

I have been asked how people can help both with the church's capital campaign and the regular operating budget...more about that in a moment. First, though, I have to say that we humans have a curious relationship with money. Next to water, air, the sun, and human relationships, there is likely nothing more indispensable to our existence, at least when it comes to modern Western society, than money. We use it to pay rent and mortgages, to buy food and clothing, to obtain transportation, to compensate people for medical care and a wide range of services, to make repairs to buildings, to enjoy a movie – almost everything we do has a cost that requires money. Yet, we are a sensitive lot when it comes to money.

We don't like talking about it, especially if it is about our own practices. Privacy and freedom are among the reasons for this reluctance nor do we like being unfairly compared to the proverbial Jones's in our lives. Our life situations are so varied when it comes to our financial situations—how can the church helpfully address such variety? On top of that, too many of us have found ourselves in crisis because of money. And, it doesn't help that most of us have experiences of being taken advantage of on account of money, including people whose primary interest in us was financial. For Christians, though, it has been my experience that being reminded of what our faith teaches us about money often creates discomfort. Paul reminds us that, “the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10, KJV) and we have experienced and witnessed this reality. We could tell stories where our love—or someone else's—of money caused a problem in our life. My beginning point for turning this reality around is in affirming, “The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and everyone who lives in it.” (Psalm 24:1, NIV) Everything we have, then, is not really ours. Instead, as we learn in the creation story in Genesis, God has entrusted to us everything in our lives. This includes our money. Scripture teaches us that God should be a priority with what already belongs to God, yet this often proves difficult to do in practice. We tell ourselves, “I'm on a fixed income” or “I haven't had a raise in years” or “my expenses keep going up and up.” I have been impressed with the “out of the box” thinking that I have heard from people working on our combined capital and stewardship campaign. I have listed below some of the ideas people are considering along with a couple that have worked for me as ways to be better stewards of their money so they can direct more funds to the operations of the church and to the capital campaign (it is worth noting here that the bulk of church maintenance and capital costs are by previous investments, memorial gifts and capital campaigns; church operations and capital expenditures are largely two different sources of funding). My challenge to you...which of these or another idea it generates would you use to grow in your own stewardship of what God has entrusted to you? How might doing several of these make it possible to not only contribute to our church's campaigns but also enable you to address other priorities in your life?

- ☞ forego a daily coffee and donut out (or make coffee at home) .... one person estimated over \$2600 savings in one year!
- ☞ use a lesser cable package—I admit I do miss ESPN and cable news, though I have found many great resources online, on broadcast television and public news media
- ☞ redirect donations for political candidates
- ☞ eat out fewer times each week, choose a less expensive option for lunch or pack your own lunch
- ☞ instead of buying new clothes online, check out places like the Cubby, Catholic Charities and Affordable Finds; increasingly, people shop online for clothes. Instead of returning items that do not fit, they have been taking them to local thrift stores instead.
- ☞ Review memberships, print subscriptions and online subscriptions...cancel those you don't use
- ☞ when buying a house or car, the little things add up...I thought about a larger car when I had to replace my old car last summer. My family reminded me how the compact car we ultimately bought was both less expensive to buy and cheaper to operate—my gas mileage is around 25-30% better than my previous car (around 40 mpg on the highway), an annual savings of a few hundred dollars in fuel alone

What seemingly small adjustment in your life could end up making a significant difference for you and your church through growing in your stewardship?

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Tim

Notes: The “Growing in Faith” campaign leadership emphasizes that gifts for the capital campaign portion should be so-called second mile giving. That is, they should be above and beyond gifts to the church's regular operating budget and not shifting money from church operations to the campaign. As our financials presently stand, we are not on track to be able to pay all of our mission shares this year. As a result we are invited to prayerfully consider growth in both parts of the campaign. Also keep in mind a little understood reality that people often give to capital projects and campaigns from different assets and resources than they do for regular church operations. For many people, they are different kinds of gifts. This is in fact reflected in the fact that the largest share of Gray Memorial's capital expenditures are funded from past memorial gifts, bequests and one-time gifts to the permanent fund. Plan to attend the “Growing in Faith” campaign presentation following worship on November 3. This will be an opportunity to hear the rationale for having a capital campaign and to answer your questions.

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**Advent Study—“Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem” by Adam Hamilton**

Witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Mary.

This year, experience Advent and Christmas with the one who knew Jesus more intimately than anyone else—his mother, Mary. Imagine the pain she felt at the crucifixion, her pride as Jesus’ ministry grew, and her unrestrained joy when she looked into his tiny face that fateful night in the stable. Adam Hamilton helps you witness the life of Jesus from Mary’s unique perspective, starting at the very end and traveling back in time to the very beginning—the night of Christ’s birth.

This class will be held at two different times in the church library:

Sunday mornings from 8:40 – 9:40, November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22

Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-2:30, November 20, 27, December 4, 11 and 18

A quantity of class books have been donated for this course, so any cost would depend on the number of people signing up. Please express your interest on the page below or indicate your interest in the class to Rev. Tim by November 10.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to be part of the *Not a Silent Night* class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name



# Caribou Clock

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

*Date: November 2019*

*Church Office: 498-2103  
**Website:** <http://www.bqmumc.com>*

Greetings from the Church Office!

I truly enjoyed my October vacation with a trip to Massachusetts to meet family and greet my newest great-granddaughter Leokadia! Several of us then went to St. Augustine Florida for a wonderful get-together.

For any committee/group who decides to reschedule their meetings from the "typical" dates listed on the "Usual times for meetings" schedule, please notify the Church Office so all bulletins and Newsletter calendars are accurate. Thank you!

This month's Newsletter is larger than usual – a lot of news to report to you! Please take the time to read the entire Newsletter so you don't miss out on the latest news from our various church activities!

Please help me by meeting deadlines for submitting things for the Newsletter. It is very difficult to "pull it all together" at the last minute and create a quality product. For October, that deadline is **Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



## October Prayer Joys and Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Reta Haley, Dave & Marcia DeMerchant, Sheila Belyea, Kathleen Forbes, Marilyn Langley, Dean Rauch, Stephen Johnson, Richard Martin, Emily Stuart, Robin Stuart, James Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Leona Michaud, Janie Lidey, Keith Drew, Glen Tagget, Debra Gauvin Smith, Bob Cyr, Sue McCarthy, Herman Wright

On Family Death: Family of Jeff Gallagher

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 received:

Rev. Tim Wilcox and congregation of Gray Memorial,

Thank you for prayers lifted up on my behalf. The procedure went well....prayers went up, and blessings came down.

Yours in Christ,

Frank Harris

## REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP **</u>
Nov 3	Richard Clark	Bill Thomas & Penny Shaw	Joelene Boucher	UMW/Jennie Lyon (food)
Nov 10	Margaret Cyr	Carol Norsworthy & Debbie Pringnitz	Joelene Boucher	Memorials Committee
Nov 17	Claire Hodgkins	Shirley Bowman & Gwen Ellinwood	Shirley Bowman	SPRC
Nov 24	Samuela Manages	Mary Ouellette & Roy Alden	Shirley Bowman	Worship Committee

**\*\* Starting in September 2019, Coffee Fellowship will have food only on the first Sunday of each month. For all other Sundays, Committees are only responsible for providing drinks (hot & cold).**

November Usher Coordinator: Neal Genz

November Communion Stewardess: Debbie Nichols

Organist/Pianist: Nov 3-Margaret Cyr; Nov 10-Mary Lou Brown; Nov 17-Judi Greenier; Nov 24-Margaret Cyr

Acolytes: Nov 3-Althea Wilcox & Alden Wilcox; Nov 10-Ken Peters; Nov 17-Richard Clark; Nov 24-Conrad Walton

Child Care Volunteers: Nov 3-Debbie Barnes; Nov 10-Duska Franklin; Nov 17-Meagan Irving; Nov 24-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!

