

October 2017

Last fall, Gray Memorial was invited to take part with any other interested churches in our cluster in a proposed two-year process with Grant Memorial UMC in Presque Isle called the “Fruitful Congregation Journey.” Every couple months on average we meet as a large group at Grant Memorial to review and discuss a recent book related to some combination of congregational development, evangelism, and trends in church and culture. We are also introduced to additional tools we can use to gather information about our church and community and then apply what we learn in our various ministries as we develop teams to guide our process. Among our goals is to use what we learn and to discern God's vision for our church. Over the next several months, we want to share some of what we are learning both to increase your awareness, but also so you can (and we pray that you will!) join us in praying for God's guidance as we look to the future of our congregation in Caribou.

At our last meeting we looked at our 10 year membership and attendance numbers. I looked a little farther back, to the timeframe of the closure of Loring Air Force base. Here is what we found:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1996	1994
Average Worship	93	105	102	100	99	99	101	100	106	104	112	121	129	135	150	162
Membership	303	309	321	320	323	346	345	348	348	419	456	515	520	518	547	576

What do you notice? What do think these numbers tell us? These days, membership is considered a less helpful indicator of congregational vitality. The average worship number is watched more closely. In either case, you can see that while there were a handful of years with a modest increase and a few years with a marked decrease, that the overall trend is a gradual but steady decline in membership and numbers. Although each community and congregation has unique circumstances and, in our case, we could certainly point to the base closure, we have learned that the reality is that the majority of denominations and churches across this country are experiencing stagnation and/or decline in their attendance. As I have discussed previously, there are a variety of reasons for this, ranging from more people in younger generations looking for churches built around action than learning to people giving feedback that they stay away from churches for reasons like the view that churches are too judgmental, hypocritical, concerned about money and are only interested in new people if the new people conform themselves to the existing ways a church functions.

The question for us, what do we do about these trends. This is what the Fruitful Congregation Journey team will be continuing to explore over the next year. I share this information not to be alarmist; rather, to say that we can see where the trends are heading if they are not changed and that we have time to do something about it now before we were to reach a critical point. We will be asking you to participate in this process in a variety of ways. Here is what you can do right now: Please pray! Pray for the FCJ team, pray for God's guidance and wisdom, pray that we will have insight into the needs of the community and pray about how God could use you and our church to make connections with those in our area who are not involved with a church.

For more information about our work or to read one of the books that we have been using, see me or one of the current participants in FCJ: Roy Alden, Richard Clark, Diane Fitzpatrick, Diane McDonough, Dean and Diana Rauch and Lisa Wilcox.



Caribou Clock

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Greetings from the Church Office!

As we say goodbye to summer (on the calendar, not the weather however!), I wince at the thought of snow season. Seems every year the forecast looks the same - cold and lots of snow! Wouldn't you like the security of a northern Maine weather forecaster? Even when they get it wrong, they still have a job!

I am taking my annual fall vacation trip to Florida from October 11 - 18. Ruthann Weeks has agreed to cover the church office during that time, I so appreciate it!

With Rev. Tim's vacation time from September 26 - October 10 and my vacation immediately following that, we didn't have too much time together to finalize this Newsletter and then prepare for our church conference on October 18. Deadlines for church conference reports is next week, so I can prepare the booklets before my vacation.

If any of your information changes (mailing and/or physical address, phone number, email address, etc.) PLEASE contact the church office so we can update our records! I have received a number of returned newsletters in recent months due to an incorrect address! I am also emailing the Newsletter to many people - if you do not get your Newsletter through email, just let me know and I will add you to that list!

