

Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter February 2017

Church telephone: 563-6843; Email: 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

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

February Birthdays

4th - Jan Bacon, Marion Hopkins

6th - Michele Fink

9th - Liza Cheney

10th - Pete Seiders

25th - Alyssa Shea

27th - Merrillee Cheney

28th - Jane Simonds



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

“View From the Pulpit” February, 2017

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Here on the coast we have been "wintering well." Granted, we still have all of February, March, and sometimes even April to contend with before we sound the all clear signal. We've had a few cold spells but little snow. January was warm, by Maine standards. I haven't checked the long range forecast yet, but it seems reasonable to assume that we are going to get our fair share of the white stuff before Town Meeting in March, Easter in April, and black flies in May! Here in New England, we've learned to roll with the meteorological punches.

The longer I'm a Christian the more I've learned (by the grace of God) to roll with spiritual, ecclesiastical, and existential punches. **Spiritual** punches, like seasons of deep, gratifying closeness with God and seasons of shallow, unfulfilling distance from the Lord. **Ecclesiastical** (Greek for "church") punches, like times when the church's vision for ministry is clear and other times when we seem to be stuck in institutional mud, unsure of which direction to take. **Existential** punches, like periods of rejoicing in the goodness of life and other eras when life turns difficult. Christians are people who have learned to roll with all sorts of punches, to anticipate, even long for what is expected; to prepare for, or expect, the unexpected.

For example, we might expect, perhaps even long for, the church to continue its seasonal routines: Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, the return of good friends, like the Snow Birds, as summer approaches; bean suppers and the Church Fair and bake sales in the fall. The church year means preparing for and celebrating our Lord's incarnation, His sacrificial death and joyous resurrection. It also includes fellowship events, service projects, committee and board meetings, and a host of other activities too numerous to mention here.

Rolling with the punches also means that we need to be prepared to expect the unexpected. When we least expect it, God often surprises us by taking us out of our comfort zones by showing us a new thing He is doing in our midst. God is active, not dormant. The Lord continues to reach out to us with unconditional love, amazing grace, tender compassion, phenomenal forgiveness, holy righteousness, and profound wisdom. The Spirit of God is blowing like a mighty wind. We don't know where it comes from or where it is going, but when the

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National Weather Service issues a gale force warning for those of us fortunate enough to live in ocean side communities, we definitely sit up and take notice.

The routines of life we have come to expect and appreciate will continue. By the grace of God, we will roll with all the punches. And by the same grace of God, we will anticipate and prepare to expect the unexpected. The Lord will surprise us this year. I guess we should fasten our seat belts for the ride of our lives.

Your brother in Christ and fellow pilgrim,
Jim

Fair Update – 2017 Fair Date is August 5th

Much to the relief of everyone who was hoping to have our Annual Church Fair, Sandy and Chris Averill have stepped up to be the chair and co-chair. They will be guided by Phil and Jan. However, we are in need of volunteers for each of the departments to try to get the skeleton of the fair filled in. If you have helped in a particular department in the past, or are considering helping a specific department, please let Sandy and Chris know. Their phone is 677-2165 or e-mail is sandyorin@aol.com. We have had some folks move from the church and others are taking a less prominent role, so there are lots of openings!

Sandy Holmes will again be handling the Silent Auction and is in need of solicitors for items for the auction which can start in May thru mid-July. If you are willing to ask folks to donate items and gift certificates for the silent auction, please let Sandy Holmes know at 563-3957 or sandy04539@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Bible Scramble

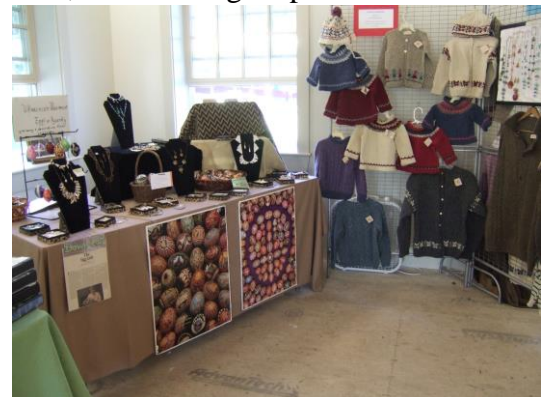
Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution on last page.

ON NMA, WNHE EH THHA TLIHGED A NLEDCA, VTROHEEC TI WTIH A VSSLEE, RO UTTTPHE TI
URNED A EDB; UTB TTTSHEE TI NO A TSNLKIEDCCA, TTHA YTHE WIHHC TRNEE NI YMA EES
EHT TLIHG.

CCOB Receives Generous Bequest



Mrs. Marion Berry generously left \$10,000 to our church. We were notified in December by Mrs. Berry's attorney. Mrs. Berry, pictured at left, participated in our church fairs for many years selling her Ukrainian Easter Eggs, other crafts, and clothing. A picture of her booth is to the right showing many of her lovely handcrafted items. We are most grateful for her generosity.



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Fundraising Committee Publishes 2017 Schedule

The cost for the luncheon, suppers, & breakfast is \$8.00 per person. Suppers begin at 5:30 pm sharp!

Saturday, February 11 at 12:30 pm (Storm Date: February 12 th)	Haddock Chowder & Sandwich Luncheon Haddock chowder, 3 different sandwiches and homemade desserts.
Saturday, March 11	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Sunday, March 26 th	Easter Basket Raffle
Saturday, April 8	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Friday (Good Friday), April 14	Easter Basket Raffle Drawing
Saturday, May 20	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Saturday, June 17	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Saturday, July 1	Strawberry Social – 1:00-3:00 pm, \$6.00
Saturday, July 22	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Saturday, August 19	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Saturday, September 16	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper
Saturday, October 14	Bake Sale, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, October 28	Hunters' Breakfast, 5:30 am – 10:00 am
Saturday, November 18	Thanksgiving Bake Sale, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, December 16	Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Food Pantry – February 5



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.

February Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Wed., Feb. 1	4:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sat., Feb 11	12:30 pm	Haddock Chowder & Sandwich Luncheon
Sun., Feb. 19	11:00 am	CCOB Annual Meeting
Sundays	11 am – 12 N	KISS Refreshments - Fellowship Hall
	4:30 -6:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays	9 am & 5:30 pm	Yoga Class with Carol Krajnik – Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	5:30-7:00 pm	AA – Special Study Group – Library
	7:00-8:00 pm	AA Meeting – Community Room
Friday	9:00-10:30 am	Yoga Class taught by Carol Krajnik – Fellowship Hall

Solution to Bible Scramble

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. Luke 8:16