# \* \* November Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

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

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | Kathryn Doody                                     | 20 | Hannah Wells   |
| 2  | Eric Morgans                                      | 21 | Wannetta Brown, Lynne Josselyn                                   |
| 3  | Stephanie Dorr, Alissa Irving                     | 23 | Ioana Bentum, David DeMerchant                                   |
| 5  | Debbie Pringnitz                                  | 25 | Andrew Craig, Brennen Griffeth,<br>Lehrle Kieffer, Barbara Scott |
| 9  | Catherine Brewer, Carol Cyr                       | 26 | Lisa Soderberg   |
| 10 | Gary Langley                                      | 27 | Tabitha Doody  |
| 13 | Darrell Adams II                                  | 28 | Whitney Nichols, Aurora Pethick                                  |
| 15 | Amira Rife, Conrad Walton                         | 29 | Tanner McHattie  |
| 16 | Evelyn Irving                                     | 30 | Penny Shaw   |
| 17 | Shawn Anderson, Brittany Mockler, Locke Wischmann |    |  |
| 18 | Adrian Gammon, Eric Mockler                       |    |  |



- |    |                         |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 7  | Heather & Joe Botterill | 23 | Mary & Todd Theriault   |
| 17 | Gwen & Ralph Ferguson   | 28 | Leslie & Shawn Anderson |
| 21 | Wannetta & Avon Brown   | 29 | Lehrle & Robert Kieffer |

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.



Finance &  
Stewardship  
Committee

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Oct 6	79	\$4,645.00
Oct 13	67	\$3,149.00
Oct 20	63	\$2,119.03
Oct 27	84	\$3,817.65

\*\*\*\*\*

Needed to meet 2019 Budget: \$4,246.45 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money (CASM):

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account each month. As of October 27th, the balance in the CASM account is \$\$41,530.23 (Of that amount, the "furnace replacement donations" total \$32,828.00. All donations made for the "Furnace Replacement" will be held in this account until needed.)

As we embark on our next Capital Campaign (Growing in Faith), donations will continue to be deposited into this account and reported.

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Photo Directory Changes (November 2019 Newsletter changes):

None Provided!

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## **Growing in Faith**

The beginning stages of the Growing in Faith campaign have begun. This is the campaign for both the 2020 operating budget and the 2020-2022 capital campaign. You have probably seen the campaign logo popping up in various places: the banner in the sanctuary, on letters you have received in the mail, and on buttons passed out in church. The theme “Growing in Faith” is drawn from Ephesians 4:15-16.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the campaign and start to participate in some of the spiritual aspects of it. On Sunday, November 3, an informational presentation focusing on the capital campaign will be held after the service downstairs in the fellowship hall. All are encouraged to attend (and since it will be the first Sunday of the month, there will be food *and* with the time change everyone will be well rested!). You will also be receiving more mailings with important information relating to the overall Growing in Faith campaign, a brochure, will have the opportunity to hear testimonies from laity speakers, and will be guided through seeing what the church means to you.

Throughout this time, a prayer team member will be praying for you. Before commitment Sunday, on November 24, we ask that you have prayerfully considered what God is asking you to do.

As the campaign leadership manual says, “Faith opens the way to generosity in the heart and life of the believer. Once we understand that everything we are, everything we have, and everything we have the potential to be are gifts given us by an abundant God, then our faith leads us to use what God has given in ways that honor the Giver. Any stewardship effort which does not begin with that principle can never reach its full potential. So you will find, in this campaign process, deliberate efforts to help persons discover the joy in giving—the joy in giving that flows from hearts which are ‘Growing in Faith.’”

### **Capital Campaign Testimonial from Dean Rauch**

The hymn reminds us that the Church is the people. That is very true, but I strongly feel that the Church to us is also that building that sits on the corner of Prospect and Sweden Streets in Caribou, Maine. That building is an anchor, a physical representation of our thoughts, beliefs and efforts pertaining to our Christian faith. Ever since I was a little boy, the church building has been important to me. I learned how to socialize in my home, my school, and my church. In my church, I enjoyed Sunday School, Luther League, church socials, and learned how to be quiet and sit still during church services with my parents and my sister. Now, as a grown man, I can sit in the quiet peace of our church and truly feel that connection with my God, my Savior and my church family. Is it worth it to me to maintain Gray Memorial? It most certainly is!

Pictures from Our Worship Services!!  
(photos by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



Sep 29 - Ken Peters as Acolyte!



Handbell Choir performed "They'll Know We Are Christians" (incorporating the hymn tune "Restoration")



Sep 29-Senior Choir's first Sunday back from summer break!



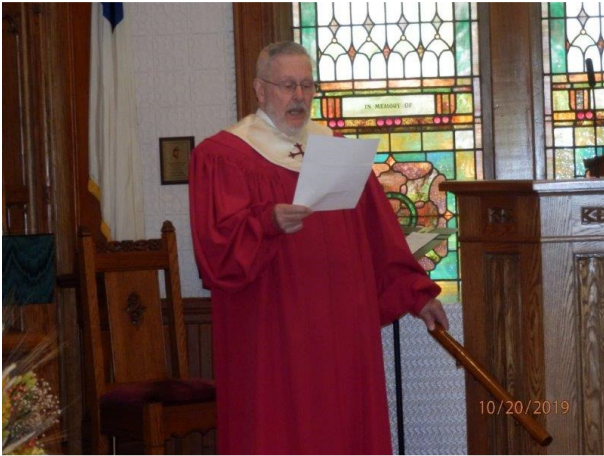


October 13 - Members of the "Growing in Faith" Leadership Teams were asked to come forward



Oct 13 - Rev. Tim prays for all of the "Growing in Faith" Leadership Team Members

# October 20 - Laity Sunday



Dean Rauch led the Worship Service



Josselyn Langworthy led the "Children's Time"

Various people shared their witness on several lay ministries:

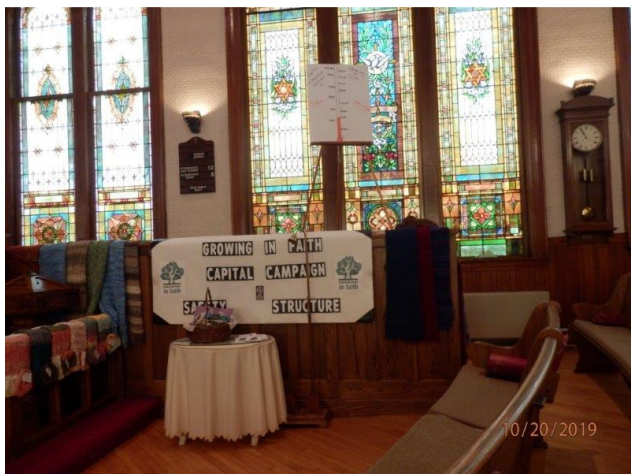


Richard Clark - Lay Speaker

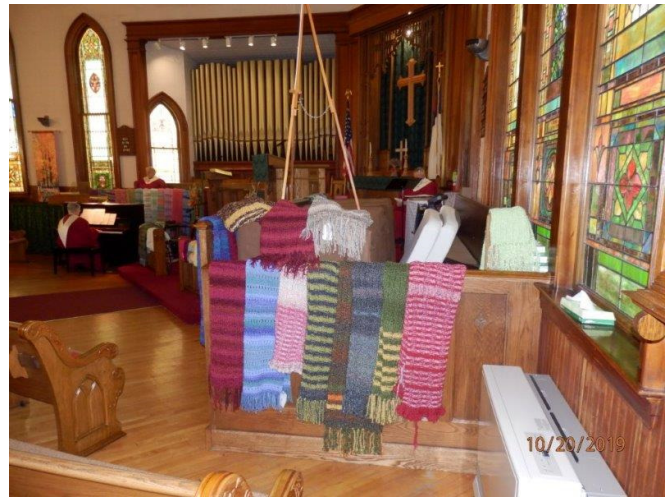


Diane Fitzpatrick - Prayer Shawl Ministry

Not pictured: Kathleen Forbes - Lay Leader; Mary Ouellette - Home Communion Server;  
Melonie Carlson - Handbells & Senior Choir



As part of the "Growing in Faith" Capital Campaign, Rev. Tim recognized the Prayer Partners.



