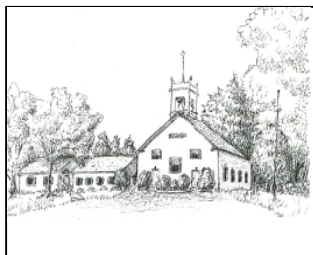


November 2011



Church Family News

Acton Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

telephone (207) 636-3430
email – actonucc@metrocast.net

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www.actonucc.org

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From the Pastor:

TOWARD A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

My hopes as your acting (interim) pastor are to meet the needs of the congregation to the fullest extent, in light of this is being only a part-time position, and that there is some distance between my residence in Kennebunk and the location of the church in Acton.

It is apparent that the two previous ministers fulfilled their pastoral functions fully, and the church remains indebted to them. My goal is to conduct my ministry with the same degree of effectiveness. However, I have come to realize that there are some differences in pastoral styles. While Thursday has been recognized as the day for the pastor to be at the church in Acton, it has been possible for me to conduct much of the preparation for the bulletin, sermons, newsletters, etc. from my home.

I am not saying that I do not want to come to Acton to serve the church. What I do mean is that it may be more effective for me to let the whole congregation know that I will be available any day of the week, depending upon the various needs you may have. Please feel free to let me know if, where, and when you would like to meet with me, and then a specific time can be set. Also, if you know of anyone needing a pastoral visit, please let me know. My home phone is 985-8190 and my email address is gamkbk@gwi.net.

I look forward to serving you as your pastor and in so doing to remain faithful to God's call to me through Jesus Christ, our Lord and the Lord of the Church.

Gordon



MILITARY BULLETIN BOARD:

Melissa Marquis will be taking all the pictures down and starting fresh. She would love people to bring in updated pictures with addresses and the status of the person so we can write to them. They can give them to her. She wants to keep the board as "live" as possible. If anyone has questions they can call her at 603-498-7771.

MODERATOR'S MEMO

Dear Friends,

At a Special Meeting of the Church last January, revised bylaws were approved which included a change in our Church Year making it coincide with the calendar year. Our Annual Meeting this year will, therefore, be on January 29.

Church officers and committee members graciously agreed to extend their terms of office that would normally have expired the last Sunday of September 2011, and they have continued to serve through January. We thank them for their devotion.

During the months of November and December, the Nominating Committee will be looking for new members of committees to be elected on January 29. We also will need a new Church Clerk and an Assistant Treasurer.

Being an officer or committee member offers an opportunity to be involved in decisions affecting our church. If you have concerns you would like to have addressed, new ideas you'd like to see implemented, or just want to help maintain the *status quo*, please say "yes" when you are approached by a Nominating Committee person.

Better yet, learn more about the functions of our officers and committees by reviewing their responsibilities in our bylaws. (See Maxine for a copy if you don't have one.) Consider which area or areas of service appeal to you most and VOLUNTEER!

We realize this is a time of uncertainty in our church, but we can keep things moving ahead if each of us assumes a share of the work that is required to do all the things we should be doing. Some tasks are being left undone because we lack "manpower." Can you help?

Faithfully,
Joyce

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP continues its service to the community with a Senior Luncheon on Monday, November 7. We have forty to fifty people each month, with seven women helping to cook and set up.

The next regular meeting of the Fellowship will be on Wednesday, November 9, at 11:00 am (note change of time) at Mary Dumas' home at 7 Westcott Way, Alfred. This is our annual chowder luncheon, with fish chowder prepared by Mary and corn chowder prepared by Sandi. (Our usual corn chef, Joyce Cunningham, will be away.) Devotions will be led by Arlene Smith.

The speaker will be: Hollie Vanderzee, head of the volunteer organization Bridging People & Places One Person At a Time.



Food for Thought

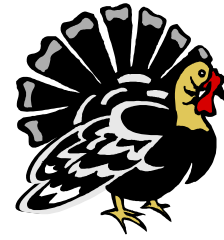
We don't need more to be thankful for, we need to be more thankful.

Church Council meeting November 17th at 7:00pm. All council members are urged to attend—chair person and one other from each board or committee.

Birthdays
Joyce Dumas
Stan Smith, Sr.

Anniversaries
Roger & Joyce Dumas
November 1

Senior Lunch
Senior Lunch Monday, November 7th .
Please call Claire Bragg for reservations.
636-1810



Good News!! The Circle of Hope needs your help in reviewing and renewing the ministry. The goal is to grow spiritually and share faith by caring for others in challenging circumstances.

Because the group is going back to the beginning to examine and revamp the program, and will be retaking the course called "Caring For People God's Way," -- it's a good opportunity for anyone interested to join.

The group will meet once a week for fellowship, to watch a video from the course and discuss it, to pray, send cards, and plan other ways to assist those in need. The day and time for the course will be decided according to availability of the members.

