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

Address Service Requested

July Beacon
Mailed June 27, 2007

The Woodfords Beacon

July 2007



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

Summer Worship Schedule: July 1 through September 9
One service at 9:00 am

A Very Special Thanks to Our Church Office Helpers

This past year has seen a lot of changes in the church office, which hopefully have been, for the most part, transparent to the congregation. One of the biggest changes was with our data base— for membership, contributions, and finance. We have switched to a more 'user-friendly' system called Church Windows©, but the data bases all had to be 'hand' built, i.e. there was no transfer of data with the push of a button. It all had to be input one record at a time— and then checked and re-checked. A significant share of the work in the tedious transferring of the Membership data was completed by **Emily Sprague**, who volunteers at the church office on Thursdays. Emily's good-nature, accuracy, tenacity, and flexibility during this process was very much appreciated as we all learned how to work with the new software by the 'seat-of-our-pants'. We all very, very grateful for Emily and her excellent volunteer work at Woodfords Church.

The last Wednesday of every month, five wonderful ladies show up at the church in the afternoon, and amidst a lot of laughter, they work very hard to assemble and staple the Beacon and ready it for mailing. The faithful efforts of **Caroline Cobb, Althea Green, Pauline Jenness, Mirriam Urban, and Nancy Vaughan** ensure that the Beacons go out on time— we thank them very much for all their hard work.



The Church Calendar

The Church Calendar is also in transition. For years we've used a program that delineated space use by *time* only. With the approaching advent of a much higher use of the church building, I have switched to a calendar program that was actually included in our Church Windows© software and delineates space use by *time* and *location*. The switch over to the new calendar system is now complete. A daily calendar is no longer available with this new program, but a weekly calendar is, and will be posted in the usual locations.

-Sharon Stephenson

Tree of Life for July



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Elizabeth Sampson	7/2	Joanne Bartlett.....	7/16
Dorothy Balabas.....	7/3	Harriet Hill.....	7/18
Connie Smith.....	7/5	Brad Young.....	7/18
Harold Sprague.....	7/5	Julie Armstrong.....	7/19
Susan August-Brown.....	7/6	Maureen Quinn.....	7/19
Bob Belanger.....	7/6	Janet Stewart.....	7/19
Grace Belanger.....	7/6	Joanne Bingham.....	7/20
Shaelynn Marcroft.....	7/6	Andrea Cuddy.....	7/20
John Watson.....	7/8	Jordan Cuddy.....	7/20
Bethany Campbell.....	7/10	David Lovely.....	7/20
Megan Campbell.....	7/10	Sadie Armstrong.....	7/21
Benny Mahuka.....	7/10	Jack Armstrong.....	7/21
Alec Troxell.....	7/10	Joe Benoit.....	7/22
John Bancroft.....	7/11	Peg Emerson.....	7/22
Kallie Ciechowski.....	7/12	Casey Mahoney.....	7/22
Patrick Joyce.....	7/12	Betty Allen.....	7/23
Terry Philbrook.....	7/12	Nancy Caldwell.....	7/23
Norman Saunders.....	7/12	Bruce Canterbury.....	7/23
Lee Urban.....	7/12	Charles Melcher.....	7/24
Sally Serunian.....	7/13	Jasper Gritter.....	7/25
Gary Smith.....	7/13	Katherine Miller.....	7/27
Tim Davis.....	7/15	Lily August-Brown.....	7/30
Meghan Suslovic.....	7/15	Emily Paradise.....	7/30
		Linda Anderson.....	7/31
		Warren McCubrey.....	7/31

The Journey Continues for Our Graduates...correction

Melanie Toner will be attending Boston College in the autumn.



“Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”
-Henry James

COMING THIS FALL!

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

A New CD Recording by

The Chancel and Pilgrim Choirs and The Woodfords Ringers

Take a journey though the season of the Incarnation, from the uncertainty and longing of Advent to the brightness of the Epiphany in carols, anthems, and voluntaries from Woodfords' Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services.

Order your personal and gift copies now for fall delivery at a special pre-publication discount price of \$12.00

Please reserve _____ copies of *The Journey to Bethlehem* for:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I enclose \$_____ in payment at the special pre-publication discount price of \$12.00 each postage paid. (Please make checks payable to Woodfords Congregational Church and write "CD" in the memo space.)