October 20 - Rev. Tim dedicated MANY new prayer shawls and baby blankets & hat sets

### Other Kodak Moments!



September 28<sup>th</sup> – Pictures taken at UMM Breakfast and Guest Speaker – Evan Graves



October 20 – Candid photo of the young children's Sunday School session!



October 26 – Pictures of the food provided at the UMM Meeting and Del Ramey's presentation on his trip to Iceland!



*Would you like to receive the weekly email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to the church office or call 498-2103 so we can add you to the email list!*

**You can make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!**

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history.

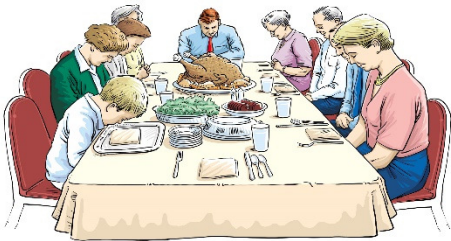
We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry! Thanks for your support!

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Please note that many congregation members pay their donations to the church through their banks directly to the church. Therefore, they may not pass in offering envelopes each week. This is a very convenient way to make your tithes/offerings to the church on a regular basis even when you are away for winter months!

# Mission Project

*The Worship Committee is again sponsoring a school-year project to provide school supplies, clothing and hygiene items to local school children. There are specific boxes in the Library and we started accepting donations on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Our first donation date was as of Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to accept donations through Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for our next phase and then start again to continue this much-needed ministry! Please consider helping our local school children with these much needed items. The school personnel were thrilled with all that was donated last year! Thank you!*



Free Thanksgiving Meal  
November 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm  
Reservations Required!  
Contact Church Office by November 22nd!  
Free Will Offerings Accepted

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A Message from your SPRC to Gray Memorial's Parishioners:

In July the parishioners of Gray Memorial commissioned a new SPRC to be responsible for the relationships between our church's employees and our parishioners. The committee has needed to learn its duties while at the same time address some very important issues within our church. The committee needs to perform annual staff evaluations, establish a staffing budget, update our church profile and keep open communications among staff and membership.

The SPRC feels there may be parishioners with concerns pertinent to SPRC matters who may appreciate an opportunity to be heard by the committee. The Methodist Church allows for this. If a parishioner or staff member would want to express an opinion or a concern to the SPRC, they should arrange with the committee to be scheduled at an SPRC meeting. Alternative to speaking at a meeting, a parishioner may write to the committee and deliver a letter directly to an SPRC member or place it in the SPRC mailbox to be taken to the next scheduled meeting. Please sign your correspondence, and also know that anonymous correspondence will not be considered.

The committee would be grateful to hear your concerns, and joys too! Your committee members serving until June 30, 2020 are Beth Alden, Debbie Barnes, Shirley Bowman, Jean Cashman, Diane McDonough, Ruthann Weeks and Karen White. Rev. Tim and a lay leader are also seated on the committee.

Realistically speaking, not every presentation may get the presenter's desired outcome in the end, but the process of communication can be very valuable and should not be dismissed. We parishioners are a very diverse body, but with each one of us committed to our common Methodist tenets, we are a big family. As such we always need to hold our family members in high esteem and remember to keep each other in our prayers, and communicate.

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Church Council Minutes  
9 – 19 -2019

Attendees: Roy Alden (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Melonie Carson, Alaina Pethick, Mary Lou Brown, Bill Thomas, Debbie Barnes, Louis Greenier, Bobbi Pelletier, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox

Roy called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm and said a brief prayer. Roy encouraged everyone to see an uplifting movie of forgiveness and hope he had seen. It was called "Overcomer". He asked for members to relate any thoughts of celebration or concern. Melonie Carson said she joined our church because it reminded her of the one she grew up in and she wanted that experience for her daughter, Ericka. Next Roy called for the Finance report.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: Tamara Wilcox reported that the August Tithes and Offerings were normal. She reported that the total August offering was \$13,543.31. She pointed out that the church had received \$1,050.00 toward paying back the Turner Funds. We have received year to date, \$125,213.95 as of August 31st.



Bobbi reported the following for the operating budget:

Beginning Balance	\$746.98
2019 Operating Income	11,520.00
Interest	4.53
Less EFT fee	(27.37) VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(13,206.10)
Ending Balance	(961.96)

Bobbi reported that the \$25,000.00 invested with Thompson/Hamel LLC for the Memorial Garden on June 29, 2017 at an investment cost of \$1,073.78, as of August 30, 2019 had an on-line value of \$26,837.95.

The Capital Account Seed Money had a beginning Balance of \$44,642.20; there were deposits amounting to \$359.51; there was a payment to the Foundation of \$4,400.00 for the services of Bradley Call to benefit the "Growing the Faith" Capital Campaign. The ending Balance on August 31st was \$40,601.71.

The Operating Budget expenditures for August were as follows:

Programs	\$395.96
Trustees	2,982.30
SPRC	9,033.15
New England Conference	794.69 (Pastor's Pension Benefit)

Debbie Barnes reported that we are behind \$14,713.95 in Mission Shares as of 8/31/19. (If we had these paid our total would have been \$137,559.08) The total spent YTD is \$122,845.10.

The weekly average needed for 2019: \$4,246.45

Dead River monthly cost as of June, 2019: C= \$1,085; P = \$276

Mission Shares = 2,452.33/mo. (as of August, six months behind)

The August Budget Target was \$147,210.17; Tithes and Offerings were \$111,708.37; Total Expenses were \$137,559.08; Unpaid Expenses were \$14,713.98. Average attendance for August was 73. Average YTD was 75 as of August 31st.

Melonie Carson reported we collected approximately \$244 on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for the leftover food items to help the City offset the cost of the meal put on for the Caribou Kids' Marathon event on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and the city will pay us \$500. Due to rain there was a low turn-out and a lot of food was left over. We will keep the supplies. Melonie and Debbie will be getting together to work on the Budget for the new year in early October.

**CLUSTER:** (Report provided prior to meeting)

**Social Action Award- Discipleship Recognition**

As discussed previously, ideas have been shared on the future of recognitions given during the Cluster Thanksgiving Service. Ellen had prepared some thoughts and shared them with Sue and Marge. These were presented and are attached below as discussed at today's meeting. As this is new territory, nothing is in stone and those not present may wish to offer ideas for additions/changes/etc. but everyone present felt we had a sufficient start to move forward with this year's recognitions. Names will be received from each pastor at (or by) the Cluster Council November meeting. Marge will print certificates based on that list.

**District Lay Servants Committee**

No Report

**Pulpit Exchange**

To be discussed in the spring.

**Celebrating Families**

No Report

**Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees – Dec 6, 7, 8, 2019**

Our theme for our tree this year is Children's Arts and Crafts! Please share this information in all church bulletins and begin gathering gifts, decorations, etc. If someone is willing to do the tree topper, please contact Cheryl. Marge was not present but thought in May that she had a tree...Marge?

**Cluster Thanksgiving Service**

We discussed the Thanksgiving Service to be held on November 24, 2019 at 4:00pm followed by a potluck meal. Choi graciously offered to host the service at Grant Memorial UMC. The offering for this service will be decided at our next meeting. Please bring your thoughts.

**Blue Christmas Service**

Tim has reached out to Bill Flagg and received a very positive response. Bill has offered to make additional contacts with funeral directors, etc. with the goal of having one or more services around the County and ensure the services are ecumenical. Tim asked if the Cluster would support him working further with Bill, which was met with a grateful "yes". More will be presented and discussed at our next meeting.

**Sharing Joys and Concern**

Several prayer concerns and joys were lifted. Prayer was offered by Sue.

**Church Activities:**

Stetson Memorial UMC – Several Bible Studies are beginning this month. Contact Pastor Dan for further details

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am

Devotions – Sue

Discipleship Recognition

Each Pastor with input from leadership in their respective churches will decide upon one person (or possibly one couple) to be recognized at the Cluster Thanksgiving Service.

