

Every four years several significant events take place. In years like 2016, we can count on having Summer Olympic Games, a presidential election and a meeting of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The General Conference, a gathering of nearly 1000 delegates from over 60 countries, is the only body that can speak for the denomination as a whole and that can revise the church “law book,” *The Book of Discipline*. The General Conference sets policies, develops ministry priorities of the denomination and approves a four year budget. As always, there are several significant issues before the assembly that will be held at the Oregon Convention Center on May 10-20, 2016. More about some of these in the May newsletter. One of the tasks will be to evaluate the goals set in 2012 for the quadrennium that ends this year. The 2012 General Conference adopted four areas of focus. They are...

**Engaging in Ministry with the Poor** by standing with those who are regarded as “the least of these,” by addressing the causes of poverty and by responding in ways that lift up individuals and communities. United Methodists believe working side by side with those striving to improve their situation is more effective long term than top-down charity.

#### **Improving Global Health**

The United Methodist Church has become a key player in fighting diseases such as malaria and AIDS, knowing that health and poverty are linked. As the church nears its \$75 million goal, the death rate from malaria in Africa has been cut in half in only 5 years, thanks to international efforts such as the UMC’s Imagine No Malaria campaign.

#### **Developing Principled Christian Leaders**

The church needs leaders rooted in Christ, who have a vision for changing the world. Today’s young people have fearless hearts, vibrant ideas and a passion for ministry that should shape the church’s future path. The church must recruit young people for ministry, equip them to be effective leaders and be open to where they want to lead us. We also must strengthen lay members, who are ministering at every level of the church.

#### **Creating New and Renewed Congregations**

United Methodists are continually innovating and adapting to changing circumstances as they plant new congregations and revitalize faith communities in every kind of setting. By being relevant and vital, United Methodists will touch more lives and draw more people to Christ through re-evangelizing the world.

Research during leading up to the adopting of the goals above has identified common factors in healthy, “vital” congregations. The research has shown that **vital congregations are:**

- Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Gal.3:28)
- Places where disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)

and that **vital congregations have:**

- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small Group ministries
- Strong children’s & youth ministries

How are we doing at Gray Memorial? In what ways do you recognize us in these goals and descriptions? Where do you see opportunities to grow in our practice of faith and in the conduct of our congregation’s ministries? How is God calling you and Gray Memorial UMC to be a vital witness in central Aroostook County in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century? I would be interested in your thoughts and ideas.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Tim



# Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

We were blessed with decent weather for most of Holy Week - the exception was Good Friday. The weather was a little messy, but Rev. Tim decided not to cancel, but WAGM posted a cancellation that was meant for Grant Memorial in Presque Isle that caused a lot of confusion, so many perhaps believed our service was cancelled as well. We did serve our typical Good Friday soup lunch after the service and those who were here enjoyed it.

I wish to thank each of the church's that participated in the Holy Week services and providing the refreshments for Monday through Thursday. The daily services were well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy each day.

Fortunately, the weather on Saturday and Sunday improved and our Easter Sunrise and regular Worship Services were well attended. So nice to see our beautiful sanctuary adorned with all the beautiful Easter flowers!

Tax season ends on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - after that, I will return to the normal office hours of Monday - Friday from 9am - noon!

A couple special events to bring to your attention - April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Spaghetti Supper from 4:30-6:30pm at the Assembly of God Hall; proceeds benefit the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, our Finance/Stewardship Committee is sponsoring their Italian Supper from 4:30-6:00pm here at the church. Tickets to both of these suppers are available in the church office!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



February 28<sup>th</sup> & March Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Judi McKee, Florence Gallagher, Patrick Moir, Betty Branscom, Jillian Langworthy, James & Rita Chamberlain, Debbie Nichols, Steve Irving, Amy Dionne, Norma Levesque, Cindy Chick, Ronnie & Donnie Nadeau, Cindy Powers, Susan Larlee, Darlene & Oscar Nelder, Gloria Southerland, Barbara Perry, Janet Donovan, Eileen, Dale Marsh, Carol, Mary Wilson, Dale Sharp, Margaret Cyr, Dale Marsh, Zack Gagnon, Alan Frazier

On Family Death: The family of Pauline Dahlgren; family of Eunice Turner; family of Ellie & Mike Gray; family of Dave Boucher; Albert family

Other: Safe travel home to Florida for Donna (Rauch) Coraluzzo; Confirmation Class members, parents & mentors; All who serve in harms' way; Israel & Palestine; children with learning disabilities; prayers of joy for Casey Nichols - RN Degree!;

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!

