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THE WOODFORDS BEACON
Woodfords Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
202 Woodford Street
Portland ME 04103

Address Service Requested

April Beacon
Mailed 3/28/2007

The Woodfords Beacon

April 2007



We aspire to be a 'God Centered', 'Inclusive Christian',
'Just Peace' and 'Open and Affirming' church.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, April 1 (nursery care provided)

8:15 am Chapel Worship with a dramatic reading
of the Passion Narrative

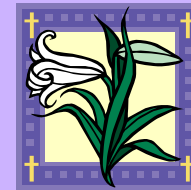
10:30 am Family Worship with a dramatic reading of the
Passion Narrative featuring music by the Chancel, Cherub
and Choral Choirs

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 5,

7:30 pm Service of Tenebrae with Foot Washing and
Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6, 12:00 pm Chapel Service

HOLY SATURDAY, April 7, Easter Vigil



EASTER SERVICES SUNDAY, APRIL 8

9:00am and 11:00am Sanctuary Worship
(nursery care provided)

These identical services will feature music by the Woodfords
Chancel and Pilgrim Choirs with Brass, Percussion, and
Organ, including the Hallelujah Chorus.

Tree of Life for April



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Peter Anania 02	Jessica Doughty 19
Turner Berueffy 02	Cora Melcher 19
Peter Frey 02	Doris Gene Briggs 20
Jean Hoffses 03	Ralph Coffin 20
Dorothy Johnson 03	Kristen Watson 20
Carol Adsit 04	Jacob Webster 20
Reta Rumrill 05	Renee Gagnon 21
Susan Staples 05	Alison Lunt 21
Amity Chadbourne 07	Ted Hodgson 22
Joanne Friedrick 07	Sally Chaplin 24
Jill Johnson 07	Georgia Doughty 24
Ben Heasly 08	Clyda Gagnon 24
Anne Kennedy 08	Robert Goodspeed 25
James Marcroft 08	Tom Goodspeed 25
Andrew Gervais 09	Ethan Koster 25
Kevin Stanhope 09	Rita Zanichkowsky 25
Allan Knight 10	Vera Carlson 26
Julia Warn 11	Kathy Lucas 26
Cheryl Honer-Hickey 12	Drusilla Pedro 26
Allen Wilbur 13	Janet Weidler 26
Heather Hamilton 14	Selma Goddard 27
Marcia McAfee 15	Sarah Clark 29
Anne Troxell 15	
Jackson Frey 18	



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Carrie & Larry Porcelli	4/05/1986
Claire & Peter Anania	4/18/1953
Chad & Kristina Priest	4/20/2002
Carol & Paul Gillis	4/29/1978
Susan & Brent Wooten	4/30/1997

The Woodfords Beacon is published by:

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 202 Woodford Street Portland Maine 04103
 Tel: 774-8243 Fax: 773-3317
www.woodfordschurch.org

editor: Sharon Stephenson, Church Secretary
 email: sstephenson@woodfordschurch.org

**ARTICLES FOR
 NEXT BEACON
 DUE
 April 20, 2007**

Woodfords Staff email addresses and extensions are:

Jody Bingham: ext 109 jbingham@woodfordschurch.org	Harold Stover: ext 105 hstover@woodfordschurch.org
Tracy Doolittle: ext 107 tdoolittle@woodfordschurch.org	Larry Stuart: ext 108: lstuart@woodfordschurch.org
Don Hodgson: 774-8203 dhodgson@woodfordschurch.org	Melissa Tryon: ext 104 mtryon@woodfordschurch.org
Carolyn U. Lambert: ext 102 clambert@woodfordschurch.org	Richard Weidler: ext 101 rweidler@woodfordschurch.org
Sharon Stephenson: ext 103 sstephenson@woodfordschurch.org	

Date	Preacher/Worship Leader	Lectionary/Scripture Reading
4/1	The Reading of the Passion Narrative	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
4/8	Weidler	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, I Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18, or Luke 24:1-12
4/15	To be announced	Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31
4/22	Earth Day Worship	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
4/29	Hodgson	Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

