

Day's Ferry Congregational Church Weathervane

FALL 2016

CALENDAR

2016

- Nov. 27 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 4 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 11 Advent Luncheon/Carol Sing
- Dec. 18 4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm
- Dec. 25 No Sunday Service

2017

- Jan. 1 Regular Sunday Worship
- Jan. 22 Church Annual Meeting

Our Prayer Shawl Group

In the early 2000's, Karen Weidner and a few others began a prayer shawl group at Day's Ferry Congregational Church. Karen recently recalled: "I don't know where I heard about prayer shawls, but I thought to myself 'what a wonderful idea' and it is something a few of us could easily do."

Well . . . 15 years later, the Prayer Shawl Group is going strong with eight regular members. The group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 10 am at a member's home. The next meeting is Friday, October 7, 10 am at Barbie Parker's home.

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Our Latest Baptism

On Sunday, September 4, Rev. Baughcum baptized Grace Reed Zavratsky, daughter of Alex and Kate Parker Zavratsky. Grace is also the granddaughter of Susan and Jack Parker and the great granddaughter of Barbie Parker and Betty Reed. There were many Parkers and Reeds in church for this happy occasion.





Prayer Shawl Knitters at Charlotte Kirkpatrick's home on September 16

Left to right—Blanche Johnson, Joan Hardy, Nancy Bliss, Chloe Carmer, Charlotte Kirkpatrick, Barbie Parker & Donna Bergquist. Missing (but not forgotten)—Polly Thorpe.

No need to know how to knit—others will be happy to teach you. Please contact Charlotte Kirkpatrick at charkirk@gwi.net or 443-3966 for more information.

When the group has completed a batch of shawls, they are brought to church for a blessing and are then distributed in the community. Our group donates some shawls to Hospice Volunteers of Mid Coast Maine, and others are given to members of our congregation and their friends and families, or others in our community dealing with loss or trouble. If you have need of a shawl for a friend or loved one, please contact Charlotte.

The shawls are presented with a prayer: *May God's grace be upon this shawl . . . warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing, in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.*

In addition to providing comfort to others, the group “knits” the makers of the shawls together. A few hours a month spent knitting and conversing with friends, and sharing tea and cookies, is good for you and for others!



Balt von Huene will be starting his sophomore year at Dartmouth College by spending a semester in London. He will be studying literature at King's College London. Ta-ta for now, Balt!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, graduates of the Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary, gave birth to the prayer shawl ministry – knitting and providing shawls for those in need of comfort. Since then hundreds of “prayer shawl ministries” have been started on a grass-roots basis at churches of all denominations across the country and internationally. The ministry is committed to the idea that shawls are given away unconditionally and are NOT to be sold. You can find more information about the prayer shawl ministry, including knitting instructions, at www.shawlministry.com

A NOTE ABOUT OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

From Rev. Dr. Alan Baughcum

Have you ever wondered, perhaps during a slow bit during the sermon, whether our church has always looked as it does today? In researching the history of our congregation, I found a description of the extensive renovation of the church in the late 1800's – the height of the Victorian Era – in the American Sentinel (a weekly Bath newspaper), February 12, 1891:

“The two Mrs. Marsh, of Boston, have presented a communion table to the Day's Ferry Congregational church in memory of their mother, Mrs. Warren nee Hathorn. This handsome piece of furniture will be a fitting adjunct to the elegant pulpit suit recently purchased for the church. The interior now is most attractive, with its ceiling of blue, harmonizing with the old ivory tints of the walls, and the stencil work of various soft shades, in which crushed strawberry prevails. The pews are comfortable and modern. Texture work frames the stained glass windows, and when the carpet, of a rich pattern, is laid, it will be as cosy as country church need be. Two chandeliers and an abundance of side lamps will afford for evening service.

To Capt. John R. Kelly is due great thanks; as in memory of his mother, he has given lavishly to assist the society in their efforts, efforts which would never have been made without the incentive of his aid and advice.

No one in town, outside of Day's Ferry society, has been asked to contribute, one gentleman was invited to purchase a pew and gave, as voluntary gift twenty dollars. All are pleased with the church from the new spirt to the tidy little library.”

The description of the colorful interior is especially interesting given that ours is a Congregational church, descended from Puritans and Pilgrims who insisted on plain church architecture and interiors. Apparently the architectural and furniture preferences of the Victorians overcame Congregational simplicity . . . a blue ceiling, stencil work emphasizing “crushed strawberries” and more than one stained-glass window! I believe that we are still using the pulpit suit.

As for those modern and comfortable pews, remember that people of that time would have been at least an inch shorter (on average) and perhaps 30 pounds lighter than we are. Maybe they did in fact enjoy the pews, and without cushions.