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REMINDERS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LITURGIST</u> | <u>GREETERS</u>                | <u>COUNTER</u>    | <u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u> |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| April 3     | Dean Rauch       | Debbie Barnes & Gwen Ellinwood | Diane Fitzpatrick | Education Committee      |
| April 10    | Tamara Wilcox    | Marcia & Dave DeMerchant       | Diane Fitzpatrick | History & Records Comm.  |
| April 17    | Dave Belyea      | Ruthann & John Weeks           | Diane Fitzpatrick | Finance/Stewardship      |
| April 24    | Mary Lou Brown   | Ruth & Emmett Ross             | Ruth Ross         | Worship Committee        |

Usher Coordinator: Leland Frost

Evangelism Greeters: Apr 3-Ruth Ross; Apr 10-Mary Ouellette; Apr 17-Betty Branscom; Apr 24-TBA

Communion Stewardess: Mary Ouellette

Acolytes: Apr 3-Darrell Adams & Friedrich Wilcox; Apr 10-Miles Collier & Caleb Brown;  
Apr 17-Alden Wilcox & Matthew Smith; Apr 24-Lauren Craig & Mari Witmer

Child Care Volunteers: Apr 3-Meagan Irving; Apr 10-Diana Locke; Apr 17-Samuella Manages; Apr 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!

TBA = To Be Announced

# \* \* April 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  | Jim Topping   | 14 | Debbie Barnes                           |
| 2  | Tammy Albert  | 16 | Mary Ayers, Stephen Griffeth            |
| 3  | Keegan Wakana   | 18 | Larry Conrad, Peter Edgecomb            |
| 4  | Greg Anderson   | 21 | Heather Chandler, Bruce Hagelstein      |
| 5  | Anna Soderberg  | 22 | Avis Armstrong                          |
| 6  | Teelyne Herbert   | 23 | Kenneth Irving                          |
| 7  | Scott Irving  | 24 | Debbie Jordan                           |
| 8  | Michael Smith   | 26 | Ward Silsbee                            |
| 9  | Albert Akeley   | 27 | Shirley Bowman, Casey Lancaster         |
| 11 | Tyler & Christopher Adams, Steven Branscom,<br>Katherine Danforth, Diane DuBois | 28 | Katie Cyr, Margaret Cyr, Mary Ouellette |
| 12 | Rachel Warner   | 29 | Bert Branscom                           |
|    |   | 30 | Danielle McBreairty                     |



- |   |                           |                         |                     |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 7 | Diana Locke & Dave Wakana | 12                      | Nancy & Lou Leavitt |
|   | 28                        | Jennifer & Ryan Sherman |                     |

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.



**STEWARDSHIP/  
FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Operating Fund Offering</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 28 | 101               | \$3,208.00                     |
| March 6     | 95                | \$4,336.50                     |
| March 13    | 107               | \$3,953.00                     |
| March 20    | 120               | \$2,656.05                     |
| March 27    | 143               | \$3,479.77                     |

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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 March 27<sup>th</sup>, the balance is \$19,150.63. Our unpaid "debt" to this account remains at \$2,705.86.

Changes to 2013 Pictorial Directory:

None to report this month.



- Saturday, April 9 – Spaghetti Supper to benefit Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry, Assembly of God Hall, 4:30-6:30pm
- Saturday, April 23 – Italian Supper sponsored by Finance/Stewardship Committee, 4:30-6:00pm
- Saturday, May 14 – Rummage & Bake Sale sponsored by UMW & Jennie Lyon Circle, 9am-2pm
- Friday, July 1 – UMW Pie Sale, 9am-until sold out!
- Monday-Friday, July 11-15 – SonQuest Rainforest Vacation Bible School; 9am-noon (registration opens at 8:30am)

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UMW sub-committee for the cookbook project has met and is now soliciting for recipes. Deadline for submitting recipes is May 1, 2016! See the recipe form on page 15 of this Newsletter! Make sure you submit your favorite family recipes!



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



Women's History Month - The Worship Committee selected four women from Gray Memorial UMC to honor during the month of March.

March 6 - Mary Lou Brown celebrated Jennie Lyon

### **Who is Jennie L. Lyon?**

"On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

What began as one mission project has now grown to over 200 mission projects around the world. What began as a 2 cents pledge is now over \$15 million in annual giving.

In 1880 Methodist Women in the United States organized the Women's Home Missionary Society to address national injustices.

In 1939 the Methodist Church's Women's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild and the Women's Division of Christian Service are formed. The merger of three Methodist denominations creates a segregated jurisdiction for African Americans.