COUNTING TEAMS	
Date	Team
4/1	6
4/8	1
4/15	2
4/22	3
4/29	4

DEACON'S SCHEDULE		
Date	Usher Team	Head Deacons
4/1	6	England/Peterson
4/8		SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS
4/15	8	Carten/Frye-Macomber
4/22	1	Baldwin/Wilson
4/29	2	Campbell/Maurice/Meader

COMMUNION SUNDAY—	
Elements Team	Nolan/Stewart
Communion Servers	Barrows/D'Bourget/Hennessey/Moore/White

Regular Church Service
 times are 8:15am & 10:30am

EASTER SERVICES ARE AT 9:00AM & 11:00AM

 The church office is open
Tuesday—Friday
 9:30 am—4:00 pm

Woodfords Finances as of February 28, 2007

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Pledge Income	48,947	56,228
Expenses	125,004	97,987



The congregation sends its blessings to Julie Ann Heinrich and family upon the news of the death of her aunt, Helen Gabrick. Helen passed away peacefully at age 94 on Friday, March 9th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Julie Ann and Helen were particularly close, and worked together last Labor Day weekend to compile a book of Helen's poems describing the pioneer life of their immigrant family in Minnesota.



The congregation is saddened by the news of the death of Willis Stiles on March 16th. Willis had been a member of Woodfords Church since 1944.



The congregation is saddened by the news of the death of Gloria Gustin on March 13. Gloria had been a member of Woodfords Church since 1999.

Blessings and Prayers to the Weidler Family

The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to the Weidler family upon the news of the death of their Golden Retriever, Zachary, who passed away on March 3.



Hanley with a child

**Join the Safe Passage
5k Run/Walk on April 28**

Please join us to raise money for Safe Passage by participating in the 3rd Annual Safe Passage 5k in Cumberland on April 28th at 8:00am. This year the race will hold a special place in our hearts as we celebrate the life of Safe Passage founder, Hanley Denning.

This is a 5K road race and ALL are welcome. Walkers and runners are both encouraged to join. This is a great event for the whole family.

Please pass this information along to anyone that you think may be interested.



Where oh where are the Easter Eggs?

Join the fun and hunt for Easter Eggs! Children from Nursery through Church School ages can meet in the Cloister at 10:30am on Easter Sunday and then help the Easter Bunny find her eggs! The bunny is hoping she will be able to hide eggs outside this year! She will again hide eggs for the youngest in a spot just for them. So bring your basket and be ready at 10:30 am.

Bring in Your Food Bags for Palm Sunday or Easter



Every friend and member of Woodfords church is challenged and encouraged to respond to the well-known needs for food pantry support in our community. **Project Feed is having a Palm & Easter Sunday Food Drive. It is indeed a gift to us; an opportunity for us to put our faith into practice and bring in food and/or monetary donations for Project Feed.**

Everyone is asked to bring in high need items for the pantry: **canned and dried fruit and protein items, (such as tuna, beef stew, corned beef hash and spam).** If EACH member and friend of Woodfords brought in a grocery bag with some of these items, just think how full we could make the Project Feed pantry shelves. (Sadly, the shelves would not stay full for long.)

Palm Sunday, April 1 or Easter Sunday, April 8, are the days to bring in your canned or dried fruit and protein items and any monetary donations (**with checks made out directly to Project Feed**). As always, please no outdated or opened foodstuffs.

“We thank you God for food and remember the hungry. May our remembrance stir us to service that your gifts to us may be used for others.”

KD Class to Work on Fair Projects

The K.D. Class will meet on Tuesday, April 24 at 11:30 am in Seely Hall for a covered dish luncheon and meeting. We will be working on items to sell at the Fair. Please bring a casserole or salad to share. Betty McCall will serve as hostess.