Attributes taken into consideration should include:

- Willingness to share with the church his/her spiritual gifts
- Demonstration of interest in ongoing development of own spiritual life.
- A life that shows evidence of Paul's Fruit of the Spirit –both inside and outside of church
- Encouragement of others in the faith (Ex: praying for/with others; teaching; etc)

There will not be long write-ups or plaques, but certificates will be prepared for each disciple to be recognized. The certificates will be presented to all recipients at the Cluster Thanksgiving Service.

**(END OF CLUSTER REPORT)**

## MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

Committee met on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss three things:

1) Cookie Booth on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – talked about the plans to transport all the materials on Saturday morning, schedule volunteers to work the booth and returning all the materials back to the church Sunday afternoon. Fliers seeking volunteers will be included in Sunday Worship bulletins beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Proceeds may be given to the church's operating budget.

2) Angel Tree Project – Bobbi has a point-of-contact at the schools to request names/ages of children who could use some gifts. We will plan to get that list by mid-November with a mid-December deadline. More information on this will be in the next Newsletter.

3) Prayer Chain – we need to update.

Committee will meet again on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the Library.

## WORSHIP:

Items discussed at August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Old Business:

- A new hand held microphone has been installed. The sound system needed some tweaking.
- The feedback on the outdoor service was good – good weather and good attendance.
- The Mission Project is going well. Items for the school children are coming in.
- Sept. 8 – Dan Schall in concert here. We haven't heard anything from him yet so we'll "wait and see".
- October 20 – Laity Sunday – representatives from our various mission areas will be asked to speak (lay speakers, prayer shawl ministry, home communion, congregational care team, UMW, UMM, handbells). Rev. Tim suggested that they could each speak on how they have experienced God through the ministry area they are involved in.
- October 27 – infant Baptism
- Coffee Fellowship change goes into effect on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that where Dan and Linda Schall are going to be our guests on that day, we should offer refreshments to go with coffee. After some discussion, Bobbi suggested that on Sundays when a special guest is leading worship, the committee hosting the coffee time could decide if they want to offer refreshments as well.
- Discussion was held on the possibility of offering a second service. Neal suggested putting out an interest survey. Rev. Tim advised that we should have more background information before jumping into this: are we looking at current members or people who don't have a church, data on the community, music to be offered, videos on the screen? It was decided that the interest survey would target those who are not attending our traditional service.

Options for days and times for such a service are:

Saturday – 4:00pm to 4:30pm

Sunday – 8:00am to 8:30am

Sunday evening – 6:00pm to 6:30pm

Thursday – 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm

We will have further discussion at our next meeting.

New Business:

\*Nov. 3 – All Saints Day

\*Nov.10 – honor veterans, Tissue Donation Sunday

\*Nov. 24 – Commitment Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday

\*It was decided that we would like to have the senior choir continue to sing a song as the children come forward for Children's Moment. Bobbi will suggest to Margaret that she may choose a new song if she would rather have something different.

\*Brad Call will be here to lead our upcoming Capital Campaign. He will offer three training meetings with the first one taking place on Sept. 24 at 7:00 pm.

UMM: Will meet Saturday, Sept. 21st.

SPRC: Has not met.

Trustees: Minutes from September 17, 2019 meeting (provided after the Church Council Meeting):

Present: Wendy Bossie, Richard Clark, Judson Drake, Judi Greenier, Louis Greenier, Del Ramey, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox. Absent: Samuela Manages Albert

Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Tim.

Secretary's report: For July 16, 2019. (Report for June 18, 2019 still not read and approved.) Read silently. Motion made by Del, Louis seconded, to accept the secretary's report. Passed.

Treasurer's report: Judi wanted it noted that the trustees' printed contribution to the Annual conference report was nine pages. Judson did a good job. She read a letter from Fidelity Charitable accompanying Debbie Nichols' gift of \$50,000 to the church. Debbie wanted Judson



Drake and Colleen Harmon to share some of that money for all the time they have given to the church. There will be a note attached that Judson and Colleen will not take any of the money. Judi explained the last page of the treasurer's report in detail.

Total spent for roofs – church, parsonage and garage - \$157,420. The extra money paid beyond the \$127,000 Turner Trust Fund came from Debbie Nichols' gift.

Total spent for sprinkler system - \$25,099.03. Debbie's gift will pay for extra spent for sprinkler system.

Motion by Judson, seconded by Louis, to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

Fire exits. Right now there is only one good exit out of the sanctuary, the doors in the narthex. The back door from the choir loft is blocked by snow in winter. Judson proposes two other exits. One by Rev. Tim's office and one on the north wall. Plus a rope ladder from the balcony. Cost \$6500. The lack of exits is a dangerous situation should there be a fire in the narthex. Louis questioned why this unsafe situation was never noticed by authorities. Judson said that the fire marshal generally doesn't hassle churches.

Capital Campaign. There was much discussion throughout the evening about the campaign mention at Sunday's Annual Conference and just how we should go about raising of money for needed repairs - if the campaign should falter.

Rev. Tim and Judson had a conference call with Brad Call to inquire about funds already spent should the campaign be delayed or canceled. We would have to pay for his travel expenses that would not be refunded. He had several thoughts to convey:

1. He understands the anxiety but a delay could raise anxiety levels.
2. There is a mission component/spiritual component to the training and campaign.
3. If repairs are critical, this is the time for the trustees to show leadership.

Rev. Tim: We are having to conduct this campaign at this time because we did not know about all the maintenance problems. Some of them are hidden i.e. the dangling electrical wires.

Judson presented a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2019 GROWING IN FAITH list of physical problems in the church that should be remedied: sprinkler, electrical, safety (exits), structural (support beams and foundation), exterior, driveway, interior trip hazards, interior remodeling. He feels that the first four items NEED to be done.

Poll of trustee members regarding the 2020 Capital Campaign:

Richard – yes, partially

Louis – yes

Judi – yes

Del – undecided but leaning toward yes

Rev. Tim – yes

Tamara – yes, but . . . with explanation

Wendy – no, however . . .

There will be an informal meeting tomorrow night with Roy Alden who spoke at the conference about his misgivings regarding the campaign. Wendy felt that many of the people there agreed with Roy. It would be advantageous to have a “courageous conversation” with the church members (and perhaps poll them?).

Richard felt that the church should sponsor a forum, to come together not only to speak about the immediate problems but to address national wrongs and the hostility that seems to be prevalent in today's society.

Del noted that in the previous capital campaign the trustees were not in charge of the campaign although this time the idea has been presented to the Finance and Church Council. But who decides what?

We discussed the possible reasons that people might not be in favor of the campaign. Ultimately they do not have to give.

Should the trustees present the present church's physical problems to the people orally? Judson offered to explain.

Judson pointed out that the trustees/church members are saving much money. He has expertise in many areas of construction and is doing the work himself without charging. There have been no incidental repairmen called in, except the elevator service men.

Sprinkler System. This system is almost complete.

Electrical. The electrical work will be done by the first of November. (The electricians chosen are on another job.) Judson told of the various electrical problems and how each one will be fixed. He also noted that if the electrical system in a facility is not up to par, electricians won't “touch it.” The church electrical system as it is now is not acceptable and, in fact, is dangerous. The original job was to cost \$23,000. Judson has designed some components and will help with the work. The end total is down to \$9,940. He has budgeted this money but there is no buffer if the job costs more.

As part of the electrical discussion, Judson mentioned that the public address system will be moved from Rev. Tim's office up to the balcony. The future plans are to put in a state-of-the-art system that would allow the church services to go out to the elderly and shut-ins.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Glass in doors. The Education Committee has asked that safety glass be installed in the two doors in the Sunday school room.

Andover Organ Co. Margaret Cyr has asked that the rest of the repairs to be done on the organ be completed. At present there are no chimes. The piano in the choir room/chapel needs to be tuned. Motion made by Judi, seconded by Wendy, that these tasks be done. Passed.

Annual fire inspection checklist. Judson passed out a copy of the list and explained the few items that still need to be done. These will be done.

Annual parsonage inspection. This has been done. Through the Red Cross Detector program, new fire detectors have been installed.

Snow removal and lawn care. We have received bids from Pelletier Property Maintenance, Bernaiche Professional Property Management and Theriault's. One stipulation is that they do not use rock salt in winter maintenance. Alden Wilcox has expressed interest in mowing the lawns. The matter is tabled for two weeks.

