

Continued from Page One (Pastor's Forum):

So, I would like to suggest the following as a "middle" road for us in our practice of clapping or applause:

- If an anthem, solo, bell choir piece, etc. are quiet and reflective in nature then our response to it would be most worshipful if it is also of a quiet and reflective nature- perhaps a quietly spoken "amen" or "thank you God" or mere silence.
- If an anthem, solo, bell choir piece, etc. are of an uplifting and rousing nature (the Hallelujah Chorus comes to mind) then by all means respond in like measure by applauding, shouting "amen" or "thank you God" loudly.
- Don't ever clap just because the person next to you is clapping. What is an appropriate response for one person is not necessarily the appropriate response for you!
- Always be aware that the person next to you may be someone who is distracted in their worship of God by your applause or vice versa. Let's be attentive to those around us in the sanctuary and keep their worship needs as well as our own in mind when we choose to respond to any act of worship.
- Whether one's response to any act of worship takes the form of silence or is more demonstrative let it be expressed primarily to God and not to the individual or choir that has shared its music as an offering to God.

In the 14th chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans the apostle addresses what was a divisive issue for many in the churches in Rome- whether it was appropriate to eat meat that had previously been used as an offering to idols or whether eating such meat was inappropriate. To paraphrase Paul's words from verse 19, "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building. Do not, for the sake of clapping, destroy the worship mood of those for whom Christ died." Clapping is neither always wrong nor always right, what is always right is that we take into consideration our fellow worshipers and realize that each person needs something different in order to have a meaningful worship experience. Some require a lot of quiet, reflective space and others need plenty of opportunities to respond overtly and demonstratively. Let us always pursue what makes for peace and mutual up building whatever our response may be.

In closing, I welcome your thoughts about this matter and any other suggestions that you may have. "To clap or not to clap, that is not necessarily the most important question!"

Respectfully,

Pastor Rich

WORSHIP IN MAY

Saturday, May 3rd, 4:00pm

Alternative Worship in an Informal Setting

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday, May 4th, 10:00am

Ascension Sunday

Celebration of Holy Communion

Wesleyan Singers Singing

Bell Choir playing

Worship Theme: Elijah, Jesus, and the Coming of the Spirit

Scripture: Second Kings 2:1-15; Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11

Saturday, May 10th, 4:00pm

Alternative Worship in an Informal Setting

Guest preacher: Russ Peppe

Sunday, May 11th, 10:00am

Pentecost Sunday

Mother's Day

Guest Preacher: Rev. Russ Peppe

Saturday, May 17th, 4:00pm

Alternative Worship in an Informal Setting

Guest preacher: Ruth Cannon, Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Sunday, May 18th, 10:00am

Trinity Sunday

Guest preacher: Ruth Cannon, Coordinator of Lay Ministries

Anthem: The Wesleyan Singers

Saturday, May 24th, 4:00pm

Alternative Worship in an Informal Setting

Sunday, May 25th, 10:00am

The 3rd Sunday of Pentecost

Baptism: Jacob Lednum

Anthem: The Wesleyan Singers

Worship Theme: *An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts*

Scripture: First Corinthians 12:3b-13; Romans 12:3-8; Psalm 138; Matthew 6:24-34

Saturday, May 31st, 4:00pm

Alternative Worship in an Informal Setting

Celebration of Holy Communion

STAFF VACATION PLANS IN MAY

Pastor Rich will be away from Monday, May 5th until Monday, May 19th. If there is need for pastoral care during this time please call the church office.

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**EMPIRE GROVE VESPERS SERVICES TO RESUME MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Throughout the summer months Sunday evening vespers services are offered each Sunday starting on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The preacher on May 25<sup>th</sup> will be Rev. Desmond Parker, pastor of the Wilton United Methodist Church. Pastor Rich and Mitch Thomas will be leading the worship on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each service begins at 7:00pm. The Empire Grove Campground is located on Empire Road in Poland. The vespers services are open to the public.

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS EXPLORES THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Adult Sunday School class meets every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:45am in the church lounge. We are currently studying the Sermon on the Mount, which is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7. Pastor Rich provides leadership along with plenty of help from the rest of the class. It is always open to new members.