Fox Class to Hold Birthday Party and Annual Meeting

The Fox Class will meet Wednesday, April 11 in Seely Hall at 10:30 am. This will be both the Annual Meeting and a Birthday Party! Members should bring a wrapped and signed gift worth \$5.00. The lunch will be 'brown bag'. Officers should have their annual reports.

Congratulations to Rev. Jim Howard

This past Sunday, the Marshwood Congregational Church, UCC, celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Jim Howard, their Pastor and our Former Interim Associate Pastor. Altar flowers were sent from the staff and members of Woodfords Church in celebration of this occasion.

Greetings to everyone at Woodfords!

What a delightful and beautiful surprise I experienced yesterday in worship here at The First Congregational Church of Marshfield: a stunning arrangement of flowers gracing the altar, a gift from all of you to share in the Thirtieth Anniversary of my ordination into Christian ministry! Thank you, thank you, ever so much for such thoughtfulness!

My heartfelt blessings to you all!
Jim Howard

Dear Lord,

So far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.

"The truth can revolutionize the way we love, and the way we love can revolutionize the way we live."
-Megan Don

Good Friday's ADULT EDUCATION to 'Walk' the Mystical Pathway

The Christian Education Committee's "Good Friday's" Adult Education program will resume on Friday, May 4th at 6:00pm. A light supper will be served. Location TBD

Megan Don will be the guest speaker. Originally from New Zealand, Megan has spent many years traveling to pursue her interests in spirituality and mysticism, which took her to India and the Middle East where she studied Hindu Bhakti and Islamic Sufi traditions. Returning to Melbourne, Australia, she sought to find the mystic element in Christianity, which in turn led her to become deeply involved with the spirituality of Teresa of Avila– the great Spanish mystic and Carmelite nun .

In 2001, Megan went to Avila, Spain to conduct research for her book, "Falling into the Arms of God: Meditations with Teresa of Avila". Today, Megan is a spiritual counselor and lectures and teaches workshops on the Mystical Pathway. She teaches at among other places, at the Esalen Institute in California.

Megan will discuss her spiritual journeys, Teresa of Avila, and mystical living. She writes, "For women who are struggling to find their place in the mystical body of Christ, Teresa is a shining light and her life is a reminder to remain true to our inner selves and direction."

The Coffee-Making Mission

Every Sunday after church a gathering takes place– for the most part it is social– meeting church friends, greeting new faces, checking in with one another. For some folks it is the only real social gathering they are able to take part in all week. Hospitality– coffee and refreshments– play a big part in this important mission.

All too often the same folks are involved making coffee and serving refreshments. If you are willing to help out with this important mission of the church, please sign up in the Cloister next Sunday! The more folks that sign up, the less work it becomes for everyone!

Preparations Begin for the Easter Vigil

The Diaconate of Woodfords Congregational Church once again offers the opportunity for our faith community to observe a vigil on Holy Saturday into Easter Sunday.

A **vigil** (from the Latin *vigilia*, 'wakefulness') is a period of sleeplessness, an occasion for devotional watching or observance. In Christianity a vigil is often held when someone is gravely ill, or dying. When a Jew dies, a watch is kept over the body and selections from the Book of Psalms are recited constantly, until the burial service.

Hourly slots are available to any and all Woodfords members and friends. A sign-up poster will be in the Cloister on Palm Sunday. Devotional readings will be available, and/or you are invited to bring your own. The vigil is held in the Chapel.

Over the years, participants have welcomed this intentional meditative time as the dawn of Easter approaches. Some have prayed, written in journals, meditated on a piece of Scripture or sacred artwork. For some, participating in a ritual that has been practiced for hundreds of years – and certainly by the followers of Jesus at his death – has transported them from the distractions of their 21st century lives to the uncertainty and confusion of the first hours following the Crucifixion. And for others, sitting quietly (sometimes for the first time in weeks!) and being aware that Christians all over the world are also waiting and praying has been a profoundly moving experience.