2020 Budget Team. Judson asked Tamara to be on the budget team and asked for other volunteers.

Richard closed the meeting at 9:00 with prayer.

Other Business Discussed:

Judson Drake has been gravely concerned about the faulty wiring in the Sanctuary and the Council feels we must address this problem. We need to upgrade to become more efficient and for safety reasons. Roy thinks we can come up with the funds to do this.

A request was made to move the TV in the Sunday school due to safety concerns and there was a discussion of getting a flat screen TV for the Sunday school that could be mounted on the wall.

Bobbi and Roy were part of the Lay Visitation Team established with a goal of getting people back to church. Bobbi has an address for Eloise Penny.

The Council discussed whether to go ahead with the Capital Campaign and decided to go ahead. Debbie Barnes added that no one would be forced to join in. Rev. Tim had a phone discussion with the Foundation to see what delaying the start of the Campaign might mean in costs. He learned that we would be responsible for any money that had already been spent, such as plane tickets, supplies, etc. The Council hopes that the campaign can heal and bring us together as a church family as it did in our last one. If we have to decide to wait, we could not start the campaign until after the holidays.

Melonie brought up the topic of offering envelopes for 2020 and adding a line for the capital campaign. The new line will be "Growing in Faith Capital Campaign".

Rev. Tim gave out a handout explaining what a Possibilities Study is. We could have a workshop on this topic, possibly in the spring. It is a two part workshop focusing on cherishing the past, celebrating the present and creating the future. The first part focuses on the life and practices of the congregation with table groups looking at information about the congregation and using data to be able to say with confidence, "This is who we are." The second part focuses on community surrounding the church. Members would explore demographics and talk to community leaders to gain information and a deeper understanding of our community and who lives here. The Council voted to go ahead with this project when Tamara moved and Bill Thomas seconded a motion to do this workshop.

OTHER: Bill reported he had heard about a mysterious backpack left at an altar in one of the Catholic churches. This sparked a conversation about safety in our church. We lock the side door and keep an usher in the Narthex during our services.

Michele and Josselyn need office space so they can work together on projects. The Council suggested the room behind the altar. Tim will look into that.

In closing Roy asked everyone to focus on the positive and not condone negativity.

There being no other business the Council adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

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ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE MINUTES  
9-15-19

ATTENDEES: The Rev. Jackie Brannen (Northern Maine District Superintendent) D.S., Rev. Tim Wilcox, Claire Hodgkins, Melonie L. Carson, Bobbi Pelletier, Pat Dobson, Colleen Harmon, Joanne Smith, Deb Nichols, Romeo Bouchard, Marjorie Edgecomb, Gwen Ellinwood, Judson Drake, Roy Alden, Debbie Barnes, Shirley Bowman, Diane McDonough, Wendy L. Bossie, Judi Greenier, Ruthann Weeks, Richard Clark, Jean Cashman, William Barnum, Alaina Pethick, Alden Wilcox, Tamara Wilcox, and Mary Lou Brown.

The Annual Church Conference of Gray Memorial United Methodist Church came to order at 2:30 pm on Sunday, September 15, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall. The Reverend Jackie Brannen presided over a short service, Gathering Reflection for Holy Justice. Then she declared that this Church Conference was in session.

Mary Lou Brown praised Bobbi Pelletier for the Conference booklet.

The first order of business was to elect a secretary – Claire Hodgkins was nominated and approved. Next, we had to review, discuss and approve the minutes of last year's Conference as well as other Special Conferences held on Feb. 10, 2019 (accepting the Turner bequest), on May 26, 2019 (vote to use Turner funds for the roofing of the church and parsonage) and on June 23, 2019 (approve the Leadership Nominations). Bobbi Pelletier moved we accept the minutes of all four conferences, Roy Alden seconded, and it was voted unanimously to accept as written and published.

Judson Drake stated that the Trustees had researched the Permanent Fund to see options and to develop a list of projects by priority. They have a goal of \$200,000.00 with a "stretch goal" of \$300,000.00 to complete these projects by getting going on a Capital Campaign. The sprinkler system has a few more components to be replaced in the Sanctuary. We are in need of a wiring project because of numerous deficiencies including some wiring is overheating if overhead lights are kept on too long in the Sanctuary. Judson reported he had \$60,000.00 to start.

A discussion followed continuing with our Special Church Conference in February: Taken from the Feb. 10, 2019 Minutes - "Asking the congregation to accept the moneys from the Philip B. and Jean M. Turner Trust and put the funds under the management of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees will spend the interest as they see fit, but any spending of the principal would need the approval by a vote in a Special Conference."

The Church congregation met on May 26 to see if the congregation would approve using the Turner Trust for the roofing project as there was a very tight window for getting a contractor to do it this summer. Judson had presented a compelling presentation to the congregation.

Taken from the May 26, 2019 Special Church Conference - "The Trustees of Gray Memorial United Methodist Church move that the congregation use the proceeds of the Philip and Jean Turner Trust to finance the replacement of the church and parsonage roofs with the intention of replenishing the Turner Funds with future fund raising." Roy Alden stated that this was non-binding but hopefully executed. The Trustees reported that they were planning a Capital Campaign to replace the Turner money and had contracted with Bradley Call, who had helped the last Campaign succeed. As the discussion continued it became clear there were reservations about the Campaign's success since we have lost many of those people who had so well supported the last Campaign and there was division among our congregation. Rev. Jackie Brannen said our congregation needed to pray and people needed to try and heal our wounds by reaching out to those who have been missed in Church and sincerely work out differences. We needed to grow the Spirit before we could attempt a more successful outcome. The Trustees said they would go back to Bradley Call to see if we needed to postpone beginning our campaign while working on unity of spirit in the congregation, including additional costs this would incur.

Mary Lou asked for clarification on why we needed to pay back the Turner Trust money. We referred to the May 26<sup>th</sup> conference demonstrating our wish to do so.

Judson reported on the projects the Trustees had accomplished, especially in the Parsonage for which the Wilcox family was very grateful. He also told the story of the Thanksgiving smoke event in the boiler last year that, but for if not holding the Thanksgiving dinner for members and friends, we might have lost the church in a fire.

Next, Jackie focused on the 2020 Pastor's Compensation package which includes an increase of 2% to base salary (\$50,000 to \$51,000), Social Security (paid directly to Pastor by law) of \$1,000 and \$2,000 to his Pension, bringing the total compensation to \$54,000. Jackie asked about the Social Security and Pension contributions as she had not seen these items before. They were explained. The \$5,000 Housing Exclusion was included in this report. The total compensation package was then adopted.

The next item discussed were the Finance/Stewardship July 2019 reports provided in the booklet.

A discussion of the Mission Share deficit was of much concern as the D.S. turned to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for further discussion. Jackie wondered if this was a mere “blip” or a trend. We are presently \$15,000 in arrears on the Mission Shares which could lead to an even bigger deficit in the new year. Jackie felt that with declining membership the church might have to consider going to a part time minister. In the past we have been able to make things up by the end of the year, but this is a much larger amount of money. This is another reason to reconsider whether a Capital Campaign is right for the present time. The D.S. asked all to pray and she had the members practice telling a neighbor how sorry we were if we had done anything to offend or hurt in any way. She went first by apologizing for wanting to make our conference as short as possible because she was tired and wanted to go home.

We then shifted to the Communion Ceremony in which each member in turn held the bread and dipped it in the juice before taking it and then handing it off to the next person to the left. Mary Lou led us in a couple of hymns, “Break Bread Together” and “Spirit of The Living God”, before getting back to the business of the Conference.

After Communion, Jackie Brannen went back to discussing our financial situation. She offered to come back at any time to work through any issues that are keeping the church family from thriving. She clarified that it must be after Thanksgiving. She thought it would be a good idea if Rev. Tim got in touch with Bradley Call to discuss what came out in our discussions today around our concerns. She cautioned us not to back slide.