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**NEW MIDMAINE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCED**

Bishop Peter Weaver of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recently announced his intention to appoint the Rev. Beverly Stenmark as the District Superintendent for the MidMaine District. Rev. Stenmark succeeds The Rev. David Svenson, who is retiring this year after a career in ministry spanning 34 years, the past eight of those years serving as District Superintendent.

“We give thanks to Rev. Svenson for his many years of dedicated service. We have all been blessed by the wonderful ministry that David has brought to the Conference and in particular to the Mid-Maine District, both in his roles as a local church pastor and as District Superintendent,” said Bishop Weaver.

Rev. Stenmark has been serving in pastoral ministry for more than 17 years, most recently for 11 years as pastor of the North Kingstown United Methodist Church in North Kingstown, RI. “Rev. Stenmark has had an outstanding record of spiritual leadership, leading to significant local church vitality, growth and engagement with the ‘world parish’,” Bishop Weaver stated. “The key has been her own deep faith journey and excellent skills in inspiring and equipping others to discover their own gifts for ministry. She has also given community leadership in justice issues – issues that are facing the Mid-Maine area. Rev. Stenmark will begin her new duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to welcoming Beverly to the United Methodist Church of Auburn sometime in the near future either as a fellow worshiper or at our annual Charge Conference.

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UP-COMING DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

GENERAL CONFERENCE: Lay and clergy delegates from the New England Annual Conference will be participating in the General Conference session that begins on April 23rd in Fort Worth, Texas and which ends on May 2nd. This conference is held once every four years and is the body, which makes decisions that, provides direction and guidance for United Methodist Churches and Conferences throughout our country and beyond. Please keep all the delegates in your prayers.

PRE-CONFERENCE BRIEFING: In preparation for the annual conference of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church lay and clergy members will gather in Bath for a pre-conference briefing on Sunday, May 18th. The event begins at 3:00pm and is open to anyone who would like to attend. This will also be an

opportunity to see the newest church building on the Mid Maine District!

FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR REV.

DAVE SVENSON: On Sunday, June 1st at 3:00pm United Methodists throughout the Midmaine District and beyond are invited to gather to celebrate the 8 years of leadership provided to us by the Rev. David Svenson. This event will take place at the Green Street UMC in Augusta. Dave is retiring from ministry after serving faithfully as pastor and District Superintendent for 34 years. We wish him and his wife, Linda, well as they move on to the next adventure of their lives!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Ruth Cannon, Mitch Thomas, Kary Coffin and Pastor Rich will be in attendance at the annual conference session that will be held at Gordon College in Wenham, MA from Thursday evening, June 12th through Sunday, June 15th. Mitch Thomas will once again provide musical leadership for the annual conference and Kary Coffin will join him on occasion as part of the praise band.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 7:30am here at the Auburn UMC. Don Malpass will be our chief chef. All men are welcome and are encouraged to bring a friend! This breakfast is being held in conjunction with our spring clean up day and we will have some of our scouts joining us for both occasions.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY PLANNED

On Saturday, May 3rd church trustees, boy scouts, cub scouts, men's breakfast participants and anyone else who would like to help will be engaging in our annual spring clean up. The event will start at 8:30am and should be done by 11:30am (since there is a wedding at noon!). Please bring rakes, shovels, handsaws, etc. to help with the work that needs to be done. Thank you for helping to make our church building and grounds attractive and safe!

CHURCH WEB SITE TAKES ON NEW LIFE

We have been fortunate to have some very good webmasters since the inception of our web site back in the year 2000 beginning with Kim Clarke, followed by Don and Rosemary Malpass and now David Young. Each has brought valuable expertise and interest to the web site and we are grateful for all of their contributions.

There are some new features on the website and I hope that you will check them out:

- The Sunday bulletin for each week is now posted on the website usually on the Friday prior to the worship service. Bulletins for previous weeks are also found on the "worship" page of the website.
- Performances by our choir, bell choir and various soloists are now also available at the website through the use of You Tube. The quality of the musical offerings is remarkable and it sounds like you are right there in the sanctuary. The video images tend to be blurred but the music is not!
- Copies of the Beacon can also be found in their entirety on the website as well as copies of the Charge Conference booklets for the previous two years.