_____ I will pick my order up at the church in the fall to help save postage.

_____ Please mail my order to me.

Return this form the church office or mail to:

Woodfords CD
202 Woodford St.
Portland ME 04103

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ARTICLES FOR NEXT BEACON DUE July 20

Woodfords Staff email addresses and extensions are:

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Carolyn U. Lambert: ext 102 clambert@woodfordschurch.org	Melissa Tryon: ext 104 mtryon@woodfordschurch.org
Joan Mabon: ext 101 jmabon@woodfordschurch.org	

Summer Worship Times to Begin on July 1– 9:00 am service only.

It's All In a Name!

One Sunday some children were asked for other names of God.

One said "Jesus"; another said "Heavenly Father".

All was well until a little boy stood up in the back row and said "Harold".

"Harold?" the Sunday school teacher inquired.

"Yes, you know. Our Father who art in Heaven, Harold be thy name".

Have you been missed?

If your birthday or anniversary has passed and the date wasn't listed, then we don't have your dates! The new Church Windows software for membership info is up and running and all the data we have has been input. However, we do not have important dates for many members of our congregation. So if you've been missed— please call the church office and give us your dates so you won't be missed again!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Karin & Jorma Kurry.....7/01/1995
 Fran & Dan Paris7/06/1957
 Janet & Patrick Joyce7/08/1989
 Alison & Anthony Troxell..7/10/1998
 Arlene & Ralph Coffin7/14/1951
 Joanne & Allen Bingham7/14/1956
 Julie & Kirk Armstrong.....7/22/2000
 Nancy Caldwell & John
 Maurice7/24/1982
 Leslie & Roy Ouellette.....7/27/1975
 Georgia & Fred Doughty....7/29/1961



In Memorium
Rest Eternal Grant Unto Them O Lord

- ✝ The congregation sends its blessing and prayers to Dorcas McLean and family upon the news of the death of her mother, Helen Frost on June 5th. Helen had been a member of Woodfords Church since 1948.
- ✝ The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to Randi and Warren Graumann upon the news of the death of Warren's mother, Evelyn Graumann on May22nd in Rochester, New York.
- ✝ The congregation sends it blessings and prayers to Richard Poore and family upon the news of the death of his father, Harold Poore, on June 16. Rev. Mabon conducted a graveside service on June 21st for Mr. Poore. Harold had been a one-time member of Woodfords Church.
- ✝ The congregation is saddened by the news of the death of Louise Tweedie, on June 25. Louise originally joined Woodfords Church in 1958 and was a member of the Diaconate and the KD Class. She had recently had moved to Massachusetstts. A Memorial Service will be held for Louise at Woodfords Church on June 28th.

Statements of Faith



A person is brought into the church, the body of Christ, through the sacrament of baptism. Confirmation celebrates the occasion when a person affirms their baptism and claims “their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members” of Woodfords Church.

Before a service of confirmation, the participants undertake an instruction in the Christian faith.

We are on our own journeys to faith. As part of their confirmation, our confirmands are asked where they are at this particular stage of their faith journey. The following Statements of Faith are what they wrote.

Cody Marcroft

I believe in God, creator of heaven and earth, our father almighty, who we worship every Sunday. He taught us to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with him. He is the father of Jesus Christ, who he sent to teach us the way of life, to cure people, to teach lessons and tell stories, to do good, and show people the way God intended the world to be.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God who taught us the way of God, to treat people the way we want to be treated, to love our enemy, and pray for our neighbor. Jesus lived in the first century. He was crucified around the age of 30. He was crucified by Jewish and Roman leaders. He was crucified because the leaders were afraid that the news Jesus was spreading about God would cause them to lose power. And after they crucified Jesus, and thought their problems were solved, Jesus rose on the third day, with the help and the power of God. People could not believe it.

I also believe in the Holy Spirit, and that it is a part of the church, and that it is with us as we gather on this Sunday and always. I believe that the Holy Spirit is the spirit around us when people say “God is always with you” or “God is always watching you.” I believe the Holy Spirit is around us everyday and helps guide us through life and is watching us all the time.

