

Aldersgate U.M.C. News

ROCKLAND, ME.

NOVEMBER 2009

596-5715

The Pastor's Perch

Rev. Jackie Brannen

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 Now friends I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors. They were incredibly happy though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected; an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could-far more than they could afford! Pleading for the privilege of helping out in relief of poor Christians.

Happy Thanksgiving Friends! By the time you receive this newsletter we will be close to the Thanksgiving season. For Christians, every day is a day for thanks but at this time of year, we are particularly grateful. God is so good. We have only to look out on the beauty of the natural world with all of its diversity to recognize how blessed we truly are. Christians, it seems, know how to be thankful people in all of the circumstances of their lives. We know that blessings are more than physically tangible or material and yet it is at the Thanksgiving and Christmas season when we seem to be especially motivated to reach out to others in material and tangible ways so that they

too can understand the blessings of God. Just as Jesus ministered to the people in material ways out of love and compassion, while ministering to their souls, so we too can bring the message of God's love and redemption to our fallen world with our gifts of love. As you begin your holidays, I ask you to consider sharing your resources with those in need of Christ's healing touch. Your gifts to the church, to our special offerings, and to community families in need are appreciated so much. I ask God to bless each and everyone of you during this special time of year. May the love of God be evident in all that you experience this season. With much love and thanks,
Rev. Jackie

*If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way.
John 7:37*

November Worship Themes

November 1, Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a. The New Jerusalem: Are You Part of It?

November 8, Psalm 127; Mark 12:38-44. Stewardship: The Widow's Might

November 15, 1Samuel 2:1-10.
The Lord's Economy

November 22, Psalm 126; 1Timothy 2:1-7. Thanksgiving Service

**ALDERSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Administrative Council Meeting
October 18, 2009**

Present were: Mike and Kathy Lane, Ron and Donna Slicer, Barbara Marsh, Ted Sylvester, Rev. Jackie Brannen, Harry Grant, Becky Leonard and Betty Burgess.

Chairperson Kathy Lane opened the meeting with a prayer. The September meeting minutes were **approved.**

Treasurer: Mike requested that when bills are submitted to him for payment, that information be provided regarding to whom the check is to be made out, and where it is to be sent. He said at times he has had difficulty in determining where to send checks. The September finances resulted in a net loss of \$,1612, with income at \$7,178 as opposed to expenses of \$8,791. This resulted when the church prepaid its insurance for the next year at a nine percent (\$180) savings. He reported that pledge income continued to be off, but that other income had made up the difference. The mortgage balance as of the end of September was \$76,272. It was determined by Mike that should the church make the minimum mortgage payment each month of \$182, the mortgage would be paid off in 2021. However, currently all income from the renting of the parsonage is being applied to the mortgage. In the future, however, some of this money may have to be used for other purposes.

Finance: It was reported that work had begun on the 2010 budget with committee chairs asked to submit budget proposals by Nov. 15. The final budget proposal will await the results of the

upcoming stewardship campaign that is proceeding with letters being prepared to send to church members. It also was decided that Thanksgiving and Christmas letters would be sent also to the membership.

Staff-Parish: Linda Kaserman forwarded a written report. The committee is working on the pastoral compensation report that is nearly completed. Nursery volunteers have been approached to sign up, with a need for additional volunteers. Money is being requested in the next budget to pay for background checks. Derek Lane has agreed to take the janitorial position. He will clean on Fridays and work with trustees on supplies as needed. Barbara Marsh has agreed to continue as organist for the coming year. The pastor is working on a service for Laity Sunday, which will take place Nov. 1. For new business, Linda reported she had been thinking about an outreach program where the church could send a blanket to the newborns listed in the newspaper. The blanket would have the child's name stitched onto it along with a card with a picture of the church. Also discussed by the council was to ask the committee to investigate the possibility of occasional joint services with the Federated Church of Thomaston, and to meet with that church to arrange the holiday schedules.

Nurture: Becky reported on the progress of the upcoming Pumpkin Patch Party at the church Oct. 31. She said plans were coming together with several vehicles having been committed to have trunks decorated for trick or treaters on Halloween night. She also reported that Betty Burgess had joined the bell ringers.

Trustees: Barbara reported that Steve Bryant had been contracted to provide snow plowing and sanding

services this winter, and to continue with lawn care next summer. A water leak at the parsonage is being investigated with an inspection being made by Rockport Homes. The house is still under warrantee. Discussed by trustees was the possibility of developing an outdoor chapel on church grounds to give the church more visibility. A discussion was held on the state of the roadside church sign. Trustees were asked to make this a priority and seek estimates to either repair or replace the sign.

