



Church Street E-News

Presque Isle Congregational Church

United Church Of Christ

September 2010

A New Church Year – A New Beginning – A New Identity

Fair week has passed; the nights are cooler (hopefully); the days are crisper (soon); the buses are rolling. Yes, it's September once again, and we have a chance for spiritual renewal as we begin our church-year activities.

The season of Pentecost 2 is a season of growth for the Christian church. Some of our Scripture lessons tell us about early gatherings of Christians who brought what they had – time, talent, treasure – for the support of all the community and ministry in the world. Does the theme sound familiar?

Being in a relationship with Christ is life-changing. It shapes who we are, changes our outlook, and inspires us to live in God's ways. From the heart of love, justice flows out into all our relationships, even when doing so is difficult or comes at a cost. We wrestle with the implications of our new identity as individuals and as the church, discerning with one another how to live into God's grace and peace.

From Presque Isle UCC With Love



During the first half of 2010, our world mission focus was channeled through Church World Service (CWS). In January, our congregation generously donated over \$1,700 to One Great Hour of Sharing – Haiti Relief. This money was sent to our Maine Conference, then on to the UCC where it became part of a larger gift to Church World Service.

Generous individual donations and a group offering from *Women Exploring Their Faith*, to our Church School's Kid's to Kid's – Haiti's Babies project provided over \$335, and we put together and mailed 12 individual Baby Kits.

We often wonder what happens to our donations once they are sent out. Our *Thank-You Letter* from CWS tells us the news. “Since the earthquake in Haiti, CWS has provided more than 31,000 Hygiene Kits, some 5,400 Baby Care Kits, and more than 4,000 Blankets. For medical support, CWS has provided 60 boxes of medical supplies from IMA World Health. Each box contains enough medicine and supplies to treat the the routine illnesses of approximately 1,000 adults and children for approximately two months when placed in a rural clinic.”

There's more good news. The Mother's Day and Father's Day Offerings to Church World Service's Blankets+ and Alternate Giving totaled \$1,010 and provided the following: 20 Blankets; 260 Chicks; 13 Hygiene Kits; 12 Mosquito Nets; 6 Birthing Kids; 22 Rabbits; 200 Seedlings; 4 Wheelbarrows; and Hoes, Shovels and Seeds for two families. CWS tells us that these selections will assist people overcome by natural and human-caused disasters, as well as supporting community efforts to develop sustainable agriculture, reliable safe water supplies, and other means to break the grip of grinding poverty.

We were a small but integral part of a much larger whole – over 8,000 congregations and groups who hold CWS Blankets+ events to assist in funding assistance to people around the world, including in our own United States. See the display in Fellowship Hall for more information.

Annual Women's Potluck Luncheon

The skies were cloudy, but the spirits were sunny as the women gathered to head to Peggy Woodman's cottage at Portage Lake for the annual August potluck luncheon.



L-R Helen McConnell, Peg Woodman, Jean Clark, Ann Wight, Mary Smith, Barbara Merryman & Fran Flewelling



L-R Roberta Griffiths, Mary Smith, Fran Flewelling, Helen McConnell, Jean Clark & Barbara Merryman

Losses in Our Church Family

The month of August was a time of change for our church family with the deaths of Margaret Coffin on August 9 and Dr. Kenneth Bonenfant on August 10.



Margaret Hanks Coffin joined our church family on June 21, 1964 and contributed her time and many talents to our music ministry. Margaret was Assistant Choir Director for several years and also served as a Deacon, Trustee and Liturgist. We send our thoughts and prayers to Margaret's daughters, Nanci Lee LaMarque and Lucinda Ann Coffin.



Dr. Kenneth H. Bonenfant, husband of Marilyn Parkhurst Bonenfant for 67 years, was a long-standing member of our church family, having joined the church on July 23, 1955. Many Presque Isle smiles were derived from Ken's 40-year practice of dentistry. He served our church's ministry in several capacities – deacon, church school teacher and member of the Religious Education Committee, member of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee, and member of the Doctor of Ministry team. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marilyn, Ed & wife Jane, Pam & husband Wayne, Becky & Dan and Rachel & David.

Church School



Catch the Spirit is the opening theme for our church school this year. Classes will begin on Sunday morning **September 12** for all groups except **Grades 7-8**, which will begin on **September 19**. Laurie Nelson will teach ages 3-5; Liz Higgins, ages 6-8; Lori Hudson, ages 9-10; Martie Pritchard Grade 6; and Melissa Vance, Grades 7-8. If everyone brought one friend, we could double the fun! Watch for e-mails next week with Pentecost 2 activities for families. Pastor Bob will be sending out information about a fun-filled Confirmation Class for our high school group.

Study Groups

Calling all PIUCC Men! Are you an early riser? Join in the lively discussions at the 7:00 AM Men's Group on Wednesday mornings, beginning September 15.

Women Exploring Their Faith, the Noon women's group will begin their Fall schedule on Wednesday, September 15, at Noon. Bring a bag lunch and join us for coffee at 11:30.

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
			9:30-11:00 AM-TOPS 4:00 PM-Writers			
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
10:00 AM Worship	4:00 PM - TOPS		9:30-11:00 AM-TOPS 4:00 PM-Writers			
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
10:00 AM Worship 10:00AM Church School	Girl Scouts -TBA 4:00 PM - TOPS		7:00 AM – Men 9:30-11:00 AM-TOPS 12 Noon - Women 4:00 PM-Writers	Church Council 6:30 PM		
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
10:00 AM Worship 10:00AM Church School 11:00 AM Bell Choir	4:00 PM - TOPS		7:00 AM – Men 9:30-11:00 AM-TOPS 12 Noon - Women 4:00 PM-Writers		Italian Supper 5:30 PM Prepared By Chef Joe Zubrick	
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		
10:00 AM Worship 10:00AM Church School Baptism <i>Liam Francis Waddell</i> 11:00 AM Bell Choir	4:00 PM - TOPS		7:00 AM – Men 9:30-11:00 AM-TOPS 12 Noon - Women 4:00 PM-Writers			



Look for more information about a church supper – Italian Menu - scheduled for September 24 at 6:00 PM.

Master Chef Joe Zubrick, renowned for his Church Fair Brunch and Easter Breakfast, will be bringing us another “yummy” treat.

Look for Sign-Up Sheets and mark your calendar.



Summer - Up, Up and Away!



Peggy, Mary and Ann checking out the flowers at Portage – Women's Luncheon 2010

Our Church Staff

The Reverend Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood, Pastor
[e-mail: bob@piucc.org](mailto:bob@piucc.org)

TBA, Moderator

Ms. Susan Grove-Markwood, Music Director

Ms. Melissa Vance, Administrative Assistant
[e-mail: melissa-piucc@maine.rr.com](mailto:melissa-piucc@maine.rr.com)

Mr. Paul Barrett, Treasurer

Ms. Sue Delano, Sexton

**The Church: (207) 764-4743
27 Church Street**

**The Parsonage: (207) 764-0150
29 Church Street**