Next, we lifted up our Lay Servants: Richard Clark praised the Companions in Christ class. Diane McDonough said she was really looking forward to getting back to classes after battling ill health. Bobbi Pelletier said she has enjoyed classes as the participants did remain close during and afterwards. Kathleen Forbes was unable to submit her report due to illness but she is lifted up as well. All Lay Servants were approved to continue.

REPORT OF PASTOR: Rev. Tim reported a total of 297 professing members at last report; six additions including 4 on profession of faith or restored, one from another United Methodist church, and one from another denomination. There have been a total of nine deductions; 2 by transfer to other denominations, and 7 by death. Our membership has a total of 294 (182 females and 112 males). There are 65 Baptized members who have not become professing members according to the last membership audit.

Rev. Tim also reported on his sermon topics and that he is probably the unofficial Chaplain of the Caribou Rotary. He has been making visits to those in hospital.

Rev. Jackie Brannen praised Rev. Tim and called him a very humble man who cares deeply about his people.

REMEMBRANCE of SAINTS: A candle was lit for each of the 9 saints as their names were read who died since our last Conference of which two were not members.

Members:

Judith McKee (10/29/18)  
Robert Ellinwood (12/5/18)  
Jacqueline Mayhew (1/2/19)  
Stephen Cashman ((2/27/19)  
Florence Gallagher (5/31/19)  
Nancy Leavitt (9/2/19)  
Barbara Van Kirk (9/4/19)

Those with Special Connection to GMUMC:

Elizabeth Cochran (12/1/18)  
Catherine Griffeth (2/15/19)

The Membership Audit done on 9/15/2019 showed three names who were to be read for the second time for removal.

Year Two Reading:

Alley, Monica (No known address)  
Furtek, Ryan (Debbie Barnes has been in contact and he wants to remain a member)  
Sherman, Jennifer (No known address)

The members voted to take the names of Monica Alley and Jennifer Sherman off the rolls.

Year One Reading:

Heidi Manter (1/8/19) – notified she and Shawn are divorced and she is in Nashville

Kayla Collins (1/8/19) – notified by Shawn that she is “out of the area”.

Roy Alden said he would try to find Heidi.

There being no more reports Rev. Jackie Brannen turned the meeting over to Rev. Tim for a closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Council Secretary

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES & REPORTS

10-24-19

ATTENDEES: Roy Alden (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Bill Thomas, Bobbi Pelletier, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Neal Genz, Debbie Barnes, Alaina Pethick, Mary Lou Brown, and Melonie Carlson.

Roy Alden called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM in the Church kitchen and Rev. Tim gave a brief prayer including a lifting up of prayers for Margaret Cyr and Bob Cyr for health issues, and upon the death of Rep. Elijah Cummings who will be sorely missed in Congress.

Roy discussed his hope that the church family could demonstrate forgiveness and learn to be more accepting of each other’s differing opinions. We need to come together and work for common goals.

Next, a lengthy discussion was lead by Roy as to the feasibility of having two concurrent campaigns, “Growing in Our Faith Capital Campaign” and the annual Stewardship Campaign. Claire stated that the Communications Committee planned to ask the congregation to anonymously write their questions and concerns on blank slips of paper during this Sunday’s service so that the Committee’s presentation on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> could be the most beneficial in laying out the goals for the Campaign by addressing those questions and concerns. The Campaign organizers have no intention of asking people to do anything more then they prayerfully feel able.

Melonie Carlson reported on the September Financial report:

Regular Offerings	\$20,846.00
Other Sources	545.00
Reimbursements	9.00
Special Funds for Church Use	1,989.19
Special Funds not for Church Use	75.00
Total Offering for September	\$23,464.19

The September Checkbook Report is as follows:

Beginning Balance	(\$961.96)
2019 Operating Income	21,391.00
<b>From Leadership Material SF</b>	<b>163.70</b>
Interest	4.95
Less EFT fee	(27.37)
Less Expenses	(18,129.93)
Ending Balance	2,440.39

Capital Account Seed Money- Beginning Balance for September was \$40,601.71: Deposits - \$398.52: Current Balance - \$41,000.23

Memorial Garden Fund end of September balance - \$26,879.94

Melonie reported that the Mission Shares are now \$17,166.31 in the rears.

The following is a report on expenditures:

Programs	\$489.31
Trustees	6,890.33
SPRC	9,955.60
New England Conference	794.69
Pastor’s Pension Benefit	
Total Expenses for September	\$18,129.93

Total budget spent YTD \$140,975.03 + \$17,166.31 (unpaid Missions Shares) = \$158,141.34

Dead River Account Balances C = (\$2,360.47); P = (\$743.52) (Fuel oil and Propane)

September Budget Target \$165,611.45; Tithes & Offerings 133,649.37; Total Expenses \$158,141.34; Unpaid Expenses \$17,166.31

Average Attendance was 73 making Average Attendance YTD 75.

The Finance Committee has sent out Budget worksheets to Committee Chairs. Budget proposals must be in by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. The Finance Committee thinks it would be a good idea to marry the Capital and Stewardship Campaigns. Roy suggested that the various committees discuss "How can we make Disciples of Jesus Christ?" when they meet.

There was another lengthy discussion about how to reallocate space. Michelle has 10 students in a very small space. Josselyn needs storage and planning space. The library would have space, but the noise levels could be a problem. One possible solution would be for Judson to rent space down town giving up his "office" area to other uses. Roy remarked that we need to do better at creating storage space. Nothing was settled.

The Council looks forward to the Harvest Supper and asks all to get behind Del and help make this a great success.

Memorials: No report.

UMW: No report.

#### PASTOR'S TIME

Rev. Tim discussed a three hour workshop in the spring to be conducted by Rick McKinley. He gave two possible dates, March 15<sup>th</sup> or March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This would be during Lent. Its title is "How to Be a Better Church". The Council felt that such a workshop would have the most attendance if it were to be held after worship and that there be a dinner included in the event. The workshop would focus on 5 practices - Worship, Hospitality, Disciples, Generosity, and Service. To be a real value it is hoped that we could get between 50% and 70% of the congregation to attend.

#### OCTOBER 2019 CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS (submitted prior to meeting)

UMM: Program: The September 28<sup>th</sup> program was a presentation by Evan Graves on the Caribou Marathon. He explained how it is organized, run and its importance as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. He also explained some of the course and logistics issues of the race which continues to grow each year. He also went on to talk about his role as the new Athletic Director for Caribou High School. A very interesting and informative presentation

**Prelate's message**: Prelate Richard Clark read passages from Mathew Ch. 5, v. 48;; and John ch 1 vs 12-13; John 14 vs. 12-15; Galatians 4, vs. 7; and Hebrews 12, vs. 5 -8. His message was that we are God's children and should love one another as our father loves us. A motion was unanimously passed expressing the membership's sentiment that we are indeed very fortunate to have Richard Clark as our prelate!

#### **Old Business:**

**Secretary's Report**: the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes were accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report**: The current checkbook balance is \$ 1,038.91. The report was accepted as presented.

#### **New Business:**

Discussed Christmas tree sales. Jud reported that he had 250 trees from Van Buren and 30 from Del R and that the youth netted approx. \$2,400 from the project last December. He was very frustrated because he had little or no help most days with the unloading, setup and sales. Alaina Pethick has ordered trees from Van Buren again on behalf of the youth. (Confirmed after the meeting she has ordered 250 trees). Consensus was the men's club will step up and help this year.

Discussed the club sponsoring Harvest Supper. Several dates were considered. Voted to do so at a date to be determined based on other events already scheduled this fall. (October 26 was set in the days following the meeting) Del will cook; Dave B, Jud D. and Ken P. also volunteered to help.

#### CLUSTER:

#### Social Action Award- Discipleship Recognition

Names from each church in the Cluster will be ***needed by the next meeting*** in order to prepare certificates for this year's recipients. Names put forth so far: Lidstone Memorial UMC – Nancy Thompson, Mars Hill UMC – Bonnie & Andy Anderson. Limestone UMC – Sharon Berz. Pastors are requested to make that decision along with their lay leadership or PPRC. Please be sure the names have correct spellings. Marge will print certificates for all recipients.

