those who otherwise either struggle to connect with worship or who learn better in other ways. It is one reason to offer a worship experience like Mardi Gras on February 7 or to have an outdoor service in the summer. Indeed, those who comment favorably about such a worship style or setting are frequently different from those who might do so after a traditional service. For similar reasons I will occasionally vary how other elements of worship are presented. So, we might remember our baptism by actually coming forward and touching the waters in the font. We might sometimes see a scene on the screen that illustrates a point in my sermon. Or, I might ask a question for you to answer during worship. These are all meant to engage different senses and preferences—and different people. I'm not about fundamentally changing the Good News nor many of our favorite traditions (you can be assured we will still have scriptures, prayers, hymns, sermons, and sacraments), though I am expecting to sometimes vary some of the methods of our worship with the idea of better connecting with more of the people more of the time.

There is so much that can be said about worship research and insights gained in recent years. I plan to address some of them in this space and in other places in the months ahead. In the meantime, I encourage you to consider this, the next time you wonder why we sang the Lord's Prayer or why we did something a little outside the usual: someone most likely was excited to have an element that connected with them more than usual. If we are about making disciples of Jesus Christ and connecting people to God, let us cast our nets as wide as we can.

Grace and peace,
Tim



Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

January is/was a very busy month for me. In addition to all the “normal” things I do each month, I must prepare and provide the 2015 W-2s to our staff, ensure they are accurate and then submit the file to the Social Security Administration (all done through their website).

The New England Conference also requires each church to compile a variety of statistical reports for the previous calendar year. To do this, I need help from other people or committees to ensure the reports reflect a total picture of our church records.

In addition to those tasks, I had to study and pass the various tests that are required for certification as an AARP Tax-Aide tax preparer. We will begin doing tax returns each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm at the Caribou VFW on Tuesday, February 2nd. In order to assist with this, I have informed Rev. Tim that the church office hours will change to Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am ~ 2:00pm beginning Monday, February 1st.

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



January Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Judi & Ken McKee, Florence Gallagher, Ejnar Adamson, James Chamberland, Joan Boucher, Robin Reed, Rhonda Jordan, Tyra Sterner, Gloria Sutherland, Bob Masse, Ann Sinclair, Cindy Powers, Chris Soucier, Barbara Foster, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Linda Levasseur, James & Rita Chamberland

On Family Death: The family of Jeff Frost; family of Jackie Beaupre; family of Mary Lou Gagnon; family of Eva Theriault; family of Cathie Barthelemy; family of Carlene Herbert; family of Ken McKee; family of Penny Hallowell

Other: Nations of Israel & Palestine; Flood victims; All who serve in harms' way; prayers of joy - Dean Rauch back singing with the choir!; Praise God - Release of hostages!; tornado victims in Sarasota; those affected by the snowstorm in mid-Atlantic states

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 received from Theresa Wunderlich (Jan 14, 2016):

To the Gray Memorial United Methodist Congregation and Rev. Tim Wilcox,

Your special ways and generous heart make a beautiful difference. Thank you so much for all the prayers you said for me. Please find in your hearts to continue to pray for me, as I will not know how I will be until end of February. I pray that God will hear all our prayers.



REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
February 7	Diane Fitzpatrick	Judi & Louis Greenier	Jennifer Branscom	UMW & Jennie Lyon Circle
February 14	Bobbi Pelletier	Jean & Steve Cashman	Jennifer Branscom	Community Service Comm.
February 21	Josselyn Langworthy	Nancy & Louis Leavitt	Steve Cashman	Memorial Committee
February 28	Samuela Manages	Barbara & Dale Dee	Steve Cashman	Worship Committee

Usher Coordinator: Ralph Ferguson

Evangelism Greeters: Feb 7-Mary Ouellette; Feb 14-Ruthann Weeks; Feb 21-Ruth Ross; Feb 28-Betty Branscom

Communion Stewardess: Joeline Boucher

Acolytes: Feb 7-Darrell Adams & Friedrich Wilcox; Feb 14-Mari Witmer & Lauren Craig;
Feb 21-Alden Wilcox & Matthew Smith; Feb 28-Miles Collier & Caleb Brown

Child Care Volunteers: Feb 7-Jennifer Craig; Feb 14-Diane Fitzpatrick; Feb 21-Meagan Irving; Feb 28-Diana Locke

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!

