

## **Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter June 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)**

### **JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER**

#### **June Birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup> - Jess Seiders  
5<sup>th</sup> - Mimi Aldrich, Bill Benner  
10<sup>th</sup> - Babs Read  
12<sup>th</sup> - Ralph Ferguson  
15<sup>th</sup> - Paul Aldrich  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Joyce Thompson  
24<sup>th</sup> - Zachary Grant, Amy Vitanza  
27<sup>th</sup> - Sandra Griffin



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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      June, 2018**

***"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28, NIV***

Greetings in the Lord, Sisters & Brothers in Christ.

Here on the coast of Maine we are blessed with some excellent hospitals: **Miles Memorial** in Damariscotta, **Midcoast** in Brunswick, and **Penn Bay** in Rockland. **Maine Med** in Portland and **Maine General** in Augusta are also fine facilities. For more complicated or specialized treatment, we have the option to go to **Boston**, home to some of the finest hospitals in the United States, if not the world.

People go to the hospital because they are ill in one way or another. While there, the Church prays for the afflicted to be comforted, the sick to be healed, the dying to be tenderly loved, and for all to experience what the Scriptures describe as "the peace which passes all understanding." It is in this medical setting where God's presence is so often desperately needed.

Hospital visits are part and parcel of what it means to be a pastor. I've often thought of the hospital as my "second parish." Being in a hospital setting as a visiting clergy seems about as familiar and important to me as leading worship in our beautiful New England sanctuary. I go to the hospital as Christ's servant representing the local church to which I have been called. I offer prayer and a short reading from the Bible. Sometimes I bring Communion. I try to listen and offer reassurance. Most of all, my pastoral presence is a visible reminder of God's presence. We all need to know that the God who creates, saves, and sustains is right there with us in the operating room, recovery, ICU, the hallways, patients rooms, and even the gift shop and cafeteria.

Recently, I experienced the Lord's presence in a powerful way while visiting one of our CCOB church members in the hospital. We visited and talked for quite some time. Towards the end of our conversation, this Godly person said to me, "Jim, I've been through a lot in my life and I suspect you have too in yours. That's why Romans 8:28 is so important to me." Such a faithful statement sounded like the angels in heaven giving glory to God in the highest! Here I was, expecting once again to be the one designated by God to do the ministering, and

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instead I was the one who was being ministered to. Such is the nature of our serendipitous God who surprises us again and again.

I needed to hear that our loving God truly does "**work for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**" Sometimes we wonder exactly how much God is working in our lives, and if He is, where's the evidence? I needed to listen to one of my "flock" testify to the faith which has sustained them through thick and thin. The Lord reminded me through this Christian's witness that the Bible truly is the living Word of the living God.

Thank God for hospitals and their staff. They are agents of God's healing. One more thing: if you're ever in the hospital and would like a visit, please let me know. The hospital is my "second parish." God is present everywhere in His creation. To God be the glory, great things He has done, and is doing!

Your brother in Christ & fellow pilgrim,

***Jim***

## **Deacons to Meet**

The Deacons for June are Leighton Anderson and Dayle Strachan.

Several members of our board are working on the finishing touches for our new information brochure. We are thinking ahead about our annual picnic. This year we hope to schedule our picnic so our snow birds will be included. Sandy and Chris Averill have graciously offered their lovely home on the river.

Next deacon meeting is Thursday, June 7.

-Judy Van Dine

## **Food Pantry – June 3rd**

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 – June 16**



Join us at 5:30 pm on June 16th 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!

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**Family Fun Day – August 4th**

**Silent Auction** – If you are not available the day of the Family Fun Day (August 4<sup>th</sup>), please consider helping the Silent Auction ahead of time. Starting in late June, early July, solicitors are needed to ask for items for the Silent Auction. I have drop-off sheets for businesses and would like 3 or 4 volunteers to each cover an area. It's well organized and would be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to be a solicitor, please contact me, Sandy Holmes, at 563-3957 or [Sandy04539@hotmail.com](mailto:Sandy04539@hotmail.com). Thank you!

**White Elephant** – Sandy Holmes has a shed available for early drop offs of white elephant items for the Family Fun Day. Please do not drop off stuffed items as there are flying squirrels who might set up their housekeeping in them. Boxed items can be left in Sandy's car on Sundays or arrangements can be made to drop off on other days at Sandy's home. Please see Sandy or give her a call at 563-3957. Thanks!

**Board of Missions**

During church on May 20, we announced our "repurpose" of the penny jar at the back of the church. After our many successful and rewarding years of collecting for "Pennies for peace," we are now saving "loose change and dollars" in the jar for "LOCAL MISSIONS." In the fall we will decide on which local missions will receive these extra donations, and we will welcome your input. We will start this collection NOW!

-Lyn Prentice

**Happening in June**

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 3</b>  | <b>First Sunday: Holy Communion,<br/>Food Pantry, June Birthdays,<br/>Lunch at Reunion Station</b> |
| <b>June 9</b>  | <b>Church Work Party, 9:00 am</b>                                                                  |
| <b>June 10</b> | <b>Guest Minister: Ed Wynne,<br/>Trustees Meeting, 8:30 am</b>                                     |
| <b>June 14</b> | <b>Deacons Meeting, 3:00 pm</b>                                                                    |

