

Day's Ferry Congregational Church Weathervane

Spring 2017



FROM THE PASTOR

Experience has shown, and tradition has long supported, the wisdom of granting those in the teaching and religious professions a period of time for rest, recreation and renewal after years of continuous service. My call with Day's Ferry provides for a three-month sabbatical after five years of service to the church and I have chosen to spend June, July, and August of 2017 on sabbatical. Thanks to David Miller and the Deacons for securing the able services of Rev. Jim Henry to provide preaching and pastoral coverage for those months.

CALENDAR

- June 4** Rev. Henry's 1st Sunday
- June 18** Laity Sunday—Nancy Bliss will deliver the sermon
- June 24** Sunday worship moves to 9 am
- July 11** Bowdoin International Music Festival Concert at DFCC
- July 29** DFCC Yard Sale
- Sept 3** Rev. Baughcum's Return
- Sept 10** Sunday worship returns to 10 am

Because sabbaticals are most effective when one is truly absent from the congregation, many pastors travel to distant places. Donna and I hope to travel to a couple of our national parks out west (e.g., Yosemite and Zion). But for the most part we will stay close to home. I hope to be writing this summer, something for which my church duties have left little time.

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It may be that I have three short books or pamphlets in me. First, I would like to attempt a book of humor for pastors. Trust me – ministers need humor in their lives and congregations enjoy a little levity in the sermons. And, if you think the jokes I have shared with you in my sermons are bad, you should hear the truly awful and trite jokes I have discarded! Yikes!

It is amazingly difficult to be funny. Humor is so ephemeral, a function of timeliness and the customs and mores of society and the context and timing of the delivery. What is funny now might not be funny at all a month from now. To write humor that lasts like that of Mark Twain or my current favorite, Dave Barry, is a gift that is almost miraculous.

I also want to write a book for the general public about what Christianity is. Too many people think that it is complicated . . . there are lots of things we have to believe . . . or the worship service is too complicated (and long) . . . or the church itself is complex and often wrong on important issues. I love to preach at Day's Ferry but there is a part of me that wants to get the message of God's love to more people than I can reach on Sunday morning, and particularly to people who would never set foot in a church.

Finally, I want to put together a book on the history of our beloved congregation. I'd like to explore the ways that our church has been affected by population and economic and social shifts in Maine. I would like to identify the constants that have characterized our congregation over the years and perhaps find guides for our future together.

Last, but certainly not least, I am trying to get myself into better physical condition. It is my aim to get into good enough shape to attempt to climb Mt. Katahdin before my 70th birthday. If you would like to hike that mountain with me, probably in early September, let me know.

I look forward to returning to fellowship with you in September. I hope that you have a wonderful summer and that we are all refreshed and renewed for the beginning of autumn, perhaps the most beautiful season of all in Maine.

Peace,

Alan

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

In Rev. Baughcum's call to our pulpit, a provision was made for a three-month sabbatical after five years of service to our congregation. Rev. Baughcum will take June, July and August this summer to pursue a number of personal and professional interests. We look forward to his return in September.

The Deacons are excited that Rev. James Henry will lead us in worship during Alan's sabbatical. Rev. Henry is the son of a minister, born in Beaver Falls, PA, where he completed high school. He earned a B.A. in philosophy from Nyack College in Nyack, NY, and received his divinity degree from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

After some time as a minister, he explored a career change as a guidance counselor, but he soon realized that he yearned to return to the ecumenical, community atmosphere of a pastoral calling. He served as the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Middleboro, MA, and then, as he said, "geography trumped denomination." and he was called as the settled pastor of the Elijah Kellogg congregation in Harpswell, ME, for 13 years.

He "retired" in 2010, but has continued as an interim pastor with four congregations on the Maine coast since then. Jim and Marge will celebrate 50 years of marriage this June with their children Amy and Jim and their grandchildren. An occasional visitor to our church in the past, we welcome back Rev. Henry and look forward to his leadership in worship and pastoral care this summer. He begins his ministry with us on June 4.