** February 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 | Vince Bell, Deneane Bentum, Miles Collier,
Judi Greenier, Carl Soderberg | 14 | Eric Alley, Avon Brown, Sirena Cyr |
| 2 | Joanne Smith | 15 | Whitney Smith |
| 3 | Lisa Chase | 16 | Dale DeMerchant, Jeff Irving |
| 5 | Austin Branscom, Gerry Willard | 18 | Nova Cyr, Barbara Dee, Cassie Westman |
| 8 | Stephen Cashman | 19 | Winnie Bentum, Jeffrey Frost,
Kelly McBreairty |
| 12 | Robert Locke | 20 | Gary Merritt |
| 13 | Jennifer Barker, Ryan Branscom, Jennifer Craig,
Page Espling, Kathy Snow | 25 | Diane McDonough, Marshall Strom |



12 Patricia & Darrell Adams

28 Patricia & Donald Collins

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>
January 3	104	\$2,702.00
January 10	103	\$5,320.00
January 17	102	\$2,555.00
January 24	92	\$2,391.00
January 31 (will be reported in next month's Newsletter)		

Needed to meet 2016 Budget: \$3,764.09 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations each week for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of January 25th, the balance is \$18,099.12. Our unpaid "debt" to this account remains at \$2,705.86.

Changes to 2013 Pictorial Directory:

Frost, Jeffrey: deceased January 7, 2016

Manages, Samuela & Albert, Scott: new address – 920 Baie Creuse Rd., Saint David ME 04773-4601

Therault, Eva: deceased January 16, 2016

Your Finance & Stewardship Committee . . . extends sincere gratitude to all who helped Gray Memorial once more meet its financial obligations in 2015. From a financial point of view it was a bumpy year. Usually when summer ends and we all get back to church the ordinary deficiency begins to diminish, but this past year the deficiency grew in September and again in October, to \$16,968 behind. The committee was very concerned that with only two months remaining we would not be able to overcome the deficit and the new expenses to come in the next two months. The plea went out, and with determination, sacrifice and God's help, our church members and friends pulled together and made it happen. Halleluiah!

Please understand that this committee intentionally does not put money matters in front of the congregation unless we feel it is really necessary. Our focus as a church should not be on money, but on our faith, our God and our neighbors.

This committee meets each month and publishes a monthly financial statement of our operating activities. It is available to anyone who wishes a copy. Copies are usually available on the desk outside of the church office.

Debbie Barnes, Committee Chair

At the last Church Council meeting, it was voted to purchase a Yamaha digital piano for the dining room area in the amount of \$1,534. This instrument will replace the large, upright piano that is there at the present time. The piano does not need to be tuned and will require little upkeep. Donations for the purchase will be collected on Communion Sundays starting February 14. The piano has been purchased and is expected to be delivered within the next month.

