

The Shepherd's Good News

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

May 2005

From the Editor

Sara Bruce

We are fast approaching the summer season. Most of the small groups take this time off, but will be back in full swing again come September. If you are interested in joining one of our small groups, contact the group leader for more information. You will find some of this information in the articles that follow.

The staff of the newsletter is also taking the summer off, so instead of the next newsletter coming out in August like scheduled, it will be appearing in your inbox mid September.

I have added a special request from one of the members of the congregation. You will find it on page 6.

There are still a lot of things to do over the summer. Don't forget to check out the Important Dates section on page 7. See you at the picnic.☺

Rev. Tom's Corner

The high holy days of the church year began late last November and will end May 15, Pentecost Sunday. During Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we concentrate on the significant events in the beginnings of Christianity. The drama and mystery are recalled again and again. The fire and winds of Pentecost usher us into the period known as ordinary time. Of course, for us we revisit Easter every Sunday, so the drama and mystery never quite fade.

Now, what about this ordinary time.

"Ordinary Time, the longest portion of the church year, fills the weeks which do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. It's the no-particular-reason season." (Paul Turner, *The*

Reason for The Season, retrieved from the world wide web, May 3, 2005) There is nothing ordinary, that is mundane, about the season. In this sense ordinary means counted: the Sundays are counted rather than named for events or festivals.

During it the lessons and themes connect faith and action, beliefs and social concerns. Because we have recalled and rehearsed the birth, life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ we are now called to reflect on the implications of all that for our own living, individuals and as a congregation of believers. While God does need our help in seeing the needs of the world, often people who personify those needs need our help in finding a sustaining connection to God. Lets make the best of ordinary time.

Church Picnic

On Saturday, July 23, Tom and Beverly Merrill will host a church family picnic at Grandma's Place on Pattee Pond in Winslow. It will be an all day affair. The grill will be hot around noon for you to cook whatever you bring. You may also may want to bring something to share - a pot luck picnic. Tom and Beverly will

provide drinks, a pond to swim and fish in, a boat to ride in and behind and a canoe to paddle. Bring anything else you would like to play with. Everyone is welcome. Directions will be available at church or via e-mail.



As the time draws closer we'd like to have some idea as to how many will be coming, so let us know by e-mail (revtrm@aol.com).

From our Lay Leader

Natalie Blake

Training Event

May 14th Training Event sponsored by the Portland Cluster UMC. This is an event for those involved in the program side of the church, such as those in Nurture, Outreach and Witness. Place is Clark Memorial in Portland from 9-11 AM. There is no charge for this event, but Clark Memorial would love to know how many people will be attending to have enough coffee and donuts, so I would encourage you to email them at clarkumc@aol.com. Leaders of the sessions will be

- ★ Rev. Cliff Ives - Outreach
- ★ Rev. James McPhee - Nurture
- ★ Rev. Dave Williams - Witness

Registration, coffee and donuts will take place from 9-9:15. From 9:15-9:30, there will be a short devotional service and the sessions will begin at 9:30.

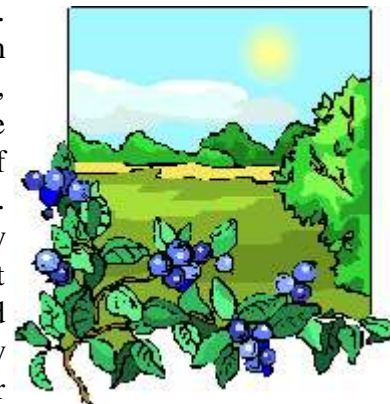
Tres Dias of Maine Sequela

Tres Dias of Maine is an interdenominational Christian movement made up of all who have lived a Tres Dias, Cursillo, or similarly recognized weekend. Its purpose is to develop and prepare Christian leaders in sustaining a commitment to Christ as they pursue Christian apostolic action in their environments.

Tuttle Road UMC and Good Shepherd UMC are partnering to host Sequela events and the first one will be on May 20 at 7PM at Tuttle Road in Cumberland. If you are curious about Tres Dias, this is a great time to talk to people who have lived a weekend and get an idea if this is a step you are ready to take. There is always a question thrown out for discussion, great music, fellowship, and generally we end with a Communion service. We hope to have these meeting monthly at alternating churches. Please see Natalie for information.