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



September Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Judi McKee, Phil Turner, Sheila Belyea, Don Collins, Diane McDonough, Duska Franklin, Zelma Merritt, Emily Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Rick Bouchard, John Noble, Deb & Richard London, Adam Langworthy, Dana Russo, Lisa Wright, Matt Cory, Norma Milton, Janet Russo, Jason Reitmeyer, Diana Rauch, Cathy Firth, Richard Bouchard, Amanda Elliott, Rae Tampley, Michael Gallagher, Lillian Curtis

On Family Death: The family of Philip McNeal; family of Rick Bouchard; family of K B Manages

Other: Nations of Israel, Palestine, Syria; All who serve in harm's way; Bill Thomas - deployed to Texas with Red Cross; Casey & Corey Felix - first wedding anniversary!; Ron & Diane Langworthy and all those in path of Hurricane Irma;

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!

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Oct 1	Dave Belyea	Marcia & David DeMerchant	Ruthann Weeks	Missions & Evangelism
Oct 8	Diane Fitzpatrick	Mary Anderson & Debbie Nichols	Ruthann Weeks	Education Committee
Oct 15	Kathleen Forbes	Shirley Bowman & DeDe Nichols	Ruthann Weeks	SPRC
Oct 22	Samuela Manages	Jeanette & Ken Peters	Phyllis Billing	Worship Committee
Oct 29	Debbie Nichols	Ruth & Emmett Ross	Phyllis Billing	NO VOLUNTEERS!

October Usher Coordinator: John Weeks

October Communion Stewardess: Mary Ouellette **(Note: October Communion was served Sep 24th)**

Organist: Oct 1-Margaret Cyr; Oct 8-Susan Clark; Oct 15-Susan Clark; Oct 22-Margaret Cyr;
Oct 29-Susan Clark

Acolytes: Oct 1-Darrell Adams; Oct 8-Lauren Craig; Oct 15-Alden Wilcox; Oct 22-Darrell Adams;
Oct 29-Friedrich Wilcox

Child Care Volunteers: Oct 1-Samuela Manages; Oct 8-Roberta Walton; Oct 15-Debbie Barnes;
Oct 22-Jennifer Craig; Oct 29-Diane Fitzpatrick

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!

* * October Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

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

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



1	John Griffeth	18	Phyllis Anderson
2	Jody Franklin	19	Nancy Lister, Walter Martin
3	Marjie Edgecomb, Amy Wischmann	20	Rodney Nichols
4	Betheny Anderson	21	Jay Bullard, Trent Chandler
5	Vivian Bell, Kamryn Irving, Loreli Locke, Millie Pangburn	23	Arlyn Martin
8	Lou Leavitt, Maisie Sayers	24	Meaghan Lombard
9	Scott Branscom	26	Kathryn Bell, Joeline Boucher, Denise Levesque
11	Kristin McBreairty	27	Roland Thibodeau
12	Jean Kessler	28	Barb Brehm
13	Mary Theriault	29	Kim Mayne, MacKenna Smith
15	Leland Frost, Sheila Norsworthy	30	Arieann Davenport, Dustin Nichols,16 Dean Rauch, Ruthann Weeks
17	Pat Dobson, Samantha Greenier, Dale Sharp Gary Silsbee	31	Bob Ellinwood, Bill Thomas



4	Amy & Jamey Reitmeyer	13	Heather & Trent Chandler
8	Ruth & Emmett Ross	14	Tabitha & Brian Doody

28 Lu & Dale Sharp

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>
Sep 3	98	\$5,442.00
Sep 10	87	\$2,960.85
Sep 17	85	\$1,966.50
Sep 24	87	\$2,905.00

Needed to meet 2017 Budget: \$3,770.20 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of September 24th, the balance in the account is \$36,399.34.

Changes to November 2016 Church Directory (October 2017): None reported

Home Communion

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church offers Communion to those who are unable to attend our regularly scheduled Communion Service that is usually held on the first Sunday of the month. If you are homebound, have difficulty getting around, are a resident of a nursing home or assisted living center, are receiving rehab in a local facility or have concerns with being out during winter months, our Communion Servers would be honored to bring this service to your residence. We have been trained to provide this service and will visit you after church services on Communion Sundays. If you would like to participate in this service, please contact the church office (498-2103) before noon the Friday before Communion. You can set up a regular schedule or receive a call each month to see if you would like this service.