In 1972 the Women's Organizations in the United Methodist Church combine to form one inclusive organization called United Methodist Women.

In 2012 United Methodist Women became an independent agency with the United Methodist Church and continued to put faith, hope, and love into action for women, children and youth." (Response, March 2016, p. 6 & 11)

It is in this spirit we raise the name of Jennie L. Lyon (John) of Gray Memorial Methodist Church. Jennie Lyon Circle was named in her memory and has been an active mission-minded group since her death in 1961.

Jennie Lyon Circle has been in existence for 55 years fulfilling many of the original goals that continued throughout the years of Women's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild now under the organizational structure of the United Methodist Women.

Besides the Executive Committee of the United Methodist Women and Jennie Lyon Circle, we currently have our Prayer Shawl Ministry. In past years, we have had the Ivah Chandler Circle, the Dr. Marvin Piburn Circle, and the Lydia Circle.

I'm sure that Jennie Lyon was as active and missional as any of our women through these transitions in names.

Jennie trusted the official Board of Trustees of this church, appointing Maynard Lombard, Lay Leader, as executor of her will, within which she left her home and land on York Street to our church with the original intention that we would provide a nursing home for Caribou. In studying this gift and examining the home, the Trustees felt that our church was not in a position to manage or fund a nursing home. In discussions with Mrs. Lyon, it was agreed that upon her death, the property would be disposed of, and the proceeds placed in a special building fund for the purpose of providing an educational facility for the church school.

The will stated that "The church will augment the fund from time to time until sufficient monies have been secured for this addition. The facility will be a memorial to Jennie Lyon and will be suitably inscribed. The official Board letters stated, "As much as we would like to have found it possible to carry out the original intention of Jennie Lyon, we feel that this action still carried out the wishes of Mrs. Lyon, who was deeply concerned in the welfare of this Church." The statement was signed by: Robert Breedlove, Sec. Official Board; Maynard Lombard, Lay Leader, Executor; Reverend George Budd, Pastor.

The fund is managed by the New England Foundation of the United Methodist Church. Over the years of our existence requiring maintenance and care of the church property, interest on this fund combined with interest of other investments has made this work possible. As of 2015, the Trustees have directed that the interest on the Jennie Lyon Fund be added to the principal.

The forerunner of the Jennie Lyon Circle was then Women's Society of Christian Service. The following women were members of this group: Mary Roderick, Gretchen Fletcher, Gladys Ward, Jennie Anderson, Bertha Brown, Nettie Merrithew, Madeline Libby, Margaret Ashby, Hilda Espling, Edith Ames, Blanche Farrington, Lillian Kelley, Mildred McLaughlin, Vera Rogers, Marjorie Shaw, Lily Straight, Laura Reardon, May Mitchell, Elsie Hurley, Emily Milton, Lillian Borden, Louise Wilcox, Helen Farrington, Anne Smith, Margaret Norton, Maude Quimby, Gladys Harmon, Sibyl Parker, Katrina Clark.

Other family members named in the will were: Husband John Lyon, Brother Elbridge Campbell, Nieces Kathleen Lyon (Mrs. Gerald Lyon), Jane Lyon, Eva Shannon, Edna Whitney, and special friends Nettie Merrithew, (Perley), and Lillian Straight (Samuel M.).

Mary Lou Brown



March 13 - Ruth Ross (left) celebrated her mother Emily Milton (right)

### Emily Grace Smith Milton

Born in Caribou, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1903, the daughter of Leigh & Lena Smith, and died in Caribou, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1996, at age 93.

My Mother was many things. A beloved daughter, a cherished sister, a loving wife, a mother of five, a grandmother of 12, and a great grandmother of 11. She was a farmer's wife, a schoolteacher, teaching all 8 grades in a 1 room schoolhouse, first at the Henderson School in Woodland, and later in the Snowman School in Woodland. She was a business woman, owning and operating, with my father, a grocery store on the New Sweden Road by the High School for many years. And most of all she was a woman of Faith.

One of her early memories, at age 10, was watching her father dig the hole for the basement of this church, with a team of horses and a metal scoop, and when it became too steep, he used a team of mules. When the foundation was finished, her father told her "This church will never fall because it is built on a solid foundation. Build your life, Emmy, on a firm foundation". She helped her mother to cook and take food to the men working on the building. Some of the lumber was harvested on her father's woodlot in Woodland. She attended worship with her family, arriving by horse and buggy in the summer, and horse and sleigh in the winter. There was a hitching post beside the new church for the horses during the service. She was a member of Mrs. Ebbett's Sunday School Class, who prepared them to join the church and they were the first new members in 1913.