Migrant Ministries

Washington County, incorporated in 1789, is both a coastal as well as a forested area in Maine. It has 1.68 million acres of land (2,628 square miles). Of this, 1.47 million acres, or 85 percent, are forested and there are 133,000 acres of lakes and ponds. Washington County is the Easternmost county in the United States. This County is responsible for over 90 percent of the nation's blueberry crop and is the world's largest producer of blueberries. And this is where we come in with our support of the Migrant Ministry.



The peak is last week of July until end of August. Some migrant families will stay through Christmas to decorate and pack wreaths. Some other families stay to look for year round housing and year round work. Most of the workers are very poor and generally come to the camps with nothing but the clothes on their backs. This ministry that we support tries to provide some basic necessities; such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, wash cloths, deodorant along with t-shirts for the workers so they can change after a day working in fields sprayed with poisonous insecticides plus materials for the children: notebooks, pens, pencils, school books both in Spanish and English.

This year the collection of all of the items collected by the Greater Portland Cluster churches will be held here at Good Shepherd on May 24 at 7 PM. The Rev. Betty Palmer will be here to talk to us about the Migrant Ministry we support. We will then hold a short service of collection. All are welcome to come and join in this uplifting evening. See Natalie FMI.

Worship Committee

Judi Shoberg

You may have noticed some new faces up front during our worship service (specifically, during the children's moment). Volunteers from the congregation are now giving the children's message each week. Since many of our children are geographically separated from their extended families, they don't get the chance to interact with their grandparents, aunts and uncles very often. By introducing our youth to the adults in the congregation, we can foster new relationships which will benefit everyone! So go ahead – volunteer to give a children's message. You'll meet some great kids, they'll get to know you better and we'll end up strengthening our church family ties!

Committee update - The worship committee has been working on a few goals the past couple of months - primarily window dressings.

Shades have been purchased for Rev. Tom's office. Thank you, Tom, for installing them! Now Rev. Tom will be able to work at his computer any time of the day without glare from the sun interfering. Supplies have been purchased for the sanctuary curtain rods. They need to be cut to length, sanded, glued and stained. Rev. Tom has offered to make wooden brackets.

The next step is to find curtains. We are looking for a tab-top style curtain in a neutral color, made of fairly heavy material that will darken the sanctuary when needed. (If anyone comes across something that fits this description, please let Judi know.) Also, monetary donations to help pay for the curtains are always welcome!

Rev Tom has given us a wall banner pattern book that we are looking forward to using. It has some wonderful advent banner ideas. Anyone wishing to join in the making of banners for our sanctuary walls, please see Judi.

As always, if you have any suggestions or input, please contact someone from the worship committee with your ideas.

May your spring be filled with blessings and the wonders of God's creation.

Your sister in Christ – Judi Shoberg, chair

Stewardship

Russ Shoberg

While I was considering the “theme” for this year's Pledge campaign, I found myself being encouraged by a song that I heard on WMSJ. It drew me in because it questioned the role of the church in living Christ's message to those who are not currently in organized churches, as well as those who “belong”. I found the message of the song to be one of self-examination for the listener (read, me), as well as for the members of churches everywhere.

Christ encouraged us to be His representatives here on earth, as a living witness to those who need Him. We do this through our works, our gifts, our prayers and our presence. Our interactions with our friends and family (both natural and church families), each other and with those we're just meeting for the first time – are a reflection of Him to them.

I need to continually challenge myself to make sure that people's first impression of my actions or attitudes are really a reflection of Jesus. With that, I'll recommend that we all take a look inside to see if we are living a life walking close to Jesus. I leave you with the refrain from the song:

“If We are the Body”

by Casting Crowns (Mark Hall author, 2003)

If we are the body – why aren't His arms reaching?

Why aren't His hands healing?

Why aren't His words teaching?

If we are the body - why aren't His feet going?

Why is His love not showing - them there is a way?

Bake Sale

by Sara Bruce

Our bake sale at the Windham Wal-Mart is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 from 9 AM to 1 PM. It is not too early to start preparing goodies for this sale. Wal-Mart has informed me that we may not be eligible for the matching grant this year, so we need tons of pies, breads, and other delicious treats to sell.

Women's Group

Julie Frost

The main goal of our Women's Group is to help the women of the church to get to know each other better and to encourage the feeling of family within our church. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month – alternating between meeting at a restaurant and meeting at the church.