We would love to have enough participants this year to keep the light burning throughout the night. Sign up in the Cloister!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to see, call or e-mail John Maurice (775-4966 or jnmaurice@verizon.net) or Kathy Helming (771-7802 or khelming@maine.rr.com).

Church Women United to Meet April 9

CWU will meet at the Standish Congregational Church on Monday, April 9th. This is the Annual Meeting for the organization, which will begin at 11:30am, with a 12:30pm lunch. At the time this went to press, Rev. Jill Saxby of the Maine Council of Churches was scheduled to be guest speaker.

Achieving Global Energy Security



The day-long Achieving Global Energy Security (AGES) conference at USM on Friday, April 13, will be the first of its kind, connecting the work of organizations and individuals concerned about energy policies, nuclear issues, global warming, preemptive war strategy in general and the Iraq War. The conference is sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches, University of Southern Maine Office of Environmental Sustainability, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Maine Public Health Association, among other organizations. Harry Brown of the Maine Interfaith Power and Light and Jill Saxby, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, will join a number of prominent international speakers, including Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD, who chaired the World Congress of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and Michael Renner, senior researcher at the Worldwatch Institute

For more information and to register, you may call 772-6714 or the USM Department of Conferences. Registration is \$35 per person; student fee \$20. Scholarships are available.

The Portland String Quartet Concert Series Continues at Woodfords Church

Sunday, April 29, 3:00pm, (pre-concert lecture at 2:00pm).

The PSQ will perform the String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4 by Joseph Haydn and String Quartet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 68 by Dmitri Shostakovich.

General admission is \$20.00; seniors, \$18.00, 21 and younger, free.

As always, there are free tickets for the asking (at the door) for members of Woodfords Church.



followed by a movie (my passion), and getting another dog. Things that will nurture me *Physically* include: scheduling my annual Physical (which is overdue!), getting back in the regular routine of exercising 3-5 times a week, loose some excess weight, working in the garden, and you guessed it, getting another dog!

As I look forward to this time away to recharge my batteries, I am grateful to the Maine Conference for its guidelines regarding Sabbaticals, and to Woodfords and her leaders for being such good stewards of her pastors that you expect us pastors to take time off for rejuvenation and refreshment each year during vacation and a more extended time every five years. I must say, I will have a hard time staying away, and refraining from calling Carolyn to "check in." However she has made it very clear that she won't be calling me nor will she be taking my calls! I will look forward to my return at the beginning of August, refreshed and ready to move full speed ahead with the Strategic Planning Process, and the next five years of congregational growth.

Update from the Personnel Committee Regarding Reverend Weidler's Sabbatical

Under the authority of the Council of Ministries, the Personnel Committee has been working with Richard and Carolyn to secure additional pastoral leadership and support during the time that Richard is on sabbatical. Richard and Carolyn have done initial screening interviews with two potential candidates. The Personnel Committee will conduct final interviews during the week of March 26. We are optimistic that a finalist will be selected and hired before Richard begins his sabbatical in the middle of April.

-Jeffrey Jordan, Chairman
Personnel Committee

A Special Thank You from the Weidler Family

Janet, Andrew, Rebecca, and I want to thank the congregation for the many cards of condolence and kind thoughts we received following the death of Zachary, our Golden Retriever.

-Richard Weidler

A Sabbatical: Re-charging of the Batteries

By Richard Weidler

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that God (sic) had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done." Genesis 2: 1-2

A little over five years ago, you, in collaboration with God's Spirit, called me to the work of pastoring this fine congregation called Woodfords Church. While we haven't been about anything as grandiose as "creating the heavens and the earth," we have been about the work and ministry of re-visioning, and recreating our beloved Woodfords. Ours has been a blessed ministry of remembering and honoring the past, creating a stable, stimulating, and loving present, and preparing for the exciting future that God is calling us toward. Our work together these years has had difficult moments of struggle, and it has also had periods of new birth which have been incredibly exhilarating and rewarding! We have come a million exciting miles these past years, and we have many more to go!!

