

Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter Sept. 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

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

September Birthdays

9th - Ruth Mercer
15th - Lora Leduc
16th - Raymond Ference
23rd - Leighton Anderson
24th - Celeste Prime, Christine Shea



(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"

September 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been quite a summer here in Maine and around the country. We are still reeling from the chilling acts of bigotry and racism in Charlottesville. It should have come as no surprise to learn that following the violence in Virginia, the KKK advertised its perverted propaganda right here in our neighborhood. Imagine being a resident of Boothbay Harbor or Southport and finding a hate-filled flyer on your front lawn.

I know that doctrines like the "total depravity of man" have fallen out of favor. Yet, the prophet Jeremiah was right on the mark when he wrote, ***"the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"*** (17:9) Was the psalmist not speaking with wisdom when he said, ***"The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is not one who does good, not even one."*** (14:2-3) No one has any legitimate claim to feeling morally superior to any one else. We all stand on equal ground at the foot of the cross. May God have mercy on me, a sinner saved by Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross. How desperately we need to turn back to God.

On a far happier note, our **2017 "Family Fun Fair"** held on Saturday, August 5th, was a rousing success! And I'm not really thinking about our financial "profit" either. Yes, we added to our coffers, and in doing so supported our mission as part of Christ's Church. What I found especially wonderful was the many ways we worked together as a team. We were excited about welcoming people onto our grounds and into our facility. We graced our neighbors, and each other, with smiles, friendly faces, warm hearts, and did so while having some fun. To everyone who worked at this year's Fair: thank you, and thank you again. Well done, good and faithful servants!

The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation is upon us. Out of that theological revolution came Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and many more. We are who we are today in large measure due to the influence of Reformers like Calvin, Luther, Zwingli, and others. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, beginning Sunday, October 15, I will be showing an excellent DVD on the subject put out by the Christian History Institute. As we did last Advent and Lent, we will gather in the

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library after grabbing a few refreshments following worship, watch a 25-minute episode, and leave some time for discussion. The series will conclude on November 26.

This Changed Everything: 500 years of the Reformation celebrates the fruits of the Reformation while exploring difficult questions about the cost of division: *Could schism have been avoided? Is a divided Church in conflict with Jesus' prayer that his followers be "one"? Can calls for greater unity be achieved without compromising key theological truths?* Leading church historians share fascinating insights and pose vital questions about unity, truth, and the future of the Christian Church. I hope to see you there!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Jim

Food Pantry – September 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.



CHIP Community Cares Day – September 9th

To Volunteer for CHIP Community Cares Day, you may go to www.chipinc.org/community or call them at 677-3450. The hours for CHIP Community Cares Day are 7:30 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers are needed for making food, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, yard work, painting, and more.



Deacon's Corner (Next Meeting – September 7th at 3:30 PM)

A big thank you to Jeannie Hunter for making a very beautiful curtain for the window as you come into the church hall.

Please take a minute to sign cards for our church family who are unable to attend church services. The cards will be in the Fellowship Hall during KISS Refreshments.

Thank you to all who signed up to supply KISS Refreshments and also who signed up to give Maddie Hobbs a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Maddie is so very grateful to be able to come to our church services.

Deacons for Sept. are Christina Bradbury & Judy Van Dine
Deacons for Oct. are Leighton Anderson & Jeannie hunter
Deacons for Nov. are Becky Collamore & Diane Hall
Deacons for Dec. are Christina Bradbury & Dayle Strachan

-Dayle Strachan

Church Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on Wednesday, September 13th at 4:00 PM. Church Council Members, please send agenda items to Ron Hunter at rahunata@gmail.com or call Ron at 677-2361.



Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper – September 16th

Please join us on Saturday, September 16th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our delicious Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper with all the fixins including dessert and beverage - \$8 per person!!

Happening in September

Deacons Meeting, 3:30 pm	Sept. 7
CHIP Community Cares Day	Sept. 9
Missions Meeting, 10 am	Sept. 13
Church Council Meeting, 4pm	Sept. 13
(Members, please send agenda items to Ron Hunter)	
Baked Beans Supper, 5:30 pm	Sept. 16