#### Pulpit Exchange

To be discussed in the spring.

#### Celebrating Families

Cheryl reported on the 18-month curriculum from the National Association of Adult Children of Alcoholics. Addresses needs of children of parents who are users. It is designed for Pre-K through High School children. Each session includes dinner and breaking into groups and helping kids understand that their parents addiction is not their addiction. Studies show that the greatest impact is made with early elementary age children. The cost for the trainers and the facilitators is \$10,000. Then sites could be set up anywhere to provide this program in the County. After discussion, Sue made a motion that this Aroostook Cluster of United Methodist Churches will support the effort to raise the money to make this become a reality. Dan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees – Dec 6, 7, 8, 2019

Marge has a tree for this project. As noted previously, our theme for our tree this year is Children's Arts and Crafts! Please continue to share this information in all church bulletins and begin gathering gifts, decorations, etc. If someone is willing to do the tree topper, please contact

Cheryl. All items should be provided to Cheryl either by dropping them off or making arrangements with her or anyone helping to decorate the tree by December 1st.

### **Cluster Thanksgiving Service**

The Cluster Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 24, 2019 at 4:00pm followed by a potluck meal at Grant Memorial UMC. Choi sent a bulletin outline and requested five musical offerings from our churches. Please contact Choi [goholyspirit01@gmail.com](mailto:goholyspirit01@gmail.com) with what your church can provide for music at this service. Cluster Council members will be willing to participate in the service as Choi assigns. It was decided that the offering for this service will go toward seed money for Celebrating Families. Cheryl will prepare us to receive the offering in order to explain to those gathered.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

Tim has spoken again with Bill Flagg. Bill has had positive response from funeral directors. Tim asked that we discuss the scope of services – possibly two – Houlton UMC and Gray Memorial UMC in Caribou for this year. Tim and Victor will discuss dates and get back to us. A common service will be prepared for use in each area.

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

Several prayer concerns and joys were lifted. Prayer was offered by Cheryl.

### **Church Activities:**

Houlton UMC – Oct 15<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – five weeks at 6 – 8pm. Basic Lay Servants Course.

Limestone UMC – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday UMW 6pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – Women’s Bible Study 7pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – UMM Breakfast 8am

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Game night 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Sunday

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – “Purple Pinkie” day re: polio eradication

Free Supper 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Free lunch 11:30 – 12:30 pm

Bible Study re: end of life Tuesdays 7pm beginning October 22<sup>nd</sup>

United Parish - Food Pantry “Basket of Blessings” will open hopefully by the end of this month!

Domestic violence awareness event hopefully by the end of this month – It will be posted on their Facebook and Instagram page.

Gray Memorial UMC – Beginning Companions in Christ October 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30 (Wednesday mornings)

Cost for book is \$20

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Annual Harvest Supper 5:00pm – 6:00pm

(End of Cluster Report)

**EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:** The Education Committee met Oct. 13. The main topics were the “Trunk or Treat” at the Caribou Rec Center on Oct. 26, including the children and youth in the Capital Campaign, and beginning planning and looking for interest in an adult Sunday school class. We also request further discussion regarding classroom and storage space for the Sunday school and Youth programs. We realize that making changes to the usage of space will impact several other people or groups and believe that the church council may be the best place for this discussion as there is representation from many groups. (*Note: At Church Council meeting, it was decided that the Education Committee will meet with the Trustees to discuss this issue further.*)

### **TRUSTEES:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Safety glass in doors requested by the education committee - \$85.00.

New televisions. Education committee is picking up the cost for new 50” TV and 32” TV. Mounted on wall. Former TV on stand was not stable/safe.

Andover Organ Co. Coming on October 22 to make chimes (already installed for \$10,000) useable.

Sprinkler System. They are back to finish the work. This will cost \$8,900, maybe less because Judson is doing some of the work. What would have taken two days has been cut down to four hours.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Snow plowing contracts. Approximately a dozen businesses were asked to bid. The following businesses replied:

Anderson Lawn and Landscaping (nothing was received formally in writing)

Bernaiche Property Maintenance – bid \$6,000, Judson talked them down to \$3,900

North End Landscaping (Joey Cowett) \$3,500. He had our contract last year, 2018-19, and the work was not satisfactory.

Pelletier Property Services. Bid \$5,820

Reno and Son. No bid but they will push back banks if needed.  
Therault Lawn Care. Bid complicated included trip fee plus plow fee. Around \$3,500  
Louis made a motion that we accept Bernaiche Property Maintenance. Richard seconded. Passed.

Furnaces will be cleaned this month.

Heat pump at the parsonage has not been serviced for some time. Will be serviced in November.

#### Missions & Evangelism:

At our last meeting on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, we discussed the following:

Cookie Booth – made final preparations for the Caribou Arts & Craft Fair on Saturday/Sunday, October 20 & 21. Recruited volunteers to do the booth set-up on Saturday morning and breakdown on Sunday afternoon. Duska Franklin agreed to schedule the volunteer work shifts at the booth.

Prayer Chain – an updated version as of October 2019 was created and distributed to all the participants. This new version will be included in the November Newsletter so everyone will know who to contact.

Angel Tree – called and talked with school contact to obtain 25-30 names for gifts; asked for names in mid-November so we can place the tags on the tree for December 1<sup>st</sup>. All gifts and monetary donations will be due to the church by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Worship Committee:

Last meeting was on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Items of interest from that meeting:

Mission Project – donations received as of October 13<sup>th</sup> will be brought to the school POC by Beth Alden; collection will continue until next “deadline” of December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Discussed the recent change to Coffee Fellowship (food only on first or special Sundays) – mixed reactions

Shared draft of second service survey – later in the meeting, we had a telephone conversation with Rick McKinley from the NEC and he had some good suggestions; will need to work on this concept some more

Upcoming Sundays:

October 6<sup>th</sup> – World Communion Sunday; Margaret Cyr will create a special altar arrangement

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Healing & Wholeness Service; need expressed at annual Church Conference

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Laity Sunday; asked several people to speak on behalf of various ministries (Kathleen Forbes – lay leader; Richard Clark – lay speaker; Mary Ouellette – home communion server; Melonie Carlson – handbells & Senior Choir; Diane Fitzpatrick – Prayer Shawl Ministry)

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Baptism

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Saints Day; will have candles on the altar and ask some people to come forward to light candle as names are read (Margaret & Diana will seek volunteers)

November 10<sup>th</sup> – Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday; Veterans’ Day is Monday, so we decided to order carnations to be given to veterans (ask them to stand and have youth deliver the carnations)

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday; we decided we will ask for donations of canned/fresh vegetables and we will decide at November meeting who we will donate them to (either the Food Pantry or the Bread of Life Kitchen); Commitment Sunday

December 1<sup>st</sup> – First Sunday of Advent/UM Student Day (Special Offering); we plan to get together on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to decorate the sanctuary for Advent (Bobbi, Claire, Diane, Judson); Mission & Evangelism committee members will be asked to help as well (Angel Tree ornaments will be placed on the tree)

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday; Christmas Eve Service at 4pm; we will have communion and people will pick up their candles & bulbs in baskets on way back to their seats

Other items discussed – perhaps limit the number of hymn verses

SPRC: Debbie Barnes reported that Liaisons reported on their contacts with assigned staff members. Also, the visitation committee reported on their visits, attempted visits, and visits that were rejected. The committee learned there were many reasons why people abstained from coming to church, but many were similar in nature. Staff evaluations were initially put off for more urgent matters but the members are to meet with staff as a schedule has been made and hopefully the evaluations will be completed by Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Tim provided a report of several goals he wishes to address in the coming year. Some goals include teaching another class, leading a study, hosting the spring class at GMUMC. He outlined some time off plans and reported on visits made to church constituents and others since the last meeting. A Budget sheet for 2020 SPRC Budget requests was circulated with the intention that members can give some thought and make the Committee’s formal request at the next meeting. The church profile needs an annual update and will be distributed by email to the committee members to be worked on at the next meeting.