The Genesis story reminds us of the importance of periodic resting and recharging. (Each year we encourage our outgoing Church Moderator to take a year-long "sabbatical" from leadership positions as a way to re-charge his/her batteries.) Each year most of us take time away from work during vacation.

At the end of January I completed my fifth year of service at Woodfords and became eligible for a three month paid sabbatical. Some of you have asked me, "What are you going to do during your sabbatical?" My goal during these next months of sabbath is to nurture myself, spiritually, relationally, and physically. Things that will nurture me ***Spiritually*** include: attending a week-long "Transformational Preaching Conference" in Nashville, Tennessee in May; attending the week-long General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Hartford, Connecticut in June; reading the writings of some pre-modern Mystics such as Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingham, and Meister Eckhart; working in the garden; resting; getting another dog and houstraining same. Things that will renew me ***Relationally*** include: spending some time with my 91 year old father in Florida; visiting my four sisters if possible; realizing that Andrew will be away at college next year, I hope to have some quality time with him during my sabbatical. I plan to take him to several Red Sox games at Fenway (his passion) as well as Seadogs games; take my daughter to several plays (her passion) as well as some college visits; take my wife out for dinner several times (her passion)

Living Our Covenants for L Company

When a child is baptized at Woodfords Church, the Congregation covenants with the parents and the child that we will provide our love, support and care as they grow in Christ. When that same child grows up and is confirmed, we welcome them as members of our Congregation and we again covenant to provide our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. When Gayton and Joanne Bartlett brought their baby Alan to Woodfords for baptism, this covenant was pledged. When Alan was confirmed on January 7, 2001, we again pledged our support and prayers for the journey of his life. Today, Alan is a young man, also known as Corporal Alan P. Bartlett of the United States Marine Corp. He is deployed in Iraq and is in need of our support and prayers. Consequently, after discussion with the Diaconate, the Council of Ministries has pledged that Woodfords Congregational Church will adopt Alan's troop, known as L Company.

We are working with a Sergeant in L Company to maintain necessary security and he will assure that items are distributed to those in need. A specific list will be posted soon and there will be frequent mailings of packages. We will not know the names of the individuals in the Company; however, we do know they are all in need of our prayers and they all have families who are in need of our prayers also. After our prayers, we know that notes and cards are much needed, so we ask you to consider writing a quick note or card of encouragement. The Council of Ministries is working with our committees and groups so that everyone can participate. Our kids can draw pictures to send. Our choir is collecting cd's to send. Real Property is finding a place for us to store items between mailings. We are in this for the long haul because our covenant promised our support and prayers for life. Thank you to Gayton and Joanne Bartlett for sharing their son and thus this opportunity with us. Thank you to Alan Bartlett for being a beloved child of God who has shared his life at Woodfords Congregational Church.