Rev. Henry can be reached at:

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NEW MEMBERS

On March 26, we welcomed two new covenant members – Nancy Devens and Owen Williams – shown here with Rev. Baughcum and Deacon Charlie Durfee.



Nancy Devens and her husband, David, grew up as neighbors in Rowayton, CT, and were raised in the Episcopal church. They married in 1985 at the Congregational church in Mystic, CT, and their two children (Lucy, 30, and Robert, 26) were baptized at the Mystic Congregational Church. They joined the Old Lyme Congregational Church in 1990 and attended the satellite chapel, Mile Creek Chapel. Nancy and family moved to Niantic, CT, in 1988 and the children attended local schools. Recently Nancy and David moved to Day's Ferry and they are excited to be part of our community.

Owen Williams grew up in West Bath and went to high school in Hampden. He graduated from Husson College with a BS in Business and married Laurie in Camden in 1969. They have two married sons – Eric and Cynthia live in Cambridge, MA, with 10-month-old Beth and Mike and Amanda live in Elliot, ME. After living in New Hampshire for over 35 years, Owen and Laurie moved back to West Bath last November. Owen worked in the nursery business for 40 years. His last position was at Freshwater Farms in Atkinson, NH, where he was the operations manager for 14 years. Both Owen and Laurie enjoy boating, gardening and a good book when time allows.

GARDEN PLANTING

Our summer garden was planted on May 21 with Elizabeth Gray leading the way. Crops include tomatoes, strawberries, beans, carrots, onions, peas, beets, blueberries and spinach. Harvests will be donated to the Bath Area Food Bank.



AUCTION REPORT (from Annie Miller)

Our 15th annual silent auction was held on April 29 at Boom Cove Lodge. We raised the 2nd highest total yet--\$11,970. We hosted 60 guests with food and drink and about 100 items and services for bidding donated by 28 donors. Thanks to all who donated items, came and bid, and brought your friends and family. Special thanks to Charlotte Kirkpatrick, Sally Davis, Erica Davis, Lynn Moore, and Doug and Joan Hardy for managing the check-in/check-out table so ably; to Sally Davis and Judy Langord (and all the dessert cooks!) for handing the kitchen and making sure we were well fed; and to the Parker and Reed families for once again being our generous and gracious hosts for this fun, and successful, event.



SUMMER HOURS

Once again we will move our Sunday worship service to 9 am to accommodate summertime activities during the next three months. The first service at 9 am will occur on June 24. We will resume our usual time of 10 am on September 10.

Also during the summer, the Deacons will take responsibility for a simplified coffee hour. The Deacons will also provide potted plants for the sanctuary. Members are still free to sign up to share their garden's bounty during the summer if they wish. Just move the potted plants aside for that Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

While we do not have formal Sunday School during the summer months, the basement Sunday school rooms are available for parents and children if they wish to use them.

Right: Sunset through the windows during Tenebrae



YARD SALE

We will hold a church yard sale on Saturday, July 29, in the parking lot behind the church. The sale will be advertised in local papers and signs on local roads. Tables will be set up for items donated by church members; proceeds from the sale of these items will go to the church. Last time, we raised about \$800 for the church. If you have items for the church tables, please contact Michael Sinton at 207-442-7753 or dbpmaine@prexar.com or leave them in the study at church clearly marked "YARD SALE". In addition, church or community members may set up their own tables.

EASTER ALBUM

Easter season this year included Palm Sunday with a parade of palms, our contemplative Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, our traditional breakfast on Easter morning followed by the service, highlighted by the children adorning the cross with flowers.





WORK DAY

Here's the crew at our May work day.

Front: Linda Wood, Charlotte Kirkpatrick, John and Jean Plummer.

Back: Lorna Andrews, Gordon Struble, Dan Wood and Doug Hardy.

Thank you for all the hard work keeping our church and parish hall sound and beautiful.

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

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