Margaret Cyr, Worship Committee Chair

About worship on February 7

Our worship on February 7 will be a "Mardi Gras" service. It is adapted from a worship experience Rev. Tim had at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary chapel each year on "Fat Tuesday," the English translation of the French "Mardi Gras." The day is also known as Shrove Tuesday, derived from the word "shriven" meaning "to confess." Next week's bulletin as well as the February newsletter will have more information about the actual service itself. This week, though, is a few words about why we would consider having a service on this occasion. A part of the answer is to offer, over time, a variety of worship experiences to meet the diverse needs of our worshipping community (more about this in the February pastor's column). Second, its Mardi Gras itself. Its roots date back thousands of years to pagan spring festivals in Europe. Some of the most well-known of these festivals took place in Rome. When Christianity arrived, church authorities eventually decided that it would be easier to incorporate the tradition of festivals--known in many places today as "Carnival"--with the new faith. The tradition developed in the days leading up to Lent to consume all the rich, fatty foods (such as meat, milk, cheese, eggs...the same idea is behind the pancake suppers such as the one our United Methodist Men are sponsoring on Shrove Tuesday this year) around the household that would not be eaten again until after the ritual fasting of Lent and which could not be stored. The celebrations also provided a contrast to the more austere, somber and penitential themes of Lent. Mardi Gras today is most associated with celebrations in places like New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, Quebec City, and Venice. While many of the Carnival celebrations have drifted from their Christian appropriators, our service on February 7 will be decidedly Christian with worship elements you would usually expect: scripture, prayers, hymns, sermon and fellowship in a festive atmosphere. Do come and see what worship is about on that day. For more information, do an online search of Mardi Gras history, visit the library or speak with Rev. Tim.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday comes the first Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It officially ends the season of Epiphany and is the vigil for the starting of Lent. Traditionally viewed as a day of repentance, Shrove Tuesday has become the last day for feasting and celebration before the period of fasting required during the Lenten season. The name "Shrove Tuesday" is derived from the word "shrive", which means to confess and receive absolution. The name denotes a period of cleansing, wherein a person brings their lusts and appetites under subjection through abstinence and self-sacrifice. England began the tradition of serving pancakes and for this reason the day is known as "Pancake Day."

This year the UMM will be serving a meal to mark the occasion. The date is Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 5:00-6:00pm in the Church dining hall. The menu will consist of pancakes, beans and ham with brownies and ice cream. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under and \$20.00 for a family. Tickets will be on sale before and after Church on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. They will also be available in the church office and at the door.



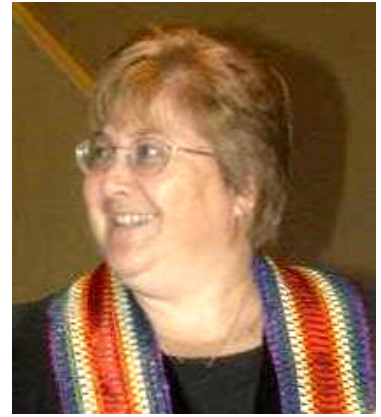
Parsonage Open House - Sunday, February 14th from 1:00-4:00pm

The Wilcox's want to say thank you to the many people who made their move to Caribou possible and who make possible their on-going home in the county. This is also an opportunity to see the restored floors in the parsonage and the new curtains! The community is welcome, too. If you know others from the community who might like to come, do extend an invitation to them.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Through prayerful discernment and having completed the proper consultations according to The United Methodist Book of Discipline, I am happy to announce the appointment of the Rev. Jacquelyn Brannen as District Superintendent of the Northern Maine District, effective July 1, 2016.



Rev. Brannen is currently appointed to the United Methodist Church of Auburn, ME, where she has been since 2012. Her first appointments were to Richmond Community UMC and Asbury UMC in Chesterfield, NH. Since then, she has served the Mid-Maine District at Monmouth Federated Church, East Monmouth UMC, Thomaston Federated Church, and Aldersgate UMC.

As a pastor, Jackie has been successful in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. She is passionate about spiritual development and mission, and is currently pursuing a DMin at Gordon Conwell Theological School in Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders.

Jackie earned her Master of Divinity at Andover Newton Theological School and also holds a Master of Education, Counseling, from University of New Hampshire and Master of Education, Special Education, from Northeastern University. Her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood/Elementary Education was earned at Rivier College.

A former foster parent, Jackie has three grown children: Angela, Nichole, and Lauren, all of whom she adopted from the New Hampshire foster care system. She loves spending time with her five grandchildren: Joshua, Matthew, Kaihana, Linnea and Kaelyo, and is expecting a sixth grandchild in May. She lives with her beloved cats and dog and, most importantly, with her 11-year-old grandson Matthew.

In her free time, she is an avid reader who also loves to travel. She has recently taken up kayaking but claims she is not very good at it!