She was a member of the Ladies Aid, and during the war they rolled bandages and knit mittens and socks for the soldiers. She was a long time member of Jennie Lyon Circle, cooking for bake sales, and working on public suppers. A group of ladies made patchwork quilts, which they tacked and sold at the Fall Bazaar. She was a willing and happy hostess of many Sunday evening Vesper services at their summer cottage at Madawaska Lake. And being a good Methodist, she was happy preparing and serving refreshments.

Although she was unable to attend worship services as often as she would have liked in her later years, she was always faithful to her promise to support the church with her time, her talents and her gifts. Indeed my mother lived her life on a "firm foundation."

One of her favorite psalms was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. I would like to read a version that was read at a memorial service at the Maine Veterans Home where she resided the last few months of her life.

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me strength. He guides me in the right paths as he has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your Shepherds rod and staff protect me. You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live."

By Ruth Milton Ross

March 20 – Judi Greenier celebrated Jean M. Turner

Today we are honoring the memory of another prominent woman in the history of our Church: **Jean M. Turner**. Through the efforts of Margaret Cyr, we have a beautiful floral arrangement on the altar this morning commemorating Jean's life. Jean has been gone from our midst only eight years, so there are many of us here today that knew her and remember her.

She was born Jean Morse in Charleston, New Hampshire, on October 9, 1921. She moved to Maine with her family at a young age; grew up in the Bangor/Brewer area, and graduated from Bangor High School in 1939. She was in her second year of college at the University of Maine at Orono when she first met Philip B. Turner, and they married in 1944. They relocated many times while Phil was in the Army Air Corps and then while he continued his studies in Maine and in Michigan; and so through the years, they lived in many states. (Phil eagerly acknowledges that his success in achieving his doctorate degree is because of Jean's help, especially with those tough English courses!) Jean had her own degree in nursing, and as a Registered Nurse, she found work wherever Phil's career took them.

Jean and Phil had three sons: Peter, who died in his first year; and Scott, who they also lost when he was just a little boy. They they adopted Alex. Alex was a student at Caribou High School when he was killed in a tragic automobile accident.

Jean and Phil moved to Caribou in 1960, and soon after that became active and dedicated members of Bessie Gray Memorial United Methodist Church. Jean was an avid reader and over the years read at least 800 books! She also loved music and sang in her college Glee Club and sang in our Church choir for many years. She served on our Memorials Committee and was also an active member of the United Methodist Women. Ruth Ross recalls how very important the mission work of the ladies' circle was to Jean and how Jean encouraged and supported all their mission projects, in particular the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

In order to be true to the real essence of Jean Turner, we must mention her "no-nonsense" personality! Phil mentions that teaching was a big part of her nursing career and that she demanded that her students keep their work to a high standard. When they failed to perform their duties correctly, she quickly pointed out to them that they must "do things the right way" every day. Ruth says that that same earnestness and directness was also apparent when she attended meetings of UMW circles. Jean reminded the ladies often that the emphasis of their meetings and activities should stay focused on the UMW mission projects.

Jean and Phil have found very innovative ways to help our Church financially. I'd like to share just one: A few years back, they had assisted a local family who needed financial help. In return, the family gave Jean and Phil a promissory note and a mortgage on their residence. Then, Jean and Phil assigned both documents to Bessie Gray Memorial. So, when the family sold their house years later, there was enough equity in the property so that our Church received a generous amount of funds for Church use. The Board of Trustees set aside a portion of the funds to establish "The Philip B. and Jean M. Turner Fund". Interest from their Fund is paid to the Church and continues to perpetually help Bessie Gray Memorial. The engraved nameplate for their Fund is included on the Board of Trustees' plaque which hangs in our sanctuary.

Jean Turner was 86 when she passed away January 2008.

I want to thank Phil for allowing me to visit recently and talk about Jean and Alex. He has provided us with a wonderful collage of photos of family and travels and even pictures of some of their homes through the years. Won't you all please take a few minutes to come down to the fellowship hall after worship to say hello to Phil and see the pictures. We also have a cake with Jean's name on it that we'll be serving.

By Judi Greenier



Judi Greenier pinned a boutonniere on Phil Turner after she presented the above piece about Phil's wife Jean. (photo by Pat Dobson)





Our altar on Easter Sunday! The beautiful Red Rose Cross was given to Darlene Nelder to bring to Voscarr who is in the Caribou Rehab Center. (pictures by Dawn Westman)

OTHER "KODAK MOMENTS" (Photos by Dale Sharp unless otherwise noted)

SCENES FROM THE UMM BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>:





Guest Speakers were Evan Graves & PJ Gorneault, who represented the planning committee for the Caribou Marathon. Both teach in the Caribou School System and are also elite marathoners.