Outside My Own Little World worship series

It seems the world these days teeters between those who seek to protect "their own" and those who dare to declare that all are worthy of compassion and care. Years ago, Matthew West wrote a song called "My Own Little World." It resonates perhaps even more today than when he wrote it as an anthem of encouragement to get out of ourselves and our "own little world." In this series, we will remember why we are a Body together—being the hands and feet of Christ in a frightened and hurting world. We will focus not just on maintaining "the church," but why it is that the church exists at all. We will reaffirm our personal purpose in this world and who we are together.

UMW has only have **TWO** of the new cookbooks left – once they are gone, there won't be any more! If you have not gotten one yet, get it soon! Call the Church Office (498-2103) to reserve & purchase your copy!



PICTURES FROM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

(photos by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



Sep 3rd - Margaret Cyr accompanied our special musical guest Steve Mazzerole.



Our special musical guest on September 10th was James Smith, accompanied by Margaret Cyr.



Rev. Tim speaking to the children during "Time for Children and Youth" on Sunday, September 10th.



Sunday, September 10th - Rev. Tim commissioned the Sunday School & Teachers (Steve Cashman, Pat Dobson & Michele Sterner)



It's obvious that these Sunday School teachers like to have fun with each other!

Other Kodak Moments!

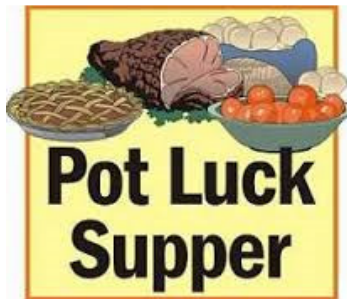


Special cake during Coffee Fellowship on September 3rd.

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS





UMW is sponsoring a Potluck Supper and a "Goods and Services" Auction on Saturday, October 6th at 5:00pm. For the auction, we are asking the congregation to consider donating items (either new or 'gently used'), or perhaps something hand-made! Consider donating your time to cook a meal, clean, do yard work, run errands, etc. as a means of generating some unique auction items! Ken Peters has agreed to be our auctioneer, so we look forward to a good time!

Come ready to eat and then bid on something special!

If you already have an idea of what you might wish to donate to the auction, please let the church office know as soon as possible!

Proceeds from this event will support Jeff Cyr's new missionary position starting in January 2018 at the Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany, a private coeducational boarding school for students in grades 5 through 12. BFA serves the children of international Christian workers and international business families who want a North American curriculum that incorporates a Christian worldview. BFA's mission is to provide a quality, international Christian education that equips students to influence their world. Jeff's position is working with the families, staff and children of this academy.

Come join us in supporting Jeff!

SEVERAL OF THE CONGREGATION MEMBERS HAVE DONATED PIECES FOR THE AUCTION AND THESE PIECES WILL BE ON DISPLAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. COME TAKE A PEAK AT WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE!

ORIGINAL SIGNED PRINT BY RICHARD CLARK
FRAMED CROSS-STITCH PICTURE BY BOBBI PELLETIER
OIL PAINTING BY BOB NORSWORTHY
OIL PAINTING BY BOB ELLINWOOD

OTHER ITEMS ALREADY PROMISED FOR THE AUCTION:

A DECORATED CARIBOU BALSAM FIR & WHITE PINE CHRISTMAS WREATH BY WENDY BOSSIE
HOME-MADE PIE (7 CHOICES TO PICK FROM!) BY CLAIRE HODGKINS



Please see the fliers regarding the American Red Cross and their "Zero 2 Hero" volunteer training that are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Would you like to receive the Sunday afternoon email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events for the next week? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to Ruth & Emmett at rneross@maine.rr.com or contact the church office.

Maine Prayer Strategy-Aroostook County invites you to be a part of the vision of the Billy Graham Evangelists Association! Next local events are September 29th, 6:30pm at the Celebration Center, 170 Houlton Road in Fort Fairfield; October 23rd, 6:30pm at Presque Isle Wesleyan Church. For more information, contact Paul Salva at 551-8343.