I am excited and delighted that Jackie has agreed to join the Cabinet of the New England Conference as the Superintendent of the Northern Maine District. I believe strongly that Jackie's presence at the Cabinet table brings greater passion for mission, a great spirituality and a pastoral presence. Her background as a counselor for emotionally handicapped children and their families and her work on conflict resolution have also gifted her for this ministry in unique ways.

At the same time, I would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation the ministry and mission of the current Superintendent of the Northern Maine District, Rev. Dr. Pat MacHugh. Her gentle manner and deep faith have touched many lives, and she has brought unity to this district while empowering the laity and clergy. I am grateful that Pat will be continuing her ministry in the New England Conference as pastor of the Church on the Cape in Cape Porpoise, ME.

Please keep Jackie, Pat, their families, the Auburn and Cape Porpoise churches, the clergy and laity of the Northern Maine District, the New England Conference, and me in your prayers during these months of transition.

In Christ's love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

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



Kathleen Forbes and Rev. Tim present Guinevere May Pethick Barnum for Baptism on Sunday, January 10th.



Rev. Tim baptizing Guinevere



Rev. Tim, Kathleen and others surround the family for a blessing



Diane Fitzpatrick presents a Baptismal Shawl to Guinevere



Prayer Shawl Dedication on Sunday, January 17th



Rev. Tim and members of the congregation gather around Rev. Dr. Pat MacHugh on Sunday, January 17th.
Pat is leaving her position as Northern Maine District Superintendent at the end of June



OTHER "KODAK MOMENTS"



We had a special cake for Pat MacHugh on Sunday, January 17th – unfortunately, she's not retiring (oops!), but is going to become the pastor of the Church on the Cape in Cape Porpoise Maine!



The UMM Breakfast on Saturday, January 23rd



Neal Genz addressing the meeting attendees.



Sue White gave a presentation on the new Caribou school project. Most informative!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

1-21-16

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

The Council meeting came to order at 6:36 PM in the church kitchen. Rev. Tim said a brief prayer, and then the Council voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting as published and printed.

Diane McDonough presented Connie Anderson, leader of the area Girl Scouts, who laid out her needs for a new venue to hold her Girl Scout meetings. She has 21 scouts from kindergarten to 3rd grade. After some discussion and sharing of concerns, the Council voted to allow the Scouts to hold meetings at their usual time of 6-7 PM weekly on Thursday nights to be contained in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. She shared that the scout meetings follow the school schedule and do not meet over the summer or when school is out on vacation as a rule. They do hope to have a sleepover, possibly during February Break. She would have to coordinate that with any planned church events. She will need some space to set up a cabinet to house Scout supplies. The Council feels that meetings of church committees that occur on Thursdays could find other spaces in the church for their meetings. Scout meetings will start on January 28th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLUSTER: Rev. Tim reported that there will be a District Healing Service in Houlton during Lent on Sunday, Feb. 28th. There is a Cluster Lenten Service in Limestone on March 6th. Also at Limestone, Pastor Steve Dale will host training on using A.C.H. (Automated Clearing House) for electronic giving (Note: we already have that option for our congregation). The canceled Youth event scheduled for last fall will be rescheduled soon.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Judi Greenier reported that her Committee sponsored radio broadcast time and Rev. Tim recorded a Christmas blessing message that was heard for 10 days leading up to Christmas eve. The message was heard daily on Channel X and 3 times a day on WFST. We thank Rev Tim very much. Judi's Committee also presented the annual Living Nativity on Dec. 21-22. She wishes to thank the cast member - Debbie Barnes, Friedrich Wilcox, David DeMerchant, Bill Thomas, Del Ramey, Rev. Tim, Tamara Wilcox, Althea Wilcox, Bob Thompson, Alden Wilcox, and Mary Theriault. Also, a big thank you goes to Dave DeMerchant for setting up the "Stable" complete with lights and music shared from Bob Thompson's playlist. Further, we could not have done it without the following volunteer helpers - Craig Staples, Dwight Stickles, Friedrich Wilcox, and for the snack providers Norma Thompson, Mary Lou Brown, and Sheila Pelletier.

