

## ***Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter April 2018***

Church telephone: 563-6843; Email: [ccob@tidewater.net](mailto:ccob@tidewater.net)

**To find out what's happening at our church between Sunday services and the monthly newsletter, please visit our website: [www.ccobucc.org](http://www.ccobucc.org)**

### **APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER**

#### **April Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Brooke Seiders  
9<sup>th</sup> - Mabel Scherer, Todd Vincentsen  
12<sup>th</sup> - Stephanie Vincentsen  
15<sup>th</sup> - Anne Lewis  
21<sup>st</sup> - Julia Cheney, Susan Buchanan  
25<sup>th</sup> - April Ference



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*(If you don't see your name on the birthday list, please contact the office 563-6843 and let us know.)*

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#### **A Pilgrim's Ponderings      April, 2018**

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and  
under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them,  
singing: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever."  
Revelation 5:13 (NIV)

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ:

Greetings to each and every one of you in the blessed Name of our resurrected Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

Easter was once again a glorious and joyful celebration here in "beautiful downtown Bristol Mills." We heard the good news that the tomb is empty, death has lost its sting, and because He lives, we can live fully today and face tomorrow with the truth of life's victory over death. The worship celebration in our lovely, classic New England sanctuary was full of joyful people singing, praying, passing the peace, breaking and sharing the bread and cup of Holy Communion, listening to a hope-filled message, and even singing "Happy Birthday" to this month's honorees, as is our relatively new custom on the first Sunday of every month. I truly believe God was honored as we worshipped the Lord in Spirit and in truth.

But what happens after all the singing and praying and preaching dies down? What next? For many people, perhaps for too many Christians, Easter is only an event which happened two millennia ago, celebrated once a year, either in March or April. That's it. Easter is history. See you again next year at this time. It's simply an annual holiday, a civic celebration, more on the lines of Mother's Day, Memorial Day, or the Fourth of July.

The Easter once-a-year event needs to become the Easter every day experience. Several years ago a reputable polling firm conducted a survey of twenty six mainline denominations (UCC, American Baptists, United Methodists, etc.) attempting to determine the number one reason why visitors return and church the church. Are you ready for the answer? It all has to do with Easter. The number one reason is *"the congregation acts like it really believes that Jesus is alive" "through a collective effervescence that pervades everything that is done."* (Ronald Scates, "Why they come, why they stay," *Reformed Worship* March 1996 italics added)

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They did not "come and stay" because of the great facilities, the sermons, the music, the nursery, the friendly people, the denomination, the location and a whole host of other reasons why we imagine people are first attracted to and then decide to become part of a Christian fellowship. It's because the church which gathers week in and week out and "acts like it really believes Jesus is alive" is very attractive to people who are seeking to know if there really is a God who loves and cares for them! The Easter event in these churches becomes the every-day effervescent Easter experience.

Such a congregation wants to know Christ, to experience His resurrection the day after Easter, and every one after that. We are willing to share in His sufferings. We will learn to face our own deaths the way He became obedient to His death on the cross. We look forward to our own resurrection. We really believe that Jesus died, rose from the grave, now sits at the Father's right hand in glory, intercedes for us in prayer, and will one day return to establish God's kingdom.

Every time we bow our knees to heaven we experience Easter. Every time we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness we experience Easter. Every time we gather for worship, prayer, and discipleship we experience Easter. Every time we season our faith with the flavor of Godly humor we experience Easter. Every time a soul is won to Christ, we experience Easter. Every time the hungry are fed and the naked clothed and a cup of cold water is given in Jesus' name, we experience Easter. Only the calendar says Easter comes but once a year!

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Experience Easter every day of the year.

Your pastor and fellow pilgrim, *Jim*



### **School Bags for Church World Missions**

Once again, the Missions Committee will be assembling school kit bags for Church World Missions. Starting on Sunday April 8 through our deadline of Sunday, April 22, we'll be collecting school supply items from all of you who wish to donate to this project.

On April 8th we will have a display in church of what items are needed for each bag. We have fabric bags ready for you (Thank you, Ellen Hunter!), which you may take home and fill. Also each bag contains a list of these items to provide, and a reminder to include \$2 with each, which pays for processing fees. We will need to have these filled bags by Sunday, April 22, so that our Missions Committee can package them and deliver them to our distribution church, Woodfords Congregational. These supplies will help children both in the U.S.A, as well as in some third world countries. Hope you will join us!

-Lyn Prentice



### **Food Pantry – May 6th**

The volunteers at the New Harbor Food Pantry are very grateful for the food CCOB collects every first Sunday of the month. They are currently serving approximately 60 individuals. Thank you for your donations.



### **Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper – April 14th**

Join us at 5:30 pm on April 14<sup>th</sup> for our Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper! Feast on homemade baked beans, casseroles, salads, and our famous pies! Make sure to come early to get a seat! Thanks for your support. Still \$8 per plate – what a bargain!



### **Family Fun Fair & Silent Auction Meeting**

There will be a general meeting for the Family Fun Fair and Silent Auction on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> following the church service. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see both new and old volunteers and anyone wishing to learn more about our fair. We will discuss some new ideas and plans for this year. The Fair will be held on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please phone Sandy Averill at 677-2165.

### **Trustees Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at 8:30 am on Sunday, April 15th.

### **Happening in April**

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| April 5  | Board of Deacons Meeting, 3:00 pm<br>Paint Night, 6:00 – 8:00 pm |
| April 14 | Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper, 5:30 PM, \$8                    |
| April 8  | Fair Meeting after Worship                                       |
| April 15 | Trustees Meeting, 8:30 am  |