March Birthday & Anniversary Cake!



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
3-17-16

ATTENDEES: Diane McDonough (Chair), Rev. Tim Wilcox, Debbie Barnes, Bill Thomas, Betty Branscom, Mary Lou Brown, Margaret Cyr, Bobbi Pelletier, and Shirley Bowman

Diane McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the chapel. Rev. Tim began with a scripture reading, Philippians 4:4 followed by a brief prayer. The Council approved the minutes of the last meeting and then the following Committee reports were given:

COMMUNITY SERVICE: No Report.

CLUSTER: Bill Thomas reported on the ongoing attempt to staff the charge at Portage for the coming summer season and also about the Cluster Lenten Service that was held at Limestone United Methodist Church on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

EDUCATION: The Sunday School (S.S.) continues to do well. Art supplies have been ordered for the "Paint and Sip" activity. Will Barnum will be doing a presentation with the Terrific Tuesday children teaching them what to do if they get lost in the woods, from parents, etc. Michele plans to look for S. S. supplies when she goes to annual Conference. The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) is "SunQuest Rainforest". It will be co-directed by Michele and Denise and is scheduled for 7-11-16 to 7-15-16. A list of volunteers needed will be posted in the bulletin. S.S. recognition will be held June 5<sup>th</sup>. The children will be given signed certificates. Neal will take care of Teachers Appreciation gifts. Graduation Sunday is June 12<sup>th</sup> and the children will be participating in some way. Rev. Tim reported that Confirmation classes are at the midpoint and are going well. There are three students who will each receive an adult Bible upon completion of the class. Also, Membership classes will begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. Another Membership Class will be offered in the fall.

EVANGELISM AND PUBLICITY: Betty Branscom reported that her Committee had a long discussion about how the Prayer Chain was working. Betty will look into it. Also, updated Historical booklets will be placed in visitor bags soon. Ruth will try to find the resources to update Welcome Book Marks for the pews with the new church e-mail address. After discussing new church phone number stickers, further discussion was tabled. Magnetic ones are very expensive. The Committee encourages people to continue to wear their name tags at all worship services. Rev. Tim plans to order new business cards. The Committee encourages anyone who wishes to help with this committee do not need to come to meetings and also we need Sunday morning Greeters. It is only once a month. Betty will schedule April Greeters. If you want to volunteer you can call Betty at 999-1052 or Ruth Ross.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Shirley Bowman reported that regular offerings for February amounted to \$13,682.30 with an additional \$78 for birthdays bringing that amount to \$13,760.30. We had \$4 in reimbursements and \$962.32 in special funds for church use. Special funds not for church use were \$35 for Lenten books and \$10 for the Ecumenical Food Pantry bringing the total offering to \$14,771.62.

Bobbi Pelletier reported the following check book figures for February:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance     | \$3,075.22 |
| 2016 Operating Income | 13,760.30  |
| Interest              | .42        |
| Less EFT fee          | (18.00)    |

Less Expenses (13,523.85)  
Ending Balance 3,294.09

Capital Account Seed Money had a previous balance of \$18,215.89. It had deposits of \$460.74 and no expenditures. The current balance for February is \$18,676.63. We are 2 months ahead in Mission shares as of February. Dead River Balance for the church is \$3,737.44 and for the Parsonage, \$908.03. The weekly tithe average need is \$2,016.00.

Debbie Barnes reviewed the Annual Budget as of February 29<sup>th</sup>. The Target is \$32,622.08. Tithes and Offerings were \$29,322.19 and total expenses amounted to \$34,684.69. There were no unpaid bills due to a surplus at the end of December. The average attendance in February was 92 making the average YTD 96. Debbie announced a possible church audit and the Committee is working on plans for the annual Italian dinner.