Whether or not you plan to join the group, please consider contributing your ideas and/or attending the brainstorming meeting. All are welcome. We want to reflect the whole church family.

An organizational/brainstorming meeting will be held Monday, the 7th at 7:00pm at the church.

If you have questions or want more information, speak to Joy.

MISSION:1

Don't forget to write your Senators, U.S. Representative, and the Obama Administration at 1:11 p.m. on the same day, (perhaps after church on Sunday, Nov. 6.) Ask them to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide.

Remember these four simple steps to effective letter writing:

1. Write your name and address at the end of your letter AND on the envelope, so your members of Congress know you are one of the people they represent.
2. Ask for specific action, using this sentence or your own words: "I ask you to reform foreign aid to make it more effective in reducing hunger and poverty."
3. Give reasons why. Letters with personal stories are the most compelling and effective.

"My church is already helping by [example from **Mission: 1**], but I also expect my country to take the lead in combating global hunger."

4. Put each letter in a separate envelope and address it. Send your letter to:

your U.S. senators:
U.S. Senate
Washington,
DC 20515

your U.S. representative:
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Your letters will make an important difference for people who are hungry and poor.



Thanksgiving

MISSION:1 ~ FOOD COLLECTION

Eleven days, 11 items of food, or \$11 dollars—that is what Mission:1 is about—giving to our food pantry or giving to those who are hungry all around the world. One goal of the UCC is to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposed with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States. If you choose to give online, rather than through the church, please let Maxine know. She is keeping tally of what we give for money, and the number of food items that are collected. This will be reported to the UCC website as contributions from our church. The food we give, is for our food pantry and is also part of the Thanksgiving bags we give every year.

Spiritual Growth Workshop

On January 6th, we will be hosting a workshop on The Spiritual Journey through Mandala and the Enneagram. The mandala is basically a circle with designs and drawings inside it, and an Enneagram is a tool for personal and spiritual growth. It is based in two assumptions. The first is that we are all created in the image of God. The second is that for all of us, His Divine Essence shines in each of us, but is sometimes distorted. It works with our personality types to show us our greatest gifts and how we sometimes sabotage those gifts—stopping us from reaching our true potential. In the workshop, Linda Carleton will give an overview of the Enneagram system, then work with the attendees in the use of these tools. You do not have to be an artist to participate in the workshop. One part of it is using words within the circle. At this date, we have 9 people signed up. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Maxine at actonucc@metrocast.net, or 636-3430, or call her at home.

NOTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Since the October 30th Stewardship Sunday service was cancelled, this Sunday, Nov 6th will be Stewardship Sunday. We hope to make a promising start towards meeting our proposed budget for the coming year. The proposed budget for 2012 is approximately 10% higher than 2011. A significant portion of the increase will be covered by a larger than expected balance in the checking account at the end of 2011. This was largely achieved by some unexpected generous giving from summer visitors. Three items account of most of the 2012 increase and these are:

- 1) \$1700.00 for expected heating oil price increases.
- 2) \$3000.00 needed to prevent the church steeple from rotting away.
- 3) \$2500.00 Pastor salary increase to assist the search committee to find a new “settled Pastor”.

Our two major sources of income are pledges (71%) and loose offering (15%). Pledges are greatly preferred since they make the budgeting process easier and more precise. It should be realized by all members it is sometimes necessary to adjust pledges downward or to eliminate altogether. All it takes is a quiet-private meeting with the Financial Secretary or Treasure. If you haven't already pledged we ask that you prayerfully consider what your contribution should be to the program of that wonderful “Church on the Hill”.

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

A. 2 Cor. 4:8 describes going out in service in a Volkswagen Beetle: "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement."

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?

A. In the big inning, Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel, and the Prodigal Son came home. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.

Q. What is one of the first things that Adam and Eve did after they were kicked out?

A. They really raised Cain.

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.



Office hours~
Wednesday & Friday 9-noon
Thursday 10am-4pm

PHONE:
(207)636-3430

E-MAIL
actonucc@metrocast.net

We're on the web!!
See us at:
www.actonucc.org

“HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS”

Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home and the Lafrance-Lambert and Black Funeral Home in partnership with Beacon Hospice are pleased to announce “Hope for the Holidays,” a program for those who will be experiencing the holiday season for the first time after the death of someone dear.

This seven week program will be held on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 PM beginning November 14, and ending January 9, at the Heald Family Center, 574 Main Street, Springvale.

Heather Thompson, Bereavement Field Coordinator of Beacon Hospice will be the facilitator of this special program. She will help journey together by remembering and nurturing the memory of the relative or dear friend that is cherished, loved, and now missed. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Black at the funeral home office- 324-4104

The Prayer Shawl ministry is in need of prayer shawls.
If you knit, crochet or quilt, we could use your talent.

ACTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
P.O. Box 28
Acton, ME 04001-0028



*“Let your lives overflow with
joy and thanksgiving to God.”
Colossians 2:7*