The newly formed website team under the auspices of the Outreach Committee will be looking at the many suggestions made at our public meeting back in February so stay tuned for more additions and improvements to come in the near future.

MONGOLIAN ENGLISH LITERACY PROJECT REACHS COMPLETION

On Wednesday, April 9th the final 15 boxes of books were shipped to Mongolia soon to become part of the English Language Resource Room in the Eleven Year Secondary School in the village of Buyant Soum. That makes 24 boxes of books in all that have been shipped in two separate shipments at a total cost of \$2,212.00! A total of \$1,863.00 has been raised to date to cover this cost. The Missions

Committee would like to express thanks to everyone who had a part in making this project a wonderful success: to Betty Dexter for the photographic displays; to Pam Adams for the painted Mongolian landscape that became the background of the Mongolian ger village; to Larry Cannon for his model "ger"; and to Jean Ness who created some very beautiful Mongolian dolls. Likewise, special thanks is extended to Andy Cullen who shared via e-mail a lot of information about the people and village of Buyant Soum where he teaches English as a Peace Corp volunteer. Finally, a big thank you to everyone who donated books, teaching supplies; and other learning devices and a special thank you for the many financial donations especially the large donation made by the Ruth Circle which paid for much of the first shipment of books.

In a recent e-mail Andy mentioned that his school is now going to have limited Internet capacity and that we should be seeing a thank you from his students sometime in the near future!

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**2008 YOUTH MISSION TEAM OFF TO THE MILE HIGH CITY**

The 2008 youth mission team has decided on Denver, CO as its destination for our annual summer mission trip. Again we will be participating in a "Week of Hope" camp through the Group Work camps organization. To date we have 12 youth and 4 adults signed on for the trip with space for four more youth and adult leaders. Youth who will be entering grades 7-12 next September are eligible to participate. Given that we will be flying rather than driving to Denver there will be a higher cost for this trip. So, your help is needed and welcome! In the near future you will hear about numerous fundraisers but for now please keep the following in mind:

- We have already set up an account with Florians so that any bottles and cans brought there can be designated for the youth mission trip- just mention the United Methodist Church and they will make sure that your money is set aside.

- Old cell phones: We are able to get money for old cell phones. All we need is the phone- no chargers, etc. Just put them in the box found on the table in the vestry.
- Maple Syrup Sale: Thank you to the many people who ordered maple syrup. It should be available sometime after April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Flower Bulb Sale: Thank you also to the many people who ordered spring flower bulbs. The bulbs are here and being dispersed each Sunday.
- The Cantata proved to be a wonderful fundraiser for the mission trip as well as a wonderful celebration of life! Nearly \$700.00 was raised through free will donations and the sale of desserts. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Dow for offering this opportunity to us and the choir for making it happen!
- Yard/Tag Sale: On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> our youth will be putting on a yard sale in the Fellowship Hall (and outside weather permitting!). Please save your treasures and plan to deliver them to the church the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Car Wash: Our final fundraiser of the year will be a car wash that is scheduled for Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am – noon with a rain date of June 7<sup>th</sup>.

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NEW CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PLANNED

Be sure to save the dates of May 12th – 14th for the opportunity to be photographed for our new church directory. It has been five years since the last directory has been completed and how our congregation has changed in that time with many new faces. Once again Olan Mills will produce the directory at no charge to the church or to those who are photographed (unless you choose to purchase copies of the photos for your own use). The sign up

sheets for photography sittings have been out for a few weeks now but it isn't too late to sign up. Please call the church office to see what days and times are still available. Let's make this the best church directory ever!

Please do not forget to add your name and number of reservations to the sign-up sheet in the vestry. ***Space fills up quickly so be sure to sign up!***

LIFE TRANSITIONS IN OUR CHURCH
FAMILY

Our love, prayers, and sympathy are extended to the family of Barbara Bilodeau who died on March 19th. Barbara had been living with her daughter in Thomaston for the last couple of years.

Our congratulations is extended to Debra Humason and Stanford Fulghum who were married in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 22nd with the sweet smell of Easter lilies filling the whole room!