The church, I believe is not just a building, but a congregation in which we gather every Sunday to worship God, and is bound together by the holy spirit, which I feel is present right now. I believe the purpose of the church is

COUNTING TEAMS	
Date	Team
7/1	1
7/8	2
7/15	3
7/22	4
7/29	5

DEACONS SCHEDULE		
Date	Usher Team	Head Deacons
7/1	5	Cook/Wilson
7/8	7	Nolan/Stewart
7/15	8	Carten/Frye-Macomber
7/22	1	Baldwin/Wilson
7/29	2	Campbell/Maurice/Meader

COMMUNION SUNDAY	
Elements Team:	England / Peterson
Communion Servers:	

Date	Preacher/ Worship Leader	Lectionary/Scripture Reading
7/1	Lambert	II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 or I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 or Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
7/8	Mabon	II Kings 5:1-14 or Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 30 or Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
7/15	Lambert	Amos 7:7-17 or Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 82 or Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
7/22	Mabon	Amos 8:1-12 or Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 52 or Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
7/29	Lambert	Hosea 1:2-10 or Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 85 or Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

Woodfords Finances as of May 31, 2007

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Pledge Income	122,368	126,635
Unrestricted Expenses	288,876	283,729

BECOME A HOST FAMILY FOR A FOREIGN STUDENT

Welcome a foreign student into your home. Open your hearts to a special young person and allow them to experience the American way of life inside a warm and loving family environment. CIEE provides an opportunity to gain new insights and renewed appreciation for different cultures, as well as an unforgettable adventure for you, your family, and your exchange student. Often the relationships that are formed transcend the school year and become lifelong friendships.

To learn more about the Council on International Educational Exchange, call our local representative, Ellen Shepeluk at 878-8605.

WANTED: TEMP HOME FOR A BABY GRAND

A friend of Kristen Fox needs a temporary home for a baby grand piano. It's a Merlin & Son, circa 1930 piano in beautiful condition, 5' x 5'. Kristen's friend Leslie is seeking a responsible player and caretaker for the piano for one year, beginning in July. The only cost is having the piano moved from Westbrook and the initial tuning. If you are interested call Leslie at 232-6016 or email lwillhelm@maine.rr.com

DOWNTOWN LEASE OPPORTUNITY

The Portland Conservatory of Music school and offices located at 116 Free Street in downtown Portland are available for lease. This retail/office property totals 4500 square feet and has excellent street visibility in a popular block of the Arts District. For more information, please call 775-3356.

to help people become closer to God and Jesus and to teach people about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I also believe the purpose of the church is to help bring peace to the community and the world, and the people here make that happen. Everybody in this church contributes in some way to help the church and community grow.

Being a Christian to me means I am a follower of God and Jesus. To me it means to abide by the Ten Commandments, but also more than that. It means to help out in the community and do good things, as the way God intended people to be. I'm not perfect, that's for sure. We all make mistakes, it's a part of life. And being a Christian, I believe it is okay to make mistakes and I realize that God forgives my sins. When I make a mistake, I ask God to forgive me, and I believe that he does, and that he knows not everybody is perfect. That, to me is the meaning of a Christian.

God promises he will always be with us. He doesn't promise that life will be easy, but he does promise that we will not be alone in the hard times. He promises to forgive us of our sins and he promises not to hold grudges against people that have sinned.

Ethan Koster

God is the Creator of everything that is known today. God created the universe and all non-living things including the earth, the oceans, the air and the mountains. God also created all living things, including us. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus lived during the time of the Roman Empire. He was a faithful Jew. He lived and died for us, and was resurrected by God so that all people could believe in the power and love of God. The Holy Spirit is what remains of God and Jesus; it remains with us today.

The church is not a building, but rather a group of people that believe in Christ and our God. The purpose of the church or mission of the church is to spread Christianity, the teachings of Jesus and God, to follow God's commandments. To love and serve God and other people is what it means to be a Christian.

Jackson Frey

God is the creator of the Universe and everything it includes. He is father to us all. He sends us messages of how he wants us to live through prophets,

Continued →

Jackson Frey's Confirmand Statement Continued...

gospels, angels and most importantly, Jesus. God is not a human to me, I think of him more as a presence that guides and teaches us.

Jesus is the spirit of God molded into a human being. He was sent to us to teach us the way God wanted us to live. He lived in the first century A.D. He was born in Bethlehem and lived in Nazareth. He was Jewish