Lay Leader: Ron reported that Game Day had not been very popular this fall. It will be offered again on the second Saturday, Nov. 14, to see if there is sufficient interest. “COME ON OVER”, and have a little friendly competition, fellowship, and maybe even a snack. The plans for the Halloween activity sounds like it will be fun for children and adults, so take a look, sign up for some of the fun, if you have not already done so, and invite your friends and neighbors to come and join the party. If you do not have transportation, let someone know, and I believe we can provide a ride. There are folks who will do this, but the ones who might like that service, have to be doing the asking. I know it is tough for Older New Englanders to ask, but we say we are a family, and we need to know if we can assist any of our family members.

Pastor: Rev. Jackie reported her Bible study session had been concluded and that Mike will be starting his group study group. She said plans for the Jesus and Java services were proceeding for the Oct. 24 opening and asked for everyone to join and help with the new experience. She said that plans have begun for the approaching holiday season. She asked that committee chairs submit annual reports by Dec. 1.

Other Business: Harry Grant asked assistance in locating speakers and a CD ROM that he had donated to the church which could be utilized in the Jesus and Java services as it contained all of the hymns in the Methodist Hymnal.

With no other business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ted Sylvester*

AIO THANKS

Area Interfaith Outreach
Rockland, Maine
September 30, 2009

Dear Members of Aldersgate U. M. C.

We are seeing folks who, despite holding onto their jobs, can't keep up with living expenses. Some are having their hours cut. Still others have simply lost their jobs. All these neighbors have applied for whatever aid the state will offer, but the state is tightening its belt too.

Your donation of \$130 will help take up the slack that government programs leave. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane Miller
AIO Board Member



NOVEMBER

- 4 – Deb Bailey
- 5 – Bernice Newbegin
- 8 – Diane Lothrop
- 10 – Catherine Dinsmore
- 13 – Christine Simmons
- 17 – Mari Blum
- 18 – Kyle Blum
- 24 – Charles ‘Pete’ Wood
- 27 – Russell Stevens

NOVEMBER DUTIES

Liturgists

- 1 – Open
- 8 – Mike Lane
- 15 – Ron Slicer
- 22 – Kathy Lane
- 29 - Open

Ushers

- 1 – Ron & Donna Slicer
- 8 – Open
- 15 – Dick & Audrey Ferren
- 22 – Open
- 29 – Open

Greeters

- 1 – Harry & Marion Grant
- 8 – Dick & Audrey Ferren
- 15 – Ted & Nat Sylvester
- 22 – Ron & Donna Slicer
- 29 – Carl Blackington

**Jesus and Java
Christian Coffee House**



at

**Aldersgate United Methodist
Church**

**Where Meaningful Spirituality
is like your morning coffee**

GOTTA HAVE IT!

Saturdays

6:30-7:15 PM

Family Friendly

**For a Different Kind of
Christian Experience**

Biblical humor

**Q. What kind of man was Boaz
before he married Ruth?
A. Ruthless.**

**Q. Who was the greatest financier in
the Bible?
A. Noah He was floating his stock
while everyone else was in
liquidation**

RINGING IN THE SEASON

Fourth Annual Christmas By The Sea Handbell Concert will take place on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at 4:00 PM at the First Congregational Church, 55 Elm St., Camden (236-4821).

Playing this year are:
The Bells Of Aldersgate, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Rockland
Bristol Consolidated Schools Handbell Choir, Bristol
Choral Bells, First Congregational Church, Camden
Penobscot Bay Ringers, Rockport
Upper Room Bell Ensemble, Second Congregational Church, Warren
and soloist Susan Weber, First Congregational Church, Camden

Seating begins at 3:00 PM with flute and clarinet music starting at 3:30 pm.

Free will donations to benefit the Shields Mission Project.

Rhythm and smiles...

Mike Leonard

Christmas marketing that sparkles

The gift bags, greeting cards, ornaments, artificial trees and holiday displays appear in retail stores earlier each year. When does your church start planning for Christmas? Now is the time. Retailers love Christmas, consumers buy into it and churches serve as centers of the true reason for the season. Build on that sentiment and identify ways to boost your congregation's involvement well before Dec. 25

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN, 2010

Members and friends of Aldersgate UMC should receive their annual stewardship letter and pledge card early in November. The theme for our campaign this year has been the many ways our congregation supports mission and outreach work. We hope you have taken time on Sunday mornings to look at the bulletin board in the narthex and see the various areas in which we are involved doing the work of the church. Please plan to attend the Thanksgiving service on November 22nd where we will give thanks for our many blessings by returning our pledge cards and reaffirm our commitment to do the work Christ has instructed us to do. If you are unable to attend the service on November 22nd, please return your card to the church office prior to that date.

Put fun into fund-raising

Challenging times present an opportunity to refocus on what you are doing and how you can change to maximize your efforts. One of the most challenging areas for any church is fund-raising—from the weekly collection plate to niche projects and missions. Keep passing the plate, but take time to evaluate what works and what alternatives might work even better.

How to stay safe in the world today

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, ... above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT,

... You will be pleased to learn that only 001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

...And....Bible study is safe too.

The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, for SAFETY'S sake...
Attend church, and read your Bible.
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Biblical humor

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David 's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q.. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden ?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