Baptized on Easter Sunday, March 23rd way Jonah Dwine Ray who is the son of Josslyn and Jesse Ray and the little brother of Veydah. The proud grandparents are Susan and Marc Lajoie and Jack Jalbert.

Baptized on Sunday, April 13th were Abbie Sue Simpson, daughter of Sue and Dave Simpson, little sister of Konnor and the granddaughter of Jane and Don McGlaufflin. Also baptized was Blaine Jacob Martin who is the son of Allison and Jacob Martin and the little brother of Alexis.

SENIOR CITIZENS & FRIENDS LUNCHEON:

When: **Tuesday, May 20, 2008.**
Cost: \$6.00 per person.
Entertainment: Mitch Thomas and Kary Coffin at 11:30 a.m.
Menu: Chicken `a la king, green bean casserole, carrots, pound cake with lemon sauce.

UMW BANQUET

The annual UMW Banquet will be a potluck this year. It will be held Tuesday May 6 at 6:00PM in the church Fellow Ship Hall. Please sign up for what you will bring. Drinks will be provided. We hope to see you there.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Each year the UMW honors the graduating High School Seniors of the congregation. To ensure that we honor everyone would please sign the sheet in the Fellow Ship Hall. We will honor each senior on Sunday, May 4th.

YARD SALE GOERS

As you go "yard sale-ing" this summer be sure to be on the look out for baskets and unique items that may be used by the members of our congregation when creating baskets for our Church Fair.

The Basket Booth Committee members will be putting out baskets and such for members of our church to fill and donate to the church fair.

As always be thinking about our annual holiday fair to be held in November.

SPIRITUAL PARTNERS

"The followers of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus and they were talking to each

they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them.” (Luke 24:13)

Just as the travelers to Emmaus encountered Christ as they walked and talked, we too can invoke Christ’s presence when we set aside time to talk about spiritual matters with each other. If you are in search of an opportunity to connect with another person to deepen your faith, to grow as a person and to share your inner reflections on life, consider participating in a spiritual partnership.

Spiritual Partners will commit to a simple structure designed to facilitate a spiritual experience. The structure is as follows:

1. Spiritual Partners will set aside a regular meeting schedule of one hour per week. They will choose a meeting location that allows privacy and freedom from distraction, and they will commit to a meeting for a set period of time, preferably a year if possible.
2. At the first meeting, Partners will write down a statement of purpose. This will help to clarify that the nature of the discussions will be depth sharing rather than social visiting.
3. Each session will begin with each person answering the question, “Is it well with your soul today?” Since this is an opportunity for honest sharing of deeper issues, they will consider all discussions confidential. Sessions will end with each person offering a prayer for the other.
4. Since many people benefit from journaling about their thoughts and experiences, it may help provide continuity of discussions if each Partner takes some time between sessions to reflect on what has been discussed in a journal.

If you are interested in being paired with a Spiritual Partner, submit your name and contact information to Pastor Rich or Wanda Sprague by May 18. Once the names are collected, you will be notified as to whom your Spiritual Partner will be and how to make contact.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Please congratulate the following children on their perfect attendance in Sunday School for the month of March!

Konnor Simpson Anna Cote Paige Cote
Cody Malpass Emma Bragdon

And congratulations to **Cody Malpass** and **Meagan Cossey**, who both proved that they could recite the Lord’s Prayer by heart! Ms. Kary is available before and after church to hear anyone else who would like to get the Lord’s Prayer memorization award. We are getting close to the end of the year! Please mark your calendars for **June 15th**, our **Sunday School Celebration Day**, when we will give out awards, recognize teachers, and present Bibles!

You can still get an attendance award, even if you’ve missed **up to 3** Sundays. Also, if you’re out of town for whatever reason and can’t come to church, go to church wherever you are and bring me a bulletin as proof that you went, and that absence will not count against your total. If you have any questions about the attendance or the Lord’s Prayer memorization awards, call (782-3972) or email me (dce@auburnmethodist.org).