Rev. Tim will use vacation time September 26th through October 10th. Pastoral care during this time is as follows - Sep 26-30: Cheryl Stratton (325-4870), Limestone UMC; Oct 1-10: Chris Dare, Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle (762-9531).

Confirmation

A confirmation class is being planned for this winter and spring. This particular class is ideal for 6th - 8th graders but any high school student is welcome as well. Please contact Rev. Tim if you (or you are a parent or guardian) are interested or if you would like more information.

Christian Civic League's 2017 Regional Annual Banquets (please see card posted on Fellowship Hall bulletin board):
November 9th at Crosspoint Church, Bangor at 7:00pm. Featured Speakers: Jason Benham & David Benham
November 10th at East Auburn Baptist Church at 7:00pm. Feather Speaker is Paul Weber.

RSVP at www.cclmaine.org or call 207-622-7634

Cost: \$50 per person or \$175 per table of 4 or \$350 per table of 8

The following was submitted by Dean Rauch -

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up -

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

9-21-17

ATTENDEES: Diane McDonough (Chair), Claire Hodgkins, Susan White, Bobbi Pelletier, Debbie Barnes, Mary Lou Brown, Tamara Wilcox, Rev. Tim Wilcox.

Diane McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm in the church kitchen. She said a brief prayer and the Council voted to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published and printed.

CLUSTER: No Report

EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES:

1. Reviewed comments from the movie night. The movie "Joshua" was seen. The responses were all positive except a few people were uncomfortable. Another movie night is scheduled for Oct 26 at 6:30. War Room is the movie to be shown.
2. Michele Sterner and Ashleigh Craig attended the Annual Conference and Ashley did very well as our student representative.
3. Date for VBS was set for Aug 7-11 and 20 children attended each day and the program went very well
4. We sponsored a dinner for the PA youth choir which went well
5. 2 young people were sponsored to attend camp this summer
6. Friedrich Wilcox returned from his pilgrimage. We feel so blessed that our church as a whole was able to provide as much assistance as we did and we are also so proud of Friedrich for participating.
7. We confirmed Pat Dobson for our VBS planner for 2018
8. Started the discussion for Christmas tree sales. I contacted Bouchard Farms for 250 trees this year. We are planning the 3 weekends before Christmas for sales. We will be asking for volunteers.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: Tamara Wilcox reported that the August offerings included regular offerings of \$11,072.00 with an additional wedding offering of \$450.00 for a total Operating Funds offering of \$11,522.00. There were no reimbursements. Special funds for church use totaled \$3,737.70 of which the bulk of the money was from the chicken BBQ at \$2,782.00. Special Offerings not for church use included \$45 for Camp Mechuwana and \$140.43 for the VBS Mission Project-Clean Water for a total of \$185.43. This brought the total August offering to \$13,445.13.

Bobbi Pelletier reported the August Checkbook as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$4,159.78
2017 Operating Income	11,522.00
Interest	.99
Less EFT fee	(19.20)
	VANCO fees (EFT deposits)
Less Expenses	(11,732.92)
Ending Balance	\$3,930.65

Bobbi reported that the Capital Account Seed Money account had deposits of \$373.54 and no expenditures for a new total of \$35,899.34.

The church is behind one month (\$2,327.17/month) in Mission shares. Our Dead River balances are Church= \$889.40 and Parsonage \$523.19 as of August 31st. New Monthly payment as of June: C= \$764; P= \$137; increase \$405/mo. (\$445 more for church; \$40 less for parsonage)

Run-down of Expenditures subtotals:

Programs	\$596.64
Trustees	2,056.52
SPRC	8,291.05
NE Conference	788.71 (Pastor Pension Benefit)

Debbie Barnes reported on the Budget as follows for the Month of August:

Target:	\$133,213.33
Tithes & Offerings	108,310.16
Total Expenses	123,976.65
Unpaid Expenses (Mission Shares)	2,327.17

Average Attendance by Month – 78; Average Attendance YTD - 89

Debbie reported that the Committee went over the SPRC Pastor Compensation Package proposal and unanimously approved recommending it to the Council and Conference.