HISTORY & RECORDS: Mary Lou Brown asked her Committee to look at the circa 1887 framed photo of the Methodist Episcopal church because the frame is a bit worn and the back brown paper is loose. It was decided that the frame matches the photo so they will not replace it. They will re-glue the back paper. Mary Lou has enlarged and framed a photo of Jennie C. Lyon and Margaret Lyon that Bobbi found in the church desk. Wendy found Jennie Campbell Lyon's obituary. The photo will be displayed in the library. The Committee will display the laminated 1913

Aroostook Republican on the library wall after the scholarship plaques have been moved. Jeanette Belyea is donating her surplus of hanging file folders for the file drawers. The H & R goals for 2016 are: to research and find missing birth and death dates in the Memorial Book; see if Keaton, the locksmith, can open two locked file drawers without damage to the cabinet; to make this an archival library rather than a lending library; to have the church officially renamed Bessie Gray Memorial United Methodist Church as it was in 1920 when the church was renamed from its original name, The People's Methodist Episcopal Church; to see if the church will undertake the expense of a new evaluation by Stained Glass Express of Waterville ME. The windows were insured for \$225,000.00 in

1981. This company also does repairs. Our stained glass windows have areas of slipping lead frames in some places which need to be repaired. Mary Lou presented an archival letter from Frank Poland from 1920 as well as an official state document changing the name of the church as mentioned above. She also has a thank you letter from a mission in Angola, Africa, dated 1954, thanking the kindergarten Sunday school class for pictures they sent.

MEMORIALS: Diane McDonough announced that the church has three scholarships available to high school seniors and/or current college students who are active members of our church. These scholarships have been established in the memory of the following families: Rev. George Budd, Jack and Juanita Lancaster, and Herbert and Elizabeth Brown. Scholarship packets including applications will be available in the church office on April 1<sup>st</sup> during regular office hours (MWF, 9 to 2 PM until April 14<sup>th</sup>, and then Monday thru Friday, 9-12) by calling the office number at 498-2103 or, a request can be sent to [graymemorial@outlook.com](mailto:graymemorial@outlook.com). Completed applications must be returned to the office by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships will be presented on Graduation Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

SPRC: Bill Thomas reported that SPRC reviewed with Rev. Tim on how he allocates his time in a normal week. Circumstances can come up to warrant changes in routine but we agreed his time was well spent. We also looked at Child Care. A new Child Care provider has not been found yet. SPRC is looking at finding child care volunteers who would pair up to do this service. We would hope to get enough volunteers so as to only have the same pair doing this once a month.

UMM: Neal reported that the guest speakers for the February UMM breakfast and meeting were Evan Graves and P.J. Gorneault who gave a power point presentation on the upcoming Caribou Marathon which included the course route and the different classes of runners. They expect to have 150 runners and are looking for volunteers to help out. Also, they are doing several fund raisers and soliciting corporate sponsorships. People are invited to come out and support the runners. Ken Peters reported that 55 people attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. They discussed but then tabled until next month a proposal to host a Ladies Social/Supper. Neal shared that the UMM

Commission communicated that Life Membership would cost \$250. Neal reminded everyone that our Annual Meeting is in June. Anyone considering one of the elected offices should contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Committee members are Conrad Walton, Bob Thompson, Bill Thomas, and Dave Belyea. The UMM will not meet in March as members will be hosting an Easter Sunrise Breakfast after the Sunrise service at the Country Club. Breakfast will be served in the church Fellowship Hall. Neal shared a 1948 UMM program that Mary Lou Brown had found in the archives.

**TRUSTEES:** The Trustees have not met but Mary Lou reported that there had been water leaks in the church basement. Foundation leaks were on west wall under the stairs leading to the altar. We were able to clean up the water before it worked its way to the choir room. The sprinkler system alarm sounded and no one knew why or how long it had been ringing. Is the alarm system connected to the fire department? Shirley Bowman came in to do some work in the church office, heard the alarm and called Rev. Tim. He in turn called the service man who instructed Rev. Tim and Tamara to adjust two valves before service man arrived. This averted the sprinklers from going off due to pressure, otherwise we might have had a fully wet church. Service man changed two gauges and a belt and advised that the five year full service maintenance time should be scheduled. The church furnaces have been serviced and there are problems with the furnace in the Parsonage. The parsonage furnace cover bolts to access the combustion chamber for cleaning are badly rusted. Service person did what he could be opening the side of the furnace. When the heating season is over, Trustees will go forward with a new heating unit.