Gray Memorial is now part of the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce because the Caribou Chamber of Commerce no longer exists. Our discounted dues of \$109 have been paid and our church name will appear in their next booklet. Lastly, the new chair people of the Ecumenical Spaghetti Supper to be held on Saturday, April 9th, are Mark and Katherine Kelley of Fort Fairfield. The supper will be held in the Assembly of God Fellowship Hall in Caribou.

EDUCATION: The new Sunday school materials are working well. Terrific Tuesdays are continuing to have a good turnout. Michele plans to write a Northern Maine District grant to get snacks and supplies. She would like some help with this project. Rev. Tim might know another grant option if this one doesn't pan out. The children plan a bottle drive to help pay for the new children's candle lights plus more candle lights for the Mistletoes who perform to benefit the Homeless Shelter so they do not have to borrow each year.

The Committee brainstormed ideas for bringing in more families to Gray Memorial. They decided to have a movie some afternoon or evening with daycare available. Also Michele would like the Terrific Tuesday children to attend the Men's Club Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner as their Tuesday meeting and participate in the clean-up. She thinks it would be helpful to train the kids to know what is expected so they do not huddle in a corner not engaged.

Ralph Ferguson will make a case for the AED machine which will be placed on the wall under the clock in the Fellowship Hall.

EVANGELISM: No Report. The Committee will not meet in January or February.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Shirley Bowman reported the regular offerings for December were \$25,728.11 with additional source offerings of \$6,500.00 for 2016 plus the advent offering of \$305.00 bringing the total Operating Fund income to \$32,533.11. We also received reimbursements of \$56.00. The income for Special Funds for Church Use amounted to \$9,076.31 of which \$7,035.00 was for the Christmas tree sales, \$610.00 was for the Angel Tree, \$355.00 was for the Tree of Lights, \$228.00 for Disciple III books, \$672.00 was for Capital Account Seed money, \$61.41 for Coffee Fellowship, Fuel Oil was \$48.90, \$50.00 for UMW, and \$16.00 for Trustee Improvement Fund. Funds Not for Church Use amounted to \$206.00 for a total offering for the month of December of \$41,871.42.

Bobbi Pelletier reported the following checkbook figures:

Beginning Balance	\$215.44
2015 Operating Income	26,033.11
2016 Operating Income	6,500.00
*2015 Tree of Lights	740.00
Interest	.86
Less EFT fee	(18.25) VANCO fees (EFT & Direct Deposit)
Less Expenses	(24,721.74)
Ending Balance	8,749.42 (Note: \$2,249.42 = 2015: \$6,500 = 2016)

Bobbi reported that the previous Capital Account Seed money balance was \$16,914.38. December deposits amounted to \$672.74. There were no expenditures. The total on Dec. 31st was \$17,587.12. Under Special Funds, where it says Pictorial Directory, the balance of \$80 will be moved into the Operating Income account for 2016.

Bobbi reported that expenditures for December as follows:

Programs	\$598.32
Trustees	2,841.12
SPRC	9,256.57
New England Conference	12,025.73 (includes payment of remaining balance of Mission Shares for 2015)

Total money spent for December was \$24,721.74. The Dead River Balances are Church = \$4,335.51 & Parsonage = \$1,199.08. The Target Budget for 2015 was \$200,189.75. Tithes and Offerings were \$194,603.18 for the year and total expenses for the year were \$186,411.56. There were no unpaid bills on December 31st. The average attendance for December was 112 making the average attendance of 105 for the year. The Italian Supper will be held April 23rd. Debbie also reminded the Council that we still owe the Capital Account Seed fund \$2,705.86. It was suggested that committees consider designating some of their 2016 fund raising proceeds to help reduce this debt.

HISTORY AND RECORDS: No Report. Mary Lou would like the Council to thank everyone who helped pay off the remaining church debts by the end of the year.