MEMORIALS: Diane McDonough reported that she would co-chair with Lehrle Kieffer. She attended the Food Pantry Board meeting at which the church's volunteer month was moved back to November. When a new Chair for the Missions & Evangelism is in place we will discuss whether that committee wishes to take back the projects of the former Church and Community Committee.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: The newly formed Missions & Evangelism Committee has had two meetings to discuss upcoming events. The main focus was the overseeing of the Cookie Booth at the October 21st -22nd Arts & Crafts Fair. Dale Dee, Leland Frost and Friedrich Wilcox will be in charge of gathering and bringing the contents of the booth to the Caribou High School on Saturday morning. Bobbi Pelletier passed around the updated bulletin insert to solicit cookies and workers which will begin accompanying the church bulletin Sunday, Sept. 24th. Bobbi also agreed to bring the cookies from church on her way to the high school on fair days. The committee members will be seeking help manning the booth and Duska will take charge of work scheduling.

SPRC: Sue White reported that her Committee hosted a cookout for employees at which they were thanked for all they do and asked to share concerns or needs they have. She also reported that a Child Care applicant has been interviewed and the SPRC is hopeful the position will be filled in early October.

The duties of the organist are still being covered by Margaret Cyr and Mary Lou Brown. Beginning Sept. 24th Susan Clark will provide coverage and will rotate with Mary Lou and Margaret as organist.

SPRC will continue looking to fill the position with a long time organist. To that end, Rev. Tim is working with other area clergy to place fliers in their weekly bulletins describing our open position.

The Committee has unanimously approved the Pastor's Compensation package and the Finance Committee has recommended passing it. The Church Council voted to accept the recommendation with one vote dissenting by Mary Lou Brown. It will go before the Annual Conference in October.

2018 Pastor's Compensation Proposal:

	Amount	Change from 2017
Pastor's Salary	\$50,000	+\$2,000
Social Security	\$1,000	N/A
Pension	\$2,000	N/A
Health Ins.	\$16,344	+\$1,116
FSA	\$0.00	N/A
Pastor's Pers. Retirement Contribution	\$0.00	N/A
Total Pastor's Compensation	\$69,344	+\$3,116

Pastor's Travel	\$4,250	+\$250
Pastor Cont. Education	\$1,250	+\$250

(Rev. Tim is enrolled in a course entitled "Creating a Culture of Renewal")

The Parsonage inspection has been completed and a report will be given the District Superintendent with the other necessary forms at the Annual Conference, October 17th, 2017.

TRUSTEES: The sprinkler system has been repaired and the air compressor in the cellar has been tested. THE Lexan covers in the triple window on Prospect St. side of the church will be replaced with the coordination of Greg Theriault and John Weeks as liaison. Dave Belyea and the Caribou Utility District have discovered a blockage in the drainage pipe that will require excavation of sections in which the blockage could not be dislodged. Bad sections will have to be removed and replaced.

On Sept. 27th Mr. Noah Yoder of Watch & Clock Repair Service of Fort Fairfield will come at 11:00 am to examine the tower clock and the Sanctuary clock to assess how best to fix the problem of keeping them running. They are both very old.

Even though we have had a lot of rain, there has been little leakage so Trustees have decided to move forward with replacing the carpeting in the dining room. John Weeks will be project leader.

The UMM will tear up the old carpet during their Saturday meetings on Sept. 23rd. Sue White volunteered what the new school will be using for carpeting. We want something durable.

The Trustees voted to delay cement work on the west side foundation until spring but the red door going down to the Fellowship Hall has a rotten sill which needs replacing. Dave Belyea will do some cementing where most needed on the foundation.