Yours in Christ,
Linette C. George
Moderator

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
1 <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> COMMUNION SUNDAY Project FEED Food Bag Collection 10:30am- Carol & Cherub Choirs will sing during worship 5:00pm-AA Meeting	2 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 3:00pm-FOKO meeting 6:00pm-Portland Comm Chorus	3 8:00am-Men's Disc. Group 9:30am-Together in Faith 9:45am-Readers Roundtable 6:00am-Overeaters Anon -Women in Harmony 7:00pm-Debtors Anon -Wayside Soup Exec	4 9:30am-LaLeche League 10:00am- Bible Class 6:15am-AA 7:00pm-Fellowship Comm -Membership Comm -Social Action/Mission 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	5 12:00pm-Men of Woodfords 5:30pm-Men's Basketball 7:30pm-Maundy Thursday Office of Tenebrae	6 12:00pm-Good Friday Service 7:00pm-AA	7 Senior Youth- Habitat for Humanity Walk Easter Vigil		
8 <u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> Project FEED Food Bag Collection 9:00am- Worship Service 10:00am-Annual Chancel Choir Brunch 10:30am-Easter Egg Hunt- Cloister 11:00am-Worship Service (No Youth Groups today) 5:00pm-AA	9 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 6:00pm-Portland Comm Chorus 6:30pm-Maine School of Science	10 8:00am-Men's Disc. Group 9:30am-Together in Faith 10:00am-Longfellow Garden 12:00pm-Cumberland Assoc 6:00pm-Choral Art Society -Overeaters Anon -Women in Harmony 6:30pm-Woodfords Knitters -PFLAG 7:00pm-Debtors Anon -Wayside Soup Exec	11 9:30am-LaLeche League 10:00am- Bible Class 10:30am-FOX Class 6:00pm-Diaconate 6:15am-AA 7:00pm-Singles Network -Widows & Widowers 7:30pm-Divorce Persectives	12 2:00pm-Amistad 6:00pm-Bell Choir Practice -Maine Humanities 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	13 9:00am-Women's Literary Union 11:00am-FOKO Marketing 7:00pm-AA	14 9:00am-Lay Ministry Training Group		
15 <u>WAYSIDE SOUP SUNDAY</u> 9:15am-Lay Ministry Group 10:30am-Church School Community Day- Seely Hall (No Youth Groups today) 4:00pm-Woodfords at Wayside Soup 5:00pm-AA	16 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 12:30pm-Lay Ministry Group 6:00pm-Portland Comm Chorus	17 8:00am- Men's Disc. Group 9:30am- Together in Faith 6:00pm-Woodfords Weight -Overeaters Anon -Women in Harmony 7:00pm-Real Property -Grant Fund -Debtors Anon -Wayside Soup Board	18 9:00am-Women's Literary NO BIBLE CLASS TODAY 6:15pm-AA 7:00pm-Finance Comm 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	19 8:00am-Shalom House 5:30pm-Men's Basketball NO BELL / NO CHOIR Rehearsals	20 BEACON DUE 7:00pm-AA	21		
22 <u>EARTH DAY</u> <u>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUNDAY</u> 9:15am-Lay Ministry Training Group 10:30am-Church School Community Day- Seely Hall 12:30pm-Christian Ed Comm Retreat 5:00pm-AA Meeting 5:30pm-Renaissance Voices Rehearsal	23 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 3:00pm-FOKO 6:00pm-Portland Comm Chorus	24 8:00am-Men's Disc. Group 9:30am-Together in Faith 10:00am-Book Group-Pk Danforth 11:30am-K.D.'s 6:00pm-Balance Disorder Support Group -Overeaters Anon -Women in Harmony 6:30pm-Woodfords Knitters 7:00pm-Debtor's Anon -UCCMA	25 BEACON OUT 9:00am-Church & Ministry 9:30am-LaLeche League 10:00am-Bible Class 11:30am-Invested Funds 6:00pm-Church Council 6:15pm-AA 7:00pm-Widow & Widowers 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	26 5:30pm-Men's Basketball 6:00pm-Bell Choir 7:00pm-Chancel Choir	27 3:00pm-ME Tin Peddlars setup 7:00pm-AA	28 8:30am-Maine Tin Peddlars Assoc		
29 9:15am-Downeast Fair Meeting 9:15am-Lay Ministry Group 10:30am-Installation of Lay Ministers -Carol Choir sings today 2:00pm-PSQ Pre-concert lecture 3:00pm-PSQ concert 5:00pm-AA Meeting 5:30pm-Renaissance Voices	30 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 12:30pm-Lay Ministry Group 6:00pm-Portland Comm Chorus	SUNDAYS AT WOODFORDS 8:15am-Chapel Worship 9:30am-Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal 9:45am-Carol & Cherub Choir Rehearsals 10:30am-Sanctuary Worship -Church School (till 11:50am) 4:00pm-Junior Youth Group 6:00pm-Senior Youth Group					APRIL 2007 Note: please check your committee for current meeting dates and times.	