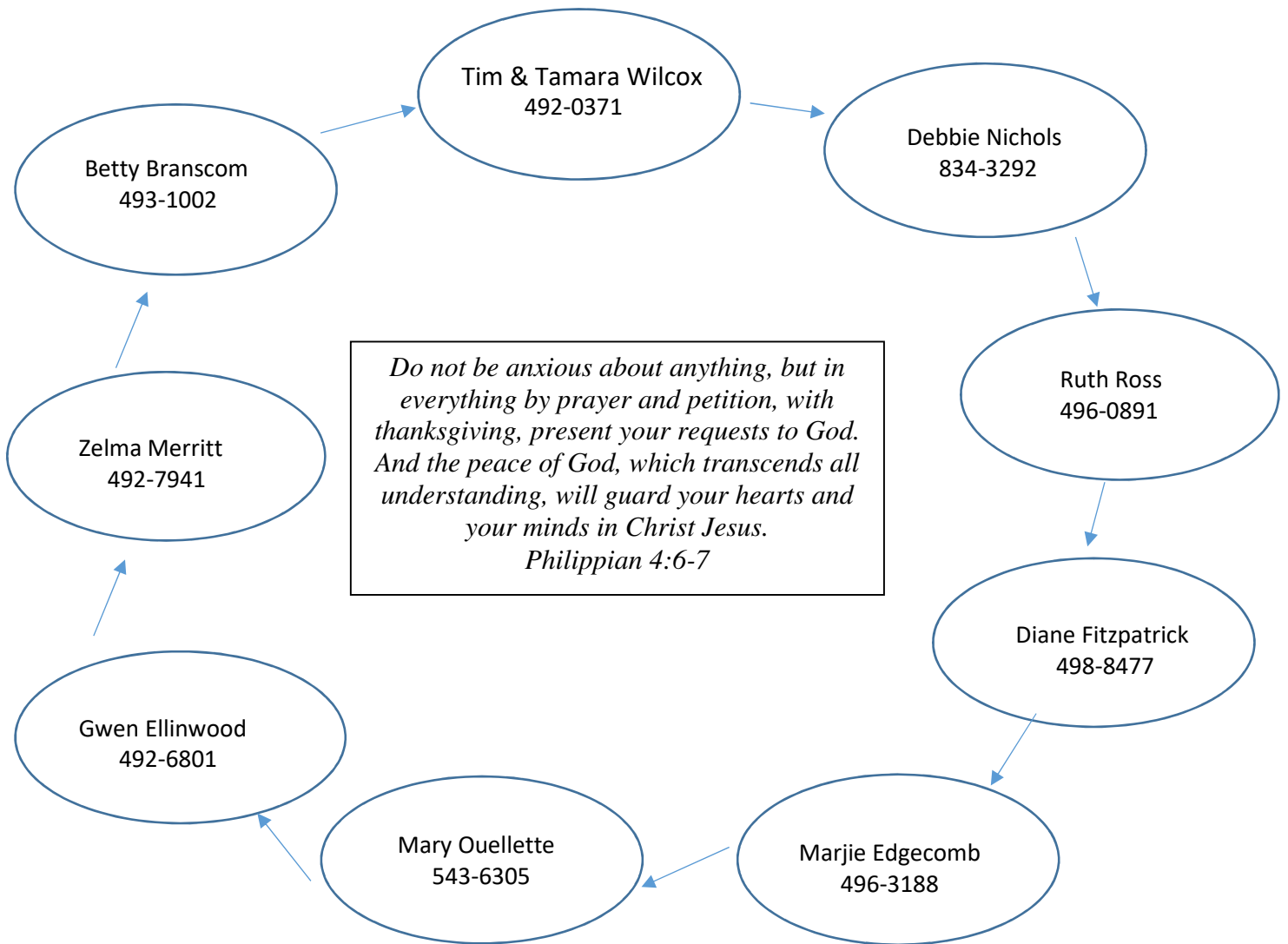
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. Next meeting will be Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Hodgkins, Secretary



The Missions & Evangelism Committee recently updated their “Prayer Chain”. The new chart is below. Anyone may call a member of this prayer chain and asked for prayers for an individual, family, etc. You do not have to provide specific information on the nature of the prayer request, but if you do, it will remain confidential amongst the prayer chain members.

**GMUMC PRAYER CHAIN**  
Updated **October 2019**



## Early Churches of Caribou – The Methodist-Episcopal/Methodist Church

excerpted from

a pamphlet published by the Caribou Historical Society

Dennis Harris, writer

Wendy L. Bossie, researcher

*(a colored copy of the entire pamphlet is available in the scrapbook kept in the library)*

The earliest meeting of members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Caribou began in 1860. They met in the Lyndon Center School with Rev. William Truwin serving as a Methodist circuit rider. In 1864 the meetings were moved to the village school house. In 1867 the Union Meeting House was built and served as a meeting place for several churches and town events. In 1886 a new lot and lumber for a church were acquired and under the leadership of Rev. C. H. Leverton, 1886, the church was completed. The building was located on the south side of Sweden St. A new parsonage was built.

In 1910 Rev. James Gray became the church's next minister. On October 2, 1911, the church board voted to search for a new parcel of land and make plans for a new building. An acre lot on the corner of Sweden and Prospect Streets was purchased from A. V. Goud for \$8000. In 1912 the parsonage was sold for \$3500 and the church was sold for \$6000. The Goud house was moved from the corner of the lot to a place near the northern boundary to serve as a parsonage. Construction began on the church immediately. Astle & Page were the architects and builders. The church was celebrated the dedication of the new building with a week-long event in November, 1913. The church was officially dedicated as the Peoples Methodist Episcopal Church. (At that time the membership numbered over 300.)

Rev. Philip Lush became pastor in 1941. Membership had increased to 501 with 355 active in 1945. A divided chancel was installed in 1946 along with choir stalls and a new altar and rail, pulpit and lectern. In 1956 Rev. George Budd became pastor. A new sprinkler system was installed in 1961. Membership had risen to 670. Rev. Daniel Harlan took over in 1964. Rev. Richard Hamilton became the new minister in 1967. A new sound system was installed in 1968. A new office was built in the church in 1969. Rev. William Chamberlain became pastor. Roof repairs and a new heating system were projects taken on in 1975. Rev. Everett Wiswell took over in 1977. In early December 1977, a fire heavily damaged the pulpit area. A year later the altar area had been repaired and was rededicated. The following were pastors: Rev. Walter Webb, 1984; Richard Hopkins, 1987; Rev. Maurice Nason, 1989; Rev. Richard Hopkins, 1992; Rev. Lynne Josselyn, 1992; Anna Beach, 2005 and Rev. Tom Bentum, 2009.

The church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013. For this special occasion, the building received a much-needed facelift. Rev. Tim Wilcox became the new pastor in 2015.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER 2019!!!!

Friday	01	9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	02	<u>TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!!!!</u>	
Sunday	03	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost; All Saints Sunday
Monday	04	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	05	6:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry in Library
Wednesday	06	9:00am	Companions in Christ Class (note earlier start time)
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	07	9:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill (note time change)
		5:30-7pm	Foster Parents Support Group Meeting in Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sunday	10	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost; Organ & Tissue Donor
		11:30am	Education Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	11	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - VETERANS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	12	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	13	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		12:00pm	Jennie Lyon Circle Luncheon & Meeting (bring donations for Christmas)
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	14	6:30pm	SPRC Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	16	1-2:30pm	Brownie Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Sunday	17	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost
		11:30am	Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	18	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE/GROUP REPORTS TO CLAIRE &amp; OFFICE</u>
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	19	6:00pm	Trustees Meeting in Kitchen
Wednesday	20	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	21	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Kitchen
Friday	22	10:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATIONS!!!!</u>
Sunday	24	8:40am	Advent Study Group in Library (first session)
		9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Christ the King Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday
Monday	25	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Wednesday	27	9:30am	Companions in Christ Class
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	28	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	
		1:00pm	Thanksgiving Dinner - Reservations are needed!!!! (free will offering accepted!)
Saturday	30	1:00pm	Worship Committee and Missions & Evangelism Committees decorate sanctuary for Advent Season!