The Andover Organ Co. of Methuen, MA will be here in October to tune the organ and correct some issues with the organ.

County Turf Control removed a wasp nest from under the parsonage porch. Also, Dale Blackstone & Son, surveyors, located the property pins marking our property line, so we can plot the line on the property deeds.

The Trustees wish to thank Friedrich Wilcox who has been clearing brush, exposing two apple trees on the property line. He has also been tightening loose screws in railings, pews, and pew book racks. He also installed a new lock on door to the trash building. Del Ramey got permission from our neighbor, Mrs. Barbara Hunt to cut down dead trees on the line.

A new Cirrus vacuum has been donated to the church and the other two are being serviced at County Wide Vacuum Service. This will give us vacuums on each floor.

Sue White conducted a parsonage inspection with the Wilcox family as required by the Methodist Annual Conference. Sue talked to Chris Durepo of Big Dog Pressure Washing Service who will pressure wash the parsonage siding for a special price of \$600 with the understanding he can take before and after photos to advertise his business. He will chalk 4 windows in the attic that are leaking for \$10 each.

Scott Branscom repaired the lock on the Prospect St. door leading down to the Fellowship Hall. He thinks it could break again at some point.

****People are continuing to leave the light on in the elevator and not closing the sliding door after themselves. Mary Lou reported she often finds lights on in the building at night.**

Local Funds as of 9/19/17

Organ Fund	\$2,530.66
Clock Account	527.81
Steeple Maintenance	1,006.49
Pastor's Moving Fund	2,000.97
Board of Trustees	5,674.14
CD Account	10,099.49

WORSHIP: The committee will miss Margaret Cyr's leadership and dedication! We welcomed a new member - Colleen Harmon.

The Committee reports on the following special events:

Summer Musicale Opus XIV on Sunday, July 16th. Margaret had expressed her concern about obtaining participants over the past few years, so the Committee has discussed making next year's event the "Grand Finale" and will send letters to every participant from previous years to come and participate.

Our Outdoor Worship service was attended by 60 people and the weather was perfect! This particular site seems perfect for this event, so we will probably do it there again next year. We appreciate everyone's help in bringing all the necessary equipment and various items to & from the church that morning. We also appreciate Bob Ellinwood bringing his golf cart!

The Dan Schall Concert on September 10th was attended by approximately 70 people.

With vacation time for Rev. Tim scheduled for September 26th through October 10th, the committee presents the following information:

- World Communion Sunday (normally scheduled for October 1st) was moved to Sunday,

September 24th. We will offer communion that morning during Worship and through Home Communion Servers.

- October 1st, Kathleen Forbes is preaching
- October 8th, Steve Cashman is preaching
- October 15th is Laity Sunday: Friedrich Wilcox will give a presentation on his trip to France; other lay members will cover the various parts of the service. Rev. Tim will do a Prayer Shawl Dedication that morning.
- October 22nd – nothing special
- October 29th is Reformation Sunday; we will celebrate 500th anniversary
- November 5th is All Saints Day; we will recognize deceased church members and offer an opportunity for the congregation to light a candle for others who have passed recently

Rev. Tim's most recent Marcia McFee sermon series, which started August 13th, is "Outside My Own Little World". Both Kathie and Steve will continue this series on October 1st and October 8th.

The theme for our Advent Season, beginning December 3rd, is "Angels Among Us", another program from the Marcia McFee Worship Design Studio. Margaret has planned a number of choir pieces with angels as the focus.

The committee has purchased two sets of 4 "reserved" pew cloths that can be draped over the appropriate pew rows. 4 are white for weddings and 4 are burgundy for funerals.

UMW: The UMW met on Sept. 12th. The meeting was called to order and the Secretary's and Treasurer's report were given. It was decided to give UMCOR \$100.00 for hurricane relief. We are still planning to have a Pot Luck and Auction on Oct. 7, with Ken Peters as the auctioneer. Also next month there are 2 meetings for UMW downstate, Oct. 21st, NE Conference is sponsoring Maternal & Child Health and on Oct. 28th the N. Me. District meeting is on Generational Poverty presented by Cheryl Stratton. Anyone interested in attending can see me or Bobbi for registration forms. On Nov. 11th we are planning to have our luncheon with fish chowder and several other soups. We hope to see everyone there.

