

# The Shepherd's Good News

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

Fall 2006

## *Rev. Tom's Corner*

**F**all arrived today, September 23, at about 11AM. It was raining most of the morning and into the afternoon so it seemed like fall. I'm sorry to bid summer good-bye until next June. I like the long evenings and bright early mornings of summer. It seems as there is actually more time to do things in the full light of day and I seem to have more energy to get them done. On the other hand fall brings the coming back to worship of the church family. I like that too.

Routines get reestablished which bring a kind of stability and comfort. Where there are holes in the routine, weak points in the structure, there are challenges to be encountered. Shortly the nominating committee will be meeting to consider staffing the various task groups of the congregation. I have two questions for each of you.

If you are already doing a particular task do you want to continue, or would you like to do something different?

If you don't have a job to do in the church would you like one? If so, anything particular? Please do not be shy.

Let me know your feelings on these matters. I'll be glad to talk about the things that need doing. There are some openings that I already know about. Tom

## *Annual Conference*

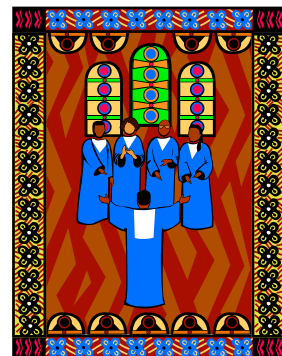
**O**ur Annual Charge Conference (annual meeting of the church membership) will be on November 5, 2006, at 4:45 PM. The Reverend Mike Davis, District Superintendent, will preside. Please save the date and plan to attend.

## *Weekly Communion?*

**W**ould you appreciate and attend an 8 AM Sunday morning service of Holy Communion on all the Sundays except the first Sundays of the month when Communion is part of the regular worship service. Such a service would be about half an hour long and offered not as a substitute for the later service, but rather a supplement for those who would appreciate receiving Communion more often than once a month. If as many as eight people express a desire, I am willing to give it a try. Tom

## *Choir Festival*

**T**he annual Choir Festival this year is being held at Clark Memorial UMC in Portland on Sunday, October 22. Your Good Shepherd choir is participating along with 5 other area choirs and, if you want an afternoon of great music, this is the place to be. The festivities start at 3:00 PM with a hymn sing. Each choir will then present two offerings with a break in between for the congregation to do some singing and then the massed choir goes to work. Our very own Jody Bagley will be directing the massed choir and has chosen two great pieces that you don't want to miss. Admission is free with a Love offering taken. There will be a time of fellowship after the concert. All are invited.



### *Music Team Notes*

**T**his year's theme for Music Ministry is "Repeat the Sounding Joy" The music team asks you to join us and share your gifts and talents in the choir. It does not matter if you have sung in a choir for many years or never sung in a choir before. This year will be filled with "repeated" favorites as well as several new anthems! We seem to have hit on a gospel theme and have "City called Heaven", "Praise his Holy Name", "I'm goin' up a yonder", and "The Storm is Passing Over" as some new selections to share with you. Choir rehearsal is on Thursday evenings at 7 PM – 9PM. Singers aged Jr. High through adult are welcome. Please come and join us as we "Repeat the Sounding Joy". Bethany, Dawn, Jody & Tim - your music ministry team.

### *Women's Group*

Julie Frost, Chair

**W**omen's Group is ready to start up again for the 2006 – 2007 year. We will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. On even numbered months we will meet at 6:30 PM at a restaurant for some good food and friendly conversation. On odd numbered months we will be meeting at the church at 7:00 PM for a group activity or discussion.

Our first gathering is on October 18th. We'll meet at 6:30 PM at The Landing Restaurant in Windham. Take the night off from cooking and join us! Any women are welcome – so come and bring your friends and neighbors. I find it helps to feel more of the spirit of the church family when I have taken the time to get to know more about the members of that church family. Come out for Women's Group, and take the time to get to know some of the women of your church family and see how nice it feels!

### *Sunday School*

**T**he Flock has begun to meet again for Sunday School each Sunday morning from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM. We all gather together at the front of the church for the first fifteen minutes for music time. Bethany Smart leads us in song – some of the wonderfully familiar ones and some fun new ones that are quickly becoming familiar. We will be performing a few of these favorites during church services throughout the year!