Please take the time to visit the different Sunday school classrooms on Sunday and take a look at the attendance chains. Every Sunday, each child adds a link to his or her attendance chain, and it is a visual reminder of how their faith grows every time they come to church. Do you know your child’s Sunday School teacher? Please check out the continuation of our series of Sunday School “Teacher Features” in this month’s Beacon, where you can become better acquainted with the talented individuals that teach our children. This month, we will get to know Melissa Buzza, Megan Howes, and Marci Ellingwood, who teach our 3rd and 4th grade class.

Is it possible that you have felt called to the important ministry of our Christian Education program? Please contact me, and we can talk about it! I am available to meet with anyone; simply contact me and we can set up an appointment. I have both mornings and evenings available. Feel free to call me (782-3972) or e-mail me (dce@auburnmethodist.org) with questions, concerns, or to share ideas!

Thank you,

Ms. Kary



TEACHER FEATURE:

Megan Howes



Ms. Kary: What would you prefer that the children call you?

Megan: Megan is fine =)

Ms. Kary: How long have you attended this church, and how long have you taught Sunday School?

Megan: I have been going to this church pretty much was 7 (ish). My dad Eric used to teach the 1st/2nd grade classes, so I helped out there but this is my first time in the 3rd & 4th grade room.

Ms. Kary: Tell us a little bit about your background.

Megan: I'm a freshman in high school, I do alpine ski racing and play tennis for Edward Little. This June I am participating in my 4th Week of Hope camp with the Youth Mission Team from the church.

Ms. Kary: Tell us about your family.

Megan: I live with my parents (Eric and Lydia Howes) and I have a younger brother Tate. We also have 2 cats Clover and Sophie, and a bunch of fish.

Ms. Kary: Do you have any hobbies (other than teaching Sunday School, of course)?

Megan: I mentioned playing sports already but I love to cook, and travel to visit new places =)

Ms. Kary: Why did you decide to volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher?

Megan: I like hanging out with the kids - they are fun to be around. I would baby-sit more but that's usually not doable because of my schedule, so this is good. I'm technically a Sunday school teacher, I guess, but I mostly just help out in the classroom.

Ms. Kary: Is there anything else that you would like everyone to know about you?

Megan: umm.. I think that's it. You might see me around this summer when I'm working at Tabers, . =)

TEACHER FEATURE:

Melissa Buzza

Ms. Kary: What would you prefer that the children call you?

Mrs. Buzza: The kids call me "Mrs. Buzza" or "Miss Melissa". It doesn't really matter to me.

Ms. Kary: How long have you attended this church, and how long have you taught Sunday School?

Mrs. Buzza: I have been coming to the church for 15 years, but this is my first year teaching Sunday School.

Ms. Kary: Tell us a little bit about your background.

Mrs. Buzza: Well, I grew up in Dover-Foxcroft and attended the UMC there. Actually, I taught Sunday School as a high school student. I got my degree from USM in music education and taught music in public school for 11 years. I stayed home with our boys for 4 years. I have been working at Sandcastle Preschool in Lewiston for 3 years. Currently, I am the head teacher in the 3-year-old classroom.

Ms. Kary: Tell us about your family.

Mrs. Buzza: There isn't much to tell that you don't already know. William is my husband. We met when we were both working towards our music education degrees at USM. We will have been married 15 years in August. Patrick just turned 12 years old in April and Reid turns 8 in May.

Ms. Kary: Do you have any hobbies (other than teaching Sunday School, of course)?

Mrs. Buzza: Where do I start? I am presently the president of the UMW and serve on 3 church committees. I am the leader of 2 Cub Scout dens in Pack 111. I enjoy playing my flute for musical productions at area high schools. When I get a little free time, I love to play computer games.

Ms. Kary: Why did you decide to volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher?

Mrs. Buzza: Last year, I was sitting in on a class with Reid. It suddenly came to me that it is something that I would like to do and a gift that I have to share with the church and the children.

Ms. Kary: Is there anything else that you would like everyone to know about you?

Mrs. Buzza: I am working towards my certificate to teach special education in the public school. In the Fall of 2009, I will begin my Masters degree in early special education. Working with young children with special needs is truly my passion.

