

Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter February 2018

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 2018 NEWSLETTER

February Birthdays

4th - Jan Bacon
6th - Michele Fink
9th - Liza Cheney
10th - Pete Seiders
25th - Alyssa Shea
27th - Merrilllee 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.)

A Pilgrim's Ponderings February, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

A quick look at the calendar reveals a couple of interesting items: **Ash Wednesday** this year falls on February 14, Valentine's Day. What's the connection between the somber beginning of Lent and love? If you're available, please come to worship that day for a special "beginning of Lent" service at noon in the Fellowship Hall. There is more of a connection between Lent and love than we may realize.

Easter 2018 falls on April 1st, April Fool's Day. And who said God doesn't have a sense of humor! Resurrection Sunday begins as always with a "Sonrise" service at Pemaquid Lighthouse Park at 6:00 am. I'm looking forward to our annual celebration of Jesus Christ's victory over death back here at the Meeting House. My sermon that day will be: **"The Resurrection is a Joke!"** Chances are very good that I have something up my homiletical sleeve, but it won't be either a denial or desecration of the most important event in human history.

Another DVD series will be offered during Lent. I'm checking out two or three possibilities which I think will be of interest to you. The first session will be held on Sunday, February 25. The series will conclude on Palm Sunday, March 25. The DVD series will be shown in the Library right after worship. Grab some refreshments in the Fellowship Hall and then join the group as we embark on the journey of faith that will take us to Maundy Thursday, Gethsemane, Good Friday, and Easter. Stay tuned on Sunday mornings for further details.

Phil Averill has faithfully served as our church's hardworking sexton for many years. On January 28th Phil tendered his resignation. I sometimes refer to Phil as "the man behind the scenes." He has carried out his duties diligently, often with a dry sense of humor, which of course is very much appreciated here on the coast of Maine. Since I arrived in Bristol Mills eighteen months ago, Phil was instrumental in getting the church bell up and clanging again. He also spearheaded the drive to install panels in the Fellowship Hall to deaden the roar which often occurred when even more than a few people gathered. The acoustics are much better and people can now carry on normal conversations without having to raise their voices. In addition, Phil and his wife, Jan, coordinated the annual Church Fair. Phil's not going anywhere, so his advice will continue to be sought and appreciated. The next sexton will have some big shoes to fill. **Phil, thanks for a job well done!**

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If you receive the church newsletter by email, you will have in your hands the February issue shortly before the Annual Church Business Meeting on Sunday, February 4. This important event gives us the opportunity to once again celebrate our ministry as the Church of Jesus Christ. The proposed budget for 2018 will be presented, discussed, and voted upon. This year's slate of officers, boards, and committees will also be prayerfully considered. Other so-called "business" may be brought before the congregation as deemed appropriate for the building up of the Body of Christ. As an autonomous, self-governing church in covenantal relationship with other like-minded churches, we are directly responsible for seeing to it that our Christian fellowship is functioning well and growing in the faith. I encourage all members and friends of the Congregational Church of Bristol to come to worship on February 4th and participate in the important matters that we will discuss and vote upon. Thank you for supporting our wonderful church here in beautiful downtown Bristol Mills!

Your Pastor and fellow pilgrim,
Jim
Rev. James P. Dowse



The position of Sexton of our Church has an immediate opening. After serving many years, current Sexton, Phil Averill, will be stepping back from his duties. He will still be available to the incoming Sexton as a guide and teacher, but due to Phil's declining health, he has given his notice and asked that we seek out a replacement. Phil has literally written his own job description since he is the only one who knows what needs to be done to keep the church running on a day-to-day basis. The Sexton reports to the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact Chair of the Board, Sandy Holmes at 563-3957. Thank you, Phil, for your many years of service!

- Sandy Holmes

First Sunday Lunch

Join us on Sunday, February 4th after the Annual Meeting at Reunion Station. If you will be joining the group, please let Ron Hunter know so he can make reservations – rahunta@gmail.com or 677-2361.



Food Pantry – February 4th

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.

Bible Scramble

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

ROLD, WOH SLLHA IEDBA NI YTH TRNLEECBAA? WOH SLLHA WLLED NI YTH YOLH
LLIH? EH TTHA WTLKHEA YUTRPLIHG, NDA WTROKHE UTSSSRONIHGEE, NDA
TSPKHEEA EHT UTTRH NI SIH TRHEA.

Website

**In the last few months, there have been some extra-curricular activity going on at the church...
And you can check out the fruits of their labors!**

Many thanks to Debbie Mikulak, Sandy Guibord, and Pastor Jim Dowse for taking on the project of updating our website! Many times that is the first “view” of our church that folks see, and it has been quite a while since we had given the website much attention. It is well organized and features the upcoming schedule as well as some of our church history.

As you can see, we have some “historical” (read—“old”) pictures---but we would **LOVE** to have some new ones to add to our pages. If you have some pictures of past events you can share, we would **love** to add them to our pages as we update each season. Please send them to Debbie at ccob@tidewater.net.

And when you see Debbie, Sandy G., or Pastor Jim—
give them a BIG thank-you for their work!
Check out our updated web site at <http://www.ccobucc.org> .

Deacons Corner

The Deacons are working up a simple new flyer for our church. We're hoping to have one or two lovely new banners to beautify our sanctuary for Lent and Easter.

Pastor Jim will begin another fascinating DVD and discussion series during our pre-Easter season.

We continue to monitor folks in our church family who are home bound or not well. We will be very happy when Nora and Paul Cyr and Dayle Strachan can return to worship with us.

Deacons on for Feb: Leighton Anderson and Dayle Strachan.

The Deacons meet on February 8th at 3:00 pm.

- Judy Van Dine

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Happening in February

February 4	The Lord's Supper, 10:00 am, Annual Church Business Meeting, 11:15 am (Snow date: Feb. 11), First Sunday Lunch at Reunion Station
February 8	Board of Deacons, 3:00 pm
February 14	Ash Wednesday—Service at Noon in the Fellowship Hall
February 18	Trustees Meeting, 8:30 am

Solution to Bible Scramble:

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. Psalm 15:1-2