**UMW:** Bobbi wishes to thank all the volunteers and food donators who helped to make the Boiled Ham Dinner a success. The Youth helped and UMW will donate \$50 toward their account to help pay for Camp Mechuwana camp trips. After the remaining food was sold at Coffee Fellowship Sunday, the total proceeds came to \$818. UMW will be serving three soups on Friday for the Holy Week luncheon. They will have fish chowder, chicken soup, and pea soup. The UMW voted to designate a new committee to take charge of the new church cookbook project since receiving the planning kit. Shirley Bowman volunteered to Chair the committee which includes Mary Lou, Gwen, Ruth, Bobbi, Diane, and Tamara. The next UMW project will be the Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Jennie Lyon Circle met for a noon luncheon on March 9, 2016 with sixteen members present including Rev. Tim. We welcomed back Debbie Nichols and Marilyn Langley following recent surgeries. All members present read the Purpose of the United Methodist Women. Mary Ouellette furnished dessert and led the group in devotions. A time of intercessory prayer was led by Rev. Tim for 14 persons as well as GMUMC worshipping community. Treasurer Ruth Ross reported a \$428.00 balance after distributions to the Memorial Committee in memory of Juanita Lancaster, Eva Theriault and Connie Harmon. Secretary's report for December meeting was included in the agenda. Bobbi Pelletier reported 16 paid members of UMW. Mary Lou read an article from Response magazine about the Legacy Fund Day of Giving, March 23, 2016 in honor of the beginning of UMW in March 1869. Our Reading Program continues with Cathy Griffeth in charge. The sign-up sheet for dessert and devotions for 2016 was circulated. Bobbi Pelletier explained the needs for the Boiled Ham Dinner on March 12<sup>th</sup>, requesting help with preparation of vegetables, hall set-up, serving and clean-up. Jennie Lyon voted to have a bake sale along with the Rummage Sale on May 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as on November 12<sup>th</sup> for the Soup Luncheon. Our UMW Pie Sale is scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>. A *Northern Maine District UMW Spring Retreat* will be held at the Alton UMC, April 15 & 16, 2016. Subject for the retreat is "Who I Am is How I Pray". Registration forms are available in the church office.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has received funds and will be purchasing new yarn soon.

**WORSHIP:** Margaret Cyr reported that the Ash Wednesday vigil went well and all slots were filled. The noon service attendance was 35. The Committee decided to have both a noon and evening service next year to accommodate more people. There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion and a Tenebrae service will be celebrated.

Sunday, March 27- Easter Sunrise service at 6 AM at the Caribou Country Club. The UMM will serve breakfast afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

Noon Time Holy Week Services March 21-25

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Mon. Fr. Labrie            | Catholic    |
| Tues. Pastor Ellen Cleaves | Methodist   |
| Wed. Pastor Troy Heald     | Baptist     |
| Thurs. Pastor Don Owen     | Pentecostal |
| Fri. Rev. Tim Wilcox       | Methodist   |

As of March 13<sup>th</sup> the piano fund has received \$648. Margaret has met with 4 people interested in learning about the capabilities of the new instrument. Jennie Lyon and Emily Milton have already been featured in our Women's History Month project. The next two informative talks will be on Jean Turner and Bessie Gray. The Outside summer service is scheduled for August 21 with a rain date on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

PASTOR'S TIME: A Confirmation service is expected for June 19<sup>th</sup>. He plans a potential new member Sunday in May. The Girl Scouts seem happy with their new meeting space in our church. Also he has noticed the call for pastoral care has recently increased. He has had 4, potentially 5 weddings scheduled for summer which will require pre-nuptial classes for each couple. He will also be planning family time this summer. The telephone issue in the Parsonage has been addressed by Time-Warner. Tamara will be the new Bell Choir Director. The library computer is reaching end of life which is why there have been problems with showing the scripture lessons on the screen during worship lately. Anyone who has data on this computer should arrange to remove it soon. The Council voted to acquire a used PC to replace the library computer as soon as convenient. Rev. Tim advised that the nominations process has begun and when recommendations are ready there will have to be a Charge Conference before the end of June. Mary Lou suggested Rev. Tim make his schedule available to staff to help parishioners know when it is appropriate to reach out to him without interrupting his personal time.

OTHER: Diane would like to schedule a Church Council Retreat for either the spring or summer.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Hodgkins, Secretary who thanks Debbie for keeping notes for this meeting.

UMW COOKBOOK RECIPE SUBMISSION

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Category (check one):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soups & Salads          | <input type="checkbox"/> Breads & Rolls  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Dishes             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookies & Candy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable & Side Dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Desserts        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appetizer & Beverages   | <input type="checkbox"/> This & That     |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Recipe from: \_\_\_\_\_ (if from someone else)

Ingredients:

Directions (use reverse side if more room is needed):

Return to Church and place in specially marked box in the Narthex!