MEMORIALS: No Report

SPRC: No Report

TRUSTEES: Mary Lou Brown reported that the Trustees voted to remove one member because of non-attendance to meetings. The Treasurer reported the local accounts ending 1-19-16 as follows:

Organ account	\$4,085.08
Clock account	526.44
Steeple account	1,003.92
Heating System Account	7,071.73
Holding Account	3,582.39
Trustee Account	306.22

The New England Foundation office has moved to a new location. The Trustees voted to accept the bid from North Eastern Supply to install a new Rinnai heater in Rev. Tim's office instead of accepting the electric heater because it could be tied into the propane system for the kitchen stoves at a cost of \$1,564.93, and being cheaper in the long run. It will be installed the week of Feb. 1, 2016. The Trustees discussed whether to keep the speaker console in the Pastor's office or move it out into the library with additional safety by locking it and training people who might need to use it and to follow protocols because some people have changed settings without the knowledge of those who know the procedures. The Trustees also discussed charging a fee for the use of the sound system by outside groups. Judi thought that would only apply if people wanted to do more than use just the basic sound and not add video or other capabilities. The Trustees are considering a lock for the Pastor's office door and also putting in a small window. They also voted to replace the bathroom light fixture in the Parsonage bathroom because the present one keeps blowing the bulbs. John Weeks plans to nail down several loose floor boards in the Parsonage attic. A new stove has been installed in the Parsonage kitchen that was provided by an anonymous donor. Tamara Wilcox has purchased a battery operated door bell, and the curtains she ordered have arrived. She is repairing old holes from former window dressing systems and putting up the new curtains.

The Trustees discussed the possibility of repairing the cement wall on the Prospect side of the church using cement blocks which would not interfere with the interior wall as other solutions would involve the inner wall as well. The Trustees will try to prioritize future Capital Campaign projects. Carl Allen will be asked to do a ground inspection with his camera to determine if the drains are plugged, and the Trustees approved doing an energy audit through Emera Maine.

UMM: No Report

UMW: Bobbi Pelletier reported that the UMW met on January 12th. Agenda included discussion of the reception for Jeff Frost's funeral service held on January 17th. Rev. Tim and Tamara have asked UMW to provide light refreshments for an Open House in February. The UMW would like to have the event on a Sunday afternoon. UMW donated \$200 to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. UMW determined its 2016 Budget and scheduled their events as follows:

Holy Week Refreshments: March 21-25; will make contacts as needed once Rev. Tim has approached local clergy.

Boiled Ham Dinner Saturday, March 12

Rummage & Bake Sale Saturday, May 14

Pie Sale Friday, July 1

Soup luncheon & Bake Sale Saturday, Nov. 12

Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, Nov. 24

Rev. Tim requested that the UMW provide items for the Feb. 7th Mardi Gras service to be held in the Fellowship Hall (instead of the Sanctuary). UMW will provide assorted breads, fruit, and water. Rev. Tim will provide chocolate. We will order a "Christ the King" cake for after the service. Jennie Lyon meetings start in March. A Prayer Shawl dedication took place on Jan. 17th and the Prayer Shawl Ministry got donations of \$204.00.

WORSHIP: Margaret Cyr reported that her Committee purchased a 9 ft. pre-lit Christmas tree for the 2016 Advent/Christmas season. We still have quite a few Daily Bible reading calendars. Margaret prompted a discussion of taping the service with the exception of the music which is copy righted material. She asked for a head count of shut-ins who would like or be able to use such tapes or CDs. She wondered how much the machinery to do the taping would cost. The answers to those questions are yet to be known. We will be asking around and looking into records for this information.

Special Sundays in February:

Feb. 7 Mardi Gras Sunday service

Feb. 14 1st Sunday in Lent/Boy Scout Sunday

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday; Prayer Vigil from 6 am-6 pm; Service at Noon

Other items discussed briefly

1. March Women's History Month possible ideas
 - a. Historic women of the Bible
 - b. Women of Gray Memorial who contributed to the history of our church
2. Possibly having a Men's Ministry Sunday
3. Possibly having one Sunday a month featuring children and youth of the church

Margaret revisited the idea of a new electronic piano for the Fellowship Hall that would be easier to maneuver and not need tuning. The Council gave her the go ahead to investigate the piano she had researched at Knapp in Bangor to see if the price was still the same. The Council suggested trying to have a special offering for a few Sundays toward payment of the piano. We may also make a presentation to the congregation. The 2016 Summer Musicales is scheduled for July 17th.