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TEACHER FEATURE:

Marci Ellingwood



*Ms. Kary: What would you prefer that the children call you?*

**Miss Marci:** Miss Marci

*Ms. Kary: How long have you attended this church, and how long have you taught Sunday School?*

**Miss Marci:** It's my first year teaching Sunday school; and I've probably been a member for 8 years. When I was young, we bounced from church to church, so as an adult I really sought a church family. For a good part of my life, I was Episcopalian, and so the liturgy is familiar but I feel more comfortable here. Also, every time I did something with my mother here, I felt so welcome, like I was family.

*Ms. Kary: Tell us a little bit about your background.*

**Miss Marci:** I'm Auburn native, so I'm a product of the school system here. I went to the University of Maine at Farmington, and I was a speech therapist for 20 years before I went back and got an administration degree, and then I got certification in special education. I have managed grant money for the school system, I have monitored kids who were in state custody, and I have been a Director of special education. I've also worked on an ambulance, and I've taught first aid and CPR. I love that I am a neighborhood teacher, walking to work at Walton for the past 8 years. No matter where I've been, I've always been teaching – somewhere, somehow.

*Ms. Kary: Tell us about your family.*

**Miss Marci:** I'm married (my husband's name is Michael). We have a pug named Buffy and an orange tiger cat named Ralston. I also have a sister, Laurie, who lives in Rockport and is married to Michael, and I have a nephew who is also named Michael. My mother, Janice Meserve, is an active member of the church. I have a big extended family, with lots of aunts and uncles, and we do things together.

*Ms. Kary: Do you have any hobbies (other than teaching Sunday School, of course)?*

**Miss Marci:** My husband and I are big stock car race fans and we travel all over New England to races. When I turned 50, I drove a race car every week all summer in Bangor. I love reading, music, and travel, and in the winter we go to hockey games. I also have a big flower garden. I really like just about everything and I'm always game to try something new.

*Ms. Kary: Why did you decide to volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher?*

**Miss Marci:** I had done some substitute teaching over the years for Gladys, and the time was right. And the fact that I share it makes a big difference for me; I don't have to be there every Sunday, but when I am here, I'm here 150 percent.

*Ms. Kary: Is there anything else that you would like everyone to know about you?*

**Miss Marci:** I appreciate my church family. No matter what I need in the prayer or the emotional support "department," I know my church is there for me.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday, the children will come into church with their parents; please feel free to select the age appropriate Children's Worship Bulletin for your child, available as you enter the sanctuary. The bulletins have activities that center on a scripture reading from the day's worship service. After the Moments with the Children, they will go out for their Sunday School classes. Please don't forget your offering when you go out to Sunday School! We will continue to have families celebrate Holy Communion together on the first Sunday of the month, attending Sunday School classes after the conclusion of communion. Claire Cote directs our Children's Choir, practicing with the children starting at 11:00am.

In May, the Sunday School theme is **Travels with Paul**. The children will be continuing to learn about the apostle Paul, focusing on his journeys from place to place. Ask your child about what he or she is learning in Sunday School; take a look at the leaflet that goes with the lesson. And if you missed Sunday School, there's a chance that there's an extra leaflet that you could take and do at home with your child. Just see your child's Sunday School teacher or contact me at 782-3972.

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**YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS**

**7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders:** Come and join us for our Youth Group meetings this month, taking place on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church of Auburn at

6:00pm, and on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the High Street Congregational Church at 6:00pm.

**4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders:** The Junior Youth Group will be eating and meeting May 18th after church. Please join us!

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ACOLYTES

- May 4: Auna O'Leary
- May 11: Adriana Whitaker
- May 18: Paige Morin
- May 25: Drake Routhier

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**LITURGISTS**

- May 4 Dan Kary
- May 11 Nancy Holler
- May 18 Michelle Kary
- May 25 Elise Wiley

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ARE YOU WILLING TO MENTOR A CONFIRMAND?