UMM: The Men met for Breakfast and meeting June 24th. The guest speaker was Evan Graves and PJ Gorneault. They recapped the 2016 Caribou Marathon and changes that they have made for the 2017 Caribou Marathon. The men discussed and decided to combine the November and December meetings into one on December 2, 2017 to cover both months.

PASTOR'S TIME: Rev. Tim reported the afternoon Disciple IV class is full but he has plenty of room in the evening class. There are two youth in our congregation who can take the confirmation class and he has reached out to other churches throughout the Cluster to see if any of their youth would like

to combine classes and join this class. The adult small Sunday morning class has started and is in a self-contained format. He will be leaving on Monday, September 25th for vacation. One person on call will be Rev. Cheryl Stratton of the Limestone United Methodist Church.

Rev. Tim has his sermons planned through advent. There is an open retreat planned in October at which the men will serve breakfast as Community leaders come together to discuss the needs of the community. Rev. Tim is taking continuing education classes called "Creating a Culture of Renewal".

The Fruitful Congregation group met last Sunday and the group is discussing how to get the information out to the various churches. One of the priorities for Rev. Tim is mentoring Pastor John DeFelice, the new pastor at the Mapleton United Methodist Church, and the other is working closely with SPRC.

OTHER: Diane passed out individual booklets on relevant topics in Methodism to Chairs from the series, "Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation".

Mary Lou mentioned that the building use policy will be revisited to ensure it is accurate and complete.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER!!!!

Sunday	01	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost; <u>Kathleen Forbes is preaching</u>
Tuesday	03	9:30am	UMW Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting in Library
Wednesday	04	4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	05	10:00am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
		6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Saturday	07	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group in Library
		5:00pm	UMW Potluck Supper & Auction

Sunday	08	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost; <u>Stephen Cashman is preaching</u>
		11:30am	Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	09	FEDERAL HOLIDAY	COLUMBUS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
Tuesday	10	6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Meeting at Pantry
Wednesday	11	12:00pm	Jennie Lyon Circle Potluck Luncheon & Meeting
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Northern Maine Quilters at Gray Memorial UMC, Presque Isle

Sunday	15	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost; Laity Sunday
		11:30pm	Education Committee Meeting in Library
Tuesday	17	1:00pm	Caregivers Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting at Church (subject to change)
		6:00pm	SPRC Meeting at Church (will also meet with District Superintendent)
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays" Ministry with Michele (subject to change)
		7:00pm	Annual Church Conference
Wednesday	18	7:30am	Fruitful Congregation Team's Community Leaders Forum (Breakfast) at Gray Memorial UMC
		1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study (first afternoon session)
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study (first evening session)
Thursday	19	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting at Church
Saturday	21	10am-4pm	Caribou Arts & Craft Fair at High School (we have a Cookie Booth!)

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER (continued)!!!!

Sunday	22	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
		10am-4pm	Caribou Arts & Craft Fair at High School (we have a Cookie Booth!)
Tuesday	24	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>	
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays" Ministry with Michele
Wednesday	25	1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study (2 nd afternoon session)
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study (2 nd evening session)
Thursday	26	6:30pm	Education Committee Sponsored Movie Night ("War Room")
Saturday	28	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

Sunday	29	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost; Reformation Sunday

Rev. Tim will use vacation time September 26th through October 10th. Pastoral care during this time is as follows - Sep 26-30: Cheryl Stratton (325-4870), Limestone UMC; Oct 1-10: Chris Dare, Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle (762-9531).

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for
 Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00pm.
 Our District Superintendent, Jackie Brannen,
 will be here to conduct this session.