At 9:00 AM we break up into three classrooms. Julie Frost teaches the pre-school – first grade room. We read a bible story from the Exploring Faith series and then talk about it. Then we do a craft relating to the bible theme of the day. Dan Frost teaches the second grade – sixth grade class. They read and discuss a bible story, (from the Exploring the Faith series), usually in a play format, and do the activities that go along with it (mazes, word searches, etc.). Russ Shoberg teaches the seventh grade and up class. They have new material called Tweens in Transition and it gives them a story or play to read and discuss and some bible puzzles to do. They have some insightful discussions!!

If anyone is interested in joining in the fun all you have to do is show up at 8:45 AM. We are looking for some Sunday School co-teachers. Come and get to know the children of your church!!!! It could be the most fun you have all week!! Please talk to Dan or Julie Frost or Russ Shoberg for details.

**October is Pastor's  
Appreciation Month!**

## **Youth Group**

Doug Kerr

Dear Friends,  
 This past year was just a whole bunch of fun with the Youth Group. We had many wonderful events throughout the year that really built bonds between us all. There are a lot of close ties of friendship, but there is plenty of room for more. From the Good Shepherd or not, our doors are open to the youth so tell your friends as well.

The backbone of our group is our bi-weekly Sunday evening meetings here at Good Shepard. Meetings usually started off with "snack" time, "let's hurry up in there so we can start the meeting" time, then "I can't believe you spilled that" time, and finally after "hasty clean-up" time we would settle into planning for upcoming events. ☺ We almost always had some great music, and could fit game time into any meeting (crazy Frisbee, Prophet, and that horribly difficult memory game). Yup, we have a good time.

Our first big event was a ghoulish evening with the Raymond Fire/Rescue Haunted House (coming again this year Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>). A spooky time was had by all. We then switched gears and got into the Christmas spirit. The group spent an evening decorating home made Christmas cards with glitter, glue, stamps, and a whole lot of love. Some of them were very artistic, some were spiritual, and then there were some Tim made that didn't quite make the cut. Sorry! The group went to the Windham nursing home and brought many tears to the eyes of the residents and staff with our world-class renditions of classic Christmas Carrolls and Hymns. We wound out the evening with a gift swap (I think it was fixed!) and pizza.

Other wonderful events were supporting the Easter Egg hunt. This was done with more decorating, a great deal of laughter, and about 5 pounds of glitter, half of which ended up in one magical egg (thank you very much DAVE!!!). A sleepover at my house was a bunch of fun, though it took about a week for our dog to recover from the excitement of having everyone over. We ended the year with a wonderful camping trip up in Ellsworth.

Boy did we ever rough it. Eat, laugh, kayak, laugh, play cards, laugh, sing, laugh. It was exhausting!

So we are now looking forward to another exciting year. If you have any interest in joining, the membership dues are pretty cheap (hah), just contact one of the leaders (Dave Collins Jr., Doug Kerr, and Tim Warrow). See you soon!!

God Bless, Doug

## **Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)**

Sara Bruce, chair

We had another successful summer with Natalie Blake as our Pastoral Assistant. She held office hours and covered worship service for Rev. Tom while he was on vacation. Thanks, Natalie!

We do evaluations for Rev. Tom during the month of October. We have forms available at the back table in the worship room. It would be great to hear from the whole congregation, so please complete one of these forms, or email me at [www.sasalyn@maine.rr.com](mailto:www.sasalyn@maine.rr.com).

## **Morning Study**

by Sara Bruce

The morning study group is now meeting on Fridays. Some of you must wonder why we change the day of the meeting each year. Most of us have school age children and our schedules are constantly changing from year to year. This year, Friday is the day that we can all meet without conflicts. We meet at 9:15 AM for coffee and fellowship and start by 9:30 AM. We begin with prayers and then discuss the book we are reading. We begin our new book, "Blowing the Lid off the God Box, Opening up a Limitless Faith" by Anne Robertson, on October 20. Please contact me if you have any questions. I hope that Friday morning is a good day for you, and we hope you can join us!

## Lego League

Andrea Harvey & Michele DeRoche

The Gray-New Gloucester Lego League Team has been meeting weekly since last June. The "Nano Nerds" is a brand new team of 9-14 year old boys and girls who love legos. The first Lego League was created in response to leaders in the scientific community feeling that kids were losing interest in science and technology in the U.S.

The hope is that children will become interested in the high tech world by playing with Legos, then continue on with education and become scientists in the future.

There are over 6,000 Lego League teams around the world who build robots out of Lego pieces, then meet for competitions. Our team, composed of 9 boys and 1 girl meets at the church every Wednesday night from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

The theme of this years competition, Nano Technology, was announced on September 15. Each team must prepare their robot to compete in 8 challenges. They must also prepare a research presentation about the nano technology theme.