If you are willing to give of your time and yourself, to take a risk, to grow in your faith, and if you have an interest in young people, you could be a mentor to a teen going through confirmation in our congregation next year. We are in the process of establishing a pool of mentors that would be drawn from each year to partner with 7th/8th graders as part of their confirmation experience. Of course, it is our hope that the relationships formed would last far beyond confirmation itself. Each mentor or mentor couple would meet monthly with their confirmand starting in September and leading up to confirmation in April, using a "TalkPoints" resource provided by the church as a guide. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the life of a youth, and to deepen your own faith. If you are interested in this opportunity, or if you want to learn more, please contact Kary Coffin at 782-3972 or dce@auburnmethodist.org.

by looking through our new church information guide which is available at the Visitors' Booth. Both of these sources offer information about our work area ministry committees and our administrative committees as well as programs and activities for both youth and adults.

Over the next few weeks' members of our Lay Leadership Committee will be meeting with the goal of filling vacancies for the July 2008 – June 2009 year on various committees. Many of you may be hearing from committee members to ask about your willingness to serve in a particular capacity. I hope that you will make an effort to learn more about these opportunities and will give prayerful thought to your decision. The efforts of all of these work areas, as well as the administrative committees, are vital to the future mission and ministries of our church. Please feel free to speak with me, Pastor Rich or the current chair and committee members for more information (names are available in our Annual Church Conference Report). If you do not feel called to serve on a particular committee feel free to say "No", but please give some serious consideration to how you feel your gifts might best be used to serve our church? Also if there is a particular area where you do feel called to serve please contact Pastor Rich, any Lay Leadership Committee member or me. (I don't mean to scare you, but that's how I became involved twelve years ago.) Everyone is needed!!

If being a committee member is not "your cup of tea" consider the many other opportunities for service and participation in programs offered throughout the year. Taking part in a small group is the best way to become connected with other church members whether it be singing in the choir, ringing bells, joining a study group or adult Sunday School class, working with youth, attending UMW or Men's Breakfast gatherings, helping to prepare meals, or participating in mission programs and projects.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Beacon you will find information about the various committees and work areas and contact people who can assist you with any questions.

JOINT YOUTH GROUP OUTING: **SOUL JAM '08!**

Christian bands and Funtown rides – a great combination! You won't want to miss this Memorial Day weekend tradition put on by Light of Life Ministries, Inc. It will take place **May 24th** from **11am to 7pm** at **Funtown U.S.A.** in Saco, Maine. Bands include: Seventh Day Slumber, Everyday Sunday, eleventyseven, The Wrecking, Unspoken, and over 15 others. These Christian bands will provide an awesome soundtrack to great rides including "The Excalibur Rollercoaster," "Dragon's Descent," Grand Prix Racers, and many more! Advance tickets cost \$24; we will give a discounted price of \$14 to the first 10 to sign up and get their money in to Ms. Kary (**all advance ticket money is due Sunday, May 18th** - tickets are \$26 at the door). We will need volunteers to carpool down to Saco, so if you are willing to help out, please let Ms. Kary know. And of course, feel free to email or call (782-3972) with questions, concerns, or ideas for our next outing!

What Can I Do?

In a recent Beacon article titled "**Getting acquainted with the United Methodist Church of Auburn**" I offered some suggestions on how we, both newcomers and long-time members, might become better informed about our church programs and opportunities for ministry. I hope that many of you have taken advantage of these suggestions whether it is by exploring our updated web site or

Looking forward to joining you in service and ministry!

Ruth Cannon, Coordinator of Lay Ministry

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In last month's Beacon, lay leader Wanda Sprague left the reader with the question: "Is it well with your soul today?" I would like to share a bit of my reflection on that question and I hope that you took the time to reflect on it as well. A recent article in the Guideposts magazine by Deborah Norville helped me put things in a new light. In her article Deborah relates that respected psychologists have found that better health, greater resilience, improved cognitive skills and the ability to undo stress are real results of gratitude. Interesting how science affirms the scriptural command, "In all things give thanks." Her investigation led her to write a book called *Thank You Power* and she has begun the practice of writing in her daily journal the things for which she is thankful. While reflecting on the state of my soul, I realized that at the end of the day my soul is often very troubled. I wondered if, after a day of news filled with reports of senseless violence, financial woes, weather disasters, and friends facing severe health issues, is it possible to be thankful? So, although not a journal writer, I decided to follow the suggestion given in the Guideposts to list, at the end of each day, three things for which I was grateful. Being a goal oriented person I was initially thankful for jobs completed or work that went well. Family, friends, good health also made it onto my list. Some things were very ordinary while others were more profound. Some were humorous and some might be considered trivial. I found myself being thankful for the snow because it covered the ugliness of my lawn or should I say weed patch and earth mounds! I discovered that what was important was the act of being thankful not necessarily what I was thankful for. Admittedly, there are days when it is more difficult to have a spirit of thankfulness, but I have found that each day has its own blessings. Some days I simply need to rely on being thankful for a faithful loving God who has promised to always be with us to comfort and guide us.