PASTOR'S TIME: Rev. Tim is pleased with the progress of the Disciple classes. The successful Journey Bible study is complete and he is now preparing for the Lenten Study. The Adult Bible study begins again on Jan. 31st. Due to lack of space with all the classes going on he wants to wait to do the member class after Easter. Confirmation classes begin Jan. 31st. He has attended the first "Meet and Greet" which went well. He plans to wait until he has completed all the gatherings to put into one document the report on this project. He had a very helpful meeting with the Communion group. He has had 2 baptisms and 2 funerals in the past few weeks and he has been approached to do some weddings later this year. He is planning his Lenten messages around "The Retorts of Jesus". He hopes to be able to plan special services like the Mardi Gras service on Feb. 7, possibly one a quarter that would engage more of our senses and give new experiences in worship. He hopes others in the congregation might be willing to teach some adult classes and small groups. He would like to see other group meetings being offered. They could be small, informal and a variety of formats to engage as many of the Congregation as possible. An adult has volunteered to attend Camp Mechuwana.

OTHER: Mary Lou started a conversation about the church use policy and fees. During the discussion it became apparent that the Trustees should take a look at it and bring the policy and the fees up to date. Bobbi will see Mary Lou gets a copy of the current one on file. This discussion led to some to observe that possibly we need a volunteer to oversee when outsiders use the church for weddings to make sure equipment gets shut off and doors and lights checked. Bill Thomas suggested contacting an usher for this purpose as they know how these things should be done. The Council thought Neal Genz should know of the concern.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM. The next meeting will be February 18th.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY!!!

Monday	01	1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	02	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	03	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	04	6-7pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
		6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Saturday	06	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library

Sunday	07	8:45am	Sunday School & Adult Study (Giving Up Something Bad for Lent)
		10:00am	Worship-Transfiguration Sunday; service in Fellowship Hall
		12:00pm	Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom
Monday	08	9:30am	UMW Meeting at Church (note date change!)
		1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	09	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Meeting at Pantry
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	10	6am-6pm	Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil
		12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Crown of Maine Quilters at Gray Memorial UMC
Thursday	11	6:00pm	SPRC Meeting at Church
		6-7pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Saturday	13	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library
		9:30am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill

Sunday	14	8:45am	Adult Study (Giving Up Something Bad for Lent)
		10:00am	Worship - First Sunday in Lent; Boy Scout Sunday; <u>Communion Sunday</u>
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
		11:30am	Community Service Committee Meeting in Chapel
		12:00pm	Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom
		1:00-4:00pm	Open House at the Parsonage

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

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

Monday	15	FEDERAL HOLIDAY - PRESIDENTS' DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	
		1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	16	1:00pm	Alzheimer Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		1:00pm	Caribou Public Library Annual Tea Party
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting at Church
Wednesday	17	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	18	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting at Church
Saturday	20	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library

Sunday	21	8:45am	Sunday School & Adult Study (Giving Up Something Bad for Lent)
		10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday in Lent
		12:00pm	Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom
Monday	22	DEADLINE FOR INPUT TO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER	
		1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
Tuesday	23	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	24	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	25	6-7pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Saturday	27	8:30am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting in Fellowship Hall
		8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library

Sunday	28	8:45am	Sunday School & Adult Study (Giving Up Something Bad for Lent)
		10:00am	Worship - Third Sunday in Lent
		12:00pm	Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom
Monday	29	1:00pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class
		6:30pm	Disciple III Bible Study Class



NEW
 CHURCH
 OFFICE HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST ARE
 MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 9AM TO 2PM.

(Bobbi is assisting with AARP Tax-Aide services on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-3pm.)