The March meeting was held at the church and we put the gift baskets together for the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. Through teamwork the baskets came out looking wonderful. The winners at the Mystery Dinner were very pleased with their prizes.

We met at Julien's restaurant in Gray for the April meeting. We had a great turn out and everyone had more than enough to eat!! A few even tried one of the tempting desserts. The conversation flowed throughout the meal – kids and gardening being two of the major topics. We learned that many of us have a great interest in flowers and gardening. There may be a trip planned later to visit some beautiful spots in the area.

The May meeting will be our final one for the summer. Traditionally we take the summer off because most are quite busy enjoying summer activities. We are going to change the plan and "celebrate" our group by going out to eat again !! We will meet at Rose's Italian Eatery at 6:30 on May 18. All women are welcome..... bring a friend. We will resume meetings in September!

Methodist Men

Exciting things are happening with United Methodist Men. Summertime attendee of Good Shepherd, Paul Cobb invites the Gentlemen of Good Shepherd to attend "Chad's World". It's a regular business meeting and an Order of Celebration of Service to God by Men and Women who serve for the preservation of American Ideals which is being held at Clark Memorial UMC in Portland on Monday, May 16th beginning at 6:00pm. The New England Conference President of United Methodist Men will be in attendance.

If you plan to attend, please contact Paul at 774-5443 or via email clarkmemorialmen@aol.com. This is a dinner meeting.

Also, Southern Maine United Methodist Men meet on June 1st at 6:30pm at The United Methodist Church of Auburn. Yet another dinner meeting and program and opportunity to grow the ministry to Men.

Southern Maine United Methodist Men will celebrate their 50th Anniversary in October. Please watch for details of this upcoming celebration.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)

by Sara Bruce

We have hired Natalie Blake as our Pastoral Assistant for the summer. Natalie will be covering for Rev. Tom as he takes vacation time over the summer. She will also be assisting Him during services during the Sundays he is at Good Shepherd as well as helping to cover office hours and visitations. We know that this will be a good experience for Natalie, as well as for the congregation.

Youth Group

by Rae Elliott

Since the last publication, the kids have had two events in which they participated. The first one was attending the Mystery Dinner Theater. Their table actually correctly figured out who the killer was first and won the prize baskets. Congratulations to the kids! The second event was a sleep over at my house at the end of April. The kids played video games, watched movies, played a card game (ask Jake about cow pies!), and ate lots of food. They actually stayed awake until 3am! Many thanks to Tim Warwick for helping out that night. We definitely needed a night owl! There will be only a few more meetings before we take the summer off.

District Changes

Taken from 4/25/05 edition of the UMCatalyst News Notes
-Paul H. Chang, District Superintendent, TRI-State District

Following the meeting Bishop Weaver had with representatives of the churches in the Greater Portland Area on April 9, there will be a change in district boundaries.

These changes were initiated by individuals within the Greater Portland Area and are designed to make our churches more effective in their ministries.

As part of these changes, the following churches will be moved from the Mid-Maine District to the Tri State District, effective July 1, 2005.

Chebeague Island UMC, Chebeague Island,
Cumberland, Maine

Good Shepherd UMC, Gray, Maine

Long Island UMC, Long Island, Maine

Chestnut Street UMC, Portland, Maine

Clark Memorial UMC, Portland, Maine

Peaks Island UMC, Portland, Maine

Rainbow UMC, Portland, Maine

West Baldwin UMC, West Baldwin, Maine

Tuttle Road UMC, Cumberland, Maine

These changes will make the breakdowns of the churches in the Tri State District by state as follows:

Maine	32
New Hampshire	26
Massachusetts	16
Total:	74

We will also add a Satellite District Office in the Portland area whose place to be determined later.

This will certainly add more responsibility and challenges to my work, but I am sure that this change will benefit the ministry of the churches involved and the regional ministry in the Greater Portland area.

May we be more effective in seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Morning Bible Study

by Sara Bruce

We are still working our way through the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. This has proved to be a long session, but is very interesting. I always look forward to the discussion it generates. It looks as if we will continue on this subject up to the beginning of summer when we will choose a new study. We have talked about doing a book like we did last summer. A topic/title will be announced shortly.

We are always looking for new members. I hope that you can join us. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 AM. Children are always welcome.