Mail to: GMUMC UMW, PO Box 69, Caribou ME 04736

**DEADLINE – MAY 1, 2016!**

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL!!!

|           |    |  |   |
|-----------|----|--|---|
| Saturday  | 02 | 8:30-9:30am<br>10am-4:30pm             | Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library<br>Confirmation Class Retreat at Limestone UMC  |
| -----     |    |  |   |
| Sunday    | 03 | 8:30am<br>8:45am<br>10:00am<br>11:30am | GMUMC 101 Class<br>Sunday School<br>Worship - Second Sunday of Easter<br>Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom   |
| Monday    | 04 | 1:00pm<br>2:00pm<br>6:30pm             | Disciple III Bible Study Class<br>Florence Gallagher's Mini-Concert at Veterans' Home<br>Disciple III Bible Study Class   |
| Tuesday   | 05 | 6:30pm<br>6:30pm<br>6:30pm             | Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library<br>"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele<br>Nominations & Leadership Committee Meeting in Chapel                                   |
| Wednesday | 06 | 9:30am<br>6:00pm<br>6:30pm             | UMW Cookbook Committee Meeting at Church<br>Handbell Choir Practice<br>Senior Choir Practice  |
| Thursday  | 07 | 9:30am<br>11:00am<br>6-7pm<br>6:30pm   | History & Records Committee Meeting at Church<br>Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill<br>Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen<br>Worship Committee Meeting in Chapel |
| Saturday  | 09 | 8:30-9:30am<br>4:30-6:30pm             | Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library<br><b>Spaghetti Supper to Benefit Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry;<br/>Location - Assembly of God Hall</b>                                     |
| -----     |    |  |   |
| Sunday    | 10 | 8:30am<br>8:45am<br>10:00am<br>12:00pm | GMUMC 101 Class<br>Sunday School<br>Worship - Third Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries<br>Sunday (special offering)<br>Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom   |
| Monday    | 11 | 9:30am<br>1:00pm<br>6:30pm             | UMW Meeting at Church<br>Disciple III Bible Study Class<br>Disciple III Bible Study Class   |
| Tuesday   | 12 | 10:30am<br>1:00pm<br>6:30pm            | Evangelism Committee Meeting at Church<br>Alzheimer Support Group in Fellowship Hall<br>"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele   |
| Wednesday | 13 | 12:00pm<br>6:00pm<br>6:30pm<br>6:30pm  | Jennie Lyon Circle Potluck Luncheon & Meeting<br>Handbell Choir Practice<br>Senior Choir Practice<br>Crown of Maine Quilters at Gray Memorial UMC, Caribou                      |
| Thursday  | 14 | 6-7pm<br>6:30pm                        | Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen<br>SPRC Meeting at Church   |
| Saturday  | 16 | 8:30-9:30am                            | Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library   |
| -----     |    |  |   |



## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL!!! (Continued)

|           |    |             |   |
|-----------|----|-------------|---|
| Sunday    | 17 | 8:30am      | GMUMC 101 Class   |
|           |    | 10:00am     | Worship - Fourth Sunday of Easter                         |
|           |    | 11:30am     | Education Committee Meeting in Library                    |
|           |    | 12:00pm     | Confirmation Class in Pat Dobson's Classroom              |
| Monday    | 18 | 1:00pm      | Disciple III Bible Study Class                            |
|           |    | 6:30pm      | Disciple III Bible Study Class                            |
| Tuesday   | 19 | 6:00pm      | Trustee Meeting at Church                                 |
| Wednesday | 20 | 6:00pm      | Handbell Choir Practice                                   |
|           |    | 6:30pm      | Senior Choir Practice                                     |
| Thursday  | 21 | 6:00pm      | Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting at Church           |
|           |    | 6:30pm      | Church Council Meeting at Church                          |
| Saturday  | 23 | 8:30am      | UMM Breakfast & Meeting in Fellowship Hall                |
|           |    | 8:30-9:30am | Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library                         |
|           |    | 4:30-6pm    | Italian Supper Sponsored by Finance/Stewardship Committee |
| -----     |    |             |   |
| Sunday    | 24 | 8:45am      | Sunday School   |
|           |    | 10:00am     | Worship - Fifth Sunday of Easter                          |
| Monday    | 25 | 1:00pm      | Disciple III Bible Study Class                            |
|           |    | 6:30pm      | Disciple III Bible Study Class                            |
| Tuesday   | 26 | 6:30pm      | "Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele                 |
| Wednesday | 27 | 6:00pm      | Handbell Choir Practice                                   |
|           |    | 6:30pm      | Senior Choir Practice                                     |
| Thursday  | 28 | 6-7pm       | Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen             |
| Saturday  | 30 | 8:30-9:30am | Moms in Prayer Meeting in Library                         |