Our team has just started programing our robot this past Wednesday night. Please do not hesitate to drop in if you would like to see what we are doing, or if you are interested in things mechanical, robotics or Legos—we would love your help as a mentor, builder, programmer or nano technology specialist.

We need to raise money to cover the cost of the robotic Lego's and the registration fees in order to compete in the tournaments. In addition to the fees in order to compete, we need to pay a Maine registration fee of \$100.00. Please consider this opportunity to impact the lives of local youth and challenge the minds of the next generation of scientists and engineers. Please contact Andrea Harvey or Michele DeRoche for more information.

### REGISTRATION AND COST

#### Q. What is the cost for a team's participation in the first year of the program?

A. That depends, if the team or someone on the team already has the LEGO® MINDSTORMS™ Robotics Invention System™, the team will not need to purchase the FLL Robot Set. The cost to a team starting from scratch is less than \$600. The breakdown for the 2006 season is:

Item	Cost	Feature
Team Registration Fee	\$150	(Non-refundable)
FLL Robot Set (RCX or NXT)	\$260-\$280	Recommended for new teams
Field Setup Kit (annual game set)	\$65	Can be shared amongst teams

#### Possible Expenses:

- The cost to attend a tournament is in the range of \$60.
- Travel expenses to a tournament.
- Team related items i.e. tshirts, supplies, snacks, etc.



### 2006 Schedule

May 8	Team Registration and Product Sales Open Online
Mid-June	Current Robot Sets, FIRST DVD's, and Coaches' Handbooks begin to ship
August	New Release Robot Sets and Field Setup Kits begin to ship
Sept 1	International Team Forum Opens and Official Tournament Details Posted
Sept 15	<b>International Challenge Announced</b>
Sept 29*	Team Registration Closes/Last Day to Order Product
Oct 2 - 13	Tournament Applications Accepted (if FLL is handling applications)
Nov- Jan	Tournament Season
April 2007	World Festival

***Let's Celebrate!******October***Birthdays

10/04 - Russ Shoberg  
 10/05 - Jacob Frost  
 10/05 - Ethan Bartholomae  
 10/08 - Lauren Reynolds  
 10/10 - Rick Smart  
 10/12 - Avery Topel  
 10/15 - Cecile Cleaves  
 10/21 - Mark Bruce  
 10/29 - Brad Van Damm

Anniversaries

10/04 - R&K Perry  
 10/07 - Doody  
 10/07 - Van Damm

***November***Birthdays

11/01 - Nick Bauder  
 11/04 - Ariel Cleaves  
 11/05 - Jennifer Van Damm  
 11/08 - Beth Nault  
 11/08 - Katie Elkanich  
 11/10 - Vinal Doody  
 11/12 - Casey Cleaves  
 11/13 - Kristina Mertz  
 11/14 - Pat Cleaves  
 11/19 - Florence Seidel  
 11/22 - Maggie Topel  
 11/25 - Jean Oligny-Warrow  
 11/27 - Jean Libby

***December***Birthdays

12/01 - Annika Smart  
 12/02 - Katherine Bauder  
 12/04 - Hilda Stairs  
 12/07 - Ian Scott  
 12/08 - Maggie Mattann  
 12/09 - Ksenia Smart  
 12/18 - Thomas Bauder  
 12/22 - Madelene Taylor  
 12/28 - Beverly Merrill  
 12/31 - Allen Sample

Anniversaries

12/04 - Cox  
 12/31 - Hamilton

***Upcoming events***

- Oct 20      Tres Dias Secuela 7pm at School Street UMC in Gorham
- Oct 28 & 29      Middle School Rally at Camp Mechuwana.
- Nov 18      Children's Clothing Swap 8am to noon.
- Nov 2 - 5      Women's Tres Dias weekend.
- Nov 5      Charge Conference 4:45 PM at the church.
- Feb 12      District Training Event
- December 20      Registrations due for Youth Basic Lay Speaking classes in March.
- Jan 18 - 21      Men's Tres Dias weekend.

***On Going***

Women's Group Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 pm (6:30 pm when eating out). Contact Julie Frost.

Craft Group every Thursday at 9 am. Contact Madelene Taylor.

Choir Rehearsal Thursday at 7 pm and Sunday at 9:15 am. Contact Dawn Sample.

Bible Study Fridays's at 9:30 am. Contact Sara Bruce.

Sunday School 8:45am Preschool through high school.

Administrative Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month following service. Contact Vinal Doody.

Youth Group every other Sunday evening. Contact Doug Kerr.