Music Team

The music team will be wrapping up our choir season with our last number or numbers on June 19 (Father's Day). New choir members can still join us on Thursdays from 7:15-9pm. Between now and June 19 we will be offering old favorites and new songs from a Hymns & More collection which will include having you the congregation learn with the choir! As we begin planning our 2005/2006 choir season we would welcome suggestions for anthems, hymns, special music, and so on. So please drop those in the offering plate or give them to one of the music team.

We are also in the process of assessing new sound system equipment and will hopefully have that in place by fall. We welcome donations for the sound system and for new anthems and additional choir books because we have grown we need to purchase more books for some of our selections. Thank you for your support; listen in Faith!

Please Help

A fellow firefighter of Doug and Charissa Kerr has Cystic Fibrosis. His name is George Carman, he is 39 years old and he needs a lung transplant.

The Kerr's, along with other firefighters, are helping to raise the \$300,000 needed to help pay for medical expenses not covered by his health insurance. They are selling bracelets and license plate bracket. Please contact the Kerr's for more information, or contributions may be made to "New lungs for George" at the Katahdin Federal Credit Union, c/o Debbie Girsra, 1000 Central Street, Millinocket, ME 04462.

Below are sections from a brochure I received from Charissa.

What George Needs From Us....

At 39, George has passed the median life expectancy of 31 for a person with CF. George is waiting to be placed on a transplant list. His friends, family, co-workers and members of the New Gloucester Fire Department have formed a committee to ease the burden to George and Amy. They know that he will need a double lung transplant soon, and they have learned from others that the expenses not covered by insurance will range in the amount of \$300,000.

"George's Fan Club", as he calls the committee, is raising funds with many different benefits and selling "LUNGS FOR GEORGE" awareness bracelets to support George's journey. They are seeking donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. The committee's goal is to assure that the money will be there when the time comes for George to travel to New York for the transplant.

George gives a lot to the community and now it is time for the community to give back. He is a proud man who always has done for himself and his family, but he realizes that the operation will be necessary if he wants to continue to live his life as a son, husband and father. He has been known to say, "We have to do what we have to do to be with our children." The support group is looking at a three year plan of events, a big task, but their beginning has been encouraging.

Amy, Annie and George



In the summer of 1989, George met the girl of his dreams. A girl who could see him not as someone with cystic fibrosis who may not be able to grow old with her, but as a person that had a lot of love and kindness to give. In spite of numerous lung infections that would put him in the hospital for two weeks at a time, they were married in May, 1992.

George and Amy had another dream, and in 1996 Amy became pregnant. That dream soon turned into a nightmare when Amy developed life-threatening preeclampsia. Travis weighed only one pound at birth and after a short life of 25 days he was laid to rest. Finally in 1999, their life was complete when Antoinette Elizabeth Carman (Annie) was born.

George works at Morrison & Sylvester as a parts clerk. Amy is associate clerk at Androscoggin Superior Court. Annie is a student in New Gloucester.



George & Drippy (the I.V. pole)
at a recent hospital stay

ON GOING

Bible Study Wednesday's at 9:30 AM. Will continue to meet through the summer. Contact Rev. Tom at 657-2009 for more information.

Women's Group Every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM (6:30 when going out to eat). May 18 will be the last meeting until fall. Contact Julie Frost.

Choir Rehearsal Thursday at 7:15 PM and Sunday at 9:30 AM. June 16 is last meeting for the summer. Contact Dawn Sample at 892-4286.

Sunday School Sunday at 8:45 AM. Preschool through Adult. Contact Cally Bartholomae at 428-3569.

Youth Group every other Sunday evening. Contact Rae Elliott.

Administrative Council 3rd Sunday of the month following service. Contact Vinal Doody.

Important Dates

May 14 - Training Day at Clark Memorial 9 - 11 AM.

May 14 - Ministry Summit 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Greenland UMC.

May 16 - Methodist Men meet at Clark Memorial at 6 PM for "Chad's World".

May 20 - Tres Dias Sequela at 7 PM at Tuttle Road UMC.

May 24 - Migrant ministry pick up with Rev. Betty Palmer. GSUMC at 7 PM.

June 1 - Methodist Men dinner meeting at 6:30 PM at the United Methodist Church in Auburn.

June 11 - Bake Sale at Windham Walmart. 9 AM to 1 PM.

July 23 - Church Picnic at Gramma's Place.

August 13 - Clothing Swap 10 AM to 2 PM.