Captain John R. Kelley was born at Phippsburg in 1828 and died in Bath in 1901. He attended school first in the old stone schoolhouse in Phippsburg and later in Woolwich. He began his seafaring career at age 16. At 23 he became master of the ship "Genoa". His career as master extended over 31 years, and was highly successful, never suffering a more severe accident than the loss of the foremast of his last ship—the “Tacoma”.

After his return to Bath in 1886 he became senior partner in the new firm of Kelley, Spear & Company, which launched its first vessel from the Goss & Sawyer yards in 1887, and its 106th in 1901, a week prior to his death. He contributed freely to the cause of religion, and remembered the Congregational Church of Woolwich, Winter Street Congregational Church, and the People's Church of Bath, with generous contributions.

Captain Kelley married Abigail P. Baker from a family of pioneer settlers of Woolwich. She was educated in Woolwich schools and subsequently taught school in her native town until her marriage. She was a woman of more than ordinary intelligence, a devout and consistent Christian. See http://dunhamwilcox.net/me/me_bio_kelley.htm

We probably pooh-pooh the notion that a \$20 contribution for a pew would be worthy of mention in the newspaper. However \$20 in 1891 would be worth more than \$525 today. Very generous! And what about that “tidy little library”? Perhaps one of the closets in the rear of the sanctuary was used during that period as a small library.

My aim is to continue to investigate the rich history of our congregation with an eye to compiling that material into a book. If you are interested in working with me on this, please let me know. If you have photos, records, or other materials related to the church hiding in your attic, please consider giving those items to the church as we try to learn more about the lives of the saints who went before us.



Please send your newsletter input to Annie Miller at farnermiller@comcast.net, or 207-607-1115, or 61 Brookings Bay Road, Woolwich, ME 04579

Attendance/Membership Update

As those who have greeted on Sunday morning know, we record attendance at our services. To date in 2016, attendance is running about the same as it has for the last few years at 43 people on average for a Sunday service. Attendance has been stable since 2012. Although we have fewer children, we have added new adult attendees.

Currently, the church has 83 active members, including both Covenant and Parish members. Covenant members are those who have formally joined the church; Parish members have not formally joined but are active in the church. In the last year the Church has welcomed **SEVEN** new covenant members into our congregation and a number of new Parish members. We're holding our own!

Southwest Report (Day's Ferry West)

From Nancy & Bob Allen

“But it’s dry heat!” That may well be, but at 114 deg. F. it’s hot, not matter how dry it is. That was our welcome to Green Valley for the first month we were here. Where are the cool ocean breezes and green woods?

We have adjusted nicely in spite of the heat. Our house is single floor (no stairs), tiled (no carpet to get dirty) and has a wonderful view of the Santa Rita Mountains and Elephant Head. Our neighborhood is different than West Bath. Lots of people to talk to as we walk our dog. We’ve been hosting Brunches for Eight to get to know our neighbors better. And there are some fascinating people here. A fair number are part-time residents so they are still away. We had dinner with Art and Karen Weidner after their trip back to Maine.

Speaking of dogs, our longtime companion Sallie opted to adopt the Snells as her new family rather than traveling with us to Green Valley. We get photos of her and she has found a good home with them. We have adopted a shelter dog, mostly Pointer, a sweet girl of about three years named Bella Lee.

There are many activities that we are beginning to participate in as the fall schedule commences. Nancy plays pool with a group of women once a week. I signed up for a

photography club and am considering others. We have been church shopping and have found one almost as friendly as Day’s Ferry. The choir doesn’t start until the end of September.

Miss all of you. You were and still are our Church Family.



GRANDFATHER CLOCK

In honor of his extended family, Gordon Struble has donated a grandfather clock to the church. It sits in the vestibule next to the sanctuary and can be heard softly tolling every ½ hour. It was purchased by Gordon's great aunt Florence and husband Freddie Grabow, who Gordon remembers paying for his braces and college tuition. It was then passed on to succeeding generations and now to us. Thank you, Gordon.

BATH HUNGER WALK

The 1st Annual Bath Hunger Walk was held on September 11. The 5K walk netted about \$4,500 for the Bath Area Food Bank. DFCC walkers, Nancy Coffin and her daughter Nancy, Blanche Johnson, and Rev. Baughcum raised about \$2,000 of the total. Congratulations to all!

Please keep the Weidner Family in your prayers. Art and Karen's son Steve has recently been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.



Garden Report



Our garden provided the following to the Bath Food Bank this summer:

- 8 crookneck squash
- 1 pint strawberries
- 5 pints cherry tomatoes
- 3 dozen carrots
- 11 lbs green beans
- 2 dozen beets
- 4 lbs sugar snap peas
- 2 dozen radishes

Thank you to Elizabeth Gray and Michael Sinton and the Events Committee for supporting the garden. The Bath Food Bank was extremely appreciative of our contributions of locally grown fresh produce.