I would like to close with a concrete example of how gratitude can change one's perspective. While not initially viewed as something to be thankful for, the recent budget shortfall of our church has made it onto my list of thankfulness. I am thankful for the financial challenges of the church since it will require us to enter a dialogue about what we value in the church and how we will best serve our congregation and the wider community. What is God calling us to be in this new century, in this new technological age where family, jobs, recreation etc., are being redefined?

In a world in which God is in control, "Is it well with your soul today and what are three things for which you are thankful?"

Joel Irish Lay Leader

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Work area Committees

- **Education:** Assists the Director of Christian Education in providing programs and leaders for a variety of ages and learning styles. Contact: Chris Conant, 782-0017.
- **Missions:** Develops mission programs, special Lenten projects, and encourages congregational participation and support for these programs. Contact: Lois Beechum, 353-6455.
- **Music:** Coordinates and assesses the musical programs of the church, schedules special concerts, musical performances, and soloists as needed. Contact: Nancy Lander, 786-4592.
- **Nurture:** Provides programs and events to encourage the development of fellowship and friendship among current church members and to welcome newcomers. Contact: Lucille Webber, 998-5234.
- **Outreach:** Welcomes visitors and newcomers, provide opportunities for "getting

to know you” activities, and publicize church events to the community. Contact: Sharon Folker, 786-2564.

- **Worship:** Assists in planning special worship services and seasonal programs. Recruits greeters, ushers, liturgists, acolytes, sound system technicians and communion stewards. Contact: Will Talpey, 784-5368.

Administrative Committees

The Church Council is composed of committee chairpersons (Finance, Staff-Parish Relations, and Trustees), lay leaders, and the lay member of annual conference, the church treasurer, the president of the United Methodist Women, the Director of Christian Education, the Coordinator of Lay Ministry and the Pastor. This group is responsible for making decisions about church policies and programs and communicating and discussing these decisions with the congregation. Contact: Eric Howes, 786-3783.

The Finance Committee is currently responsible for coordinating our annual financial pledge campaign and broadening the church’s vision of stewardship, recommending our annual budget to the congregation and Church Council, and with the assistance of our treasurer, keeping track of the church’s financial situation. Contact: Judith Johnson, 784-0301.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee works with the church’s paid staff and the District Superintendent to insure effective leadership for the congregation, including recruiting and hiring when necessary. Contact: Kathleen Cormier, 346-3462.

The Trustees are responsible for both real estate and invested property and attend to the upkeep of both the church building and the parsonage. Contact: Paul Farnsworth, 784-0468.

goodies such as, Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce

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Please read through this survey and consider the many different ways in which you could enhance our Christian Education Program next year. Please return the survey with your answers to Kary Coffin by mail (439 Park Ave.) or e-mail (dce@auburnmethodist.org) by June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Sunday School Volunteer Survey – for 2008-2009  
Church School Year

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to serve in the ministry of our church school (circle or highlight all that apply):

- With a helper                      Full-time (most Sundays)
- As a helper                        Part-time (switching off with another teacher)
- As a substitute                    Other

I have gifts in the following Areas/Age Ranges (circle or highlight all that apply\*)

- Crafts                                      Nursery
- Games/Recreation                      Preschool
- Music                                        Kindergarten
- Bible storytelling                      1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>
- Discussion                                3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>
- Snack/Cooking                          5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_                        7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_                        9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

\*If you wish, for a particular area/age group, you may indicate (1) you are gifted or experienced with this (2) you would like to grow in this or (3) you are willing to serve if needed

Thank you for your help!

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RUTH CIRCLE

There will be a “Food Sale” on May 10th & 11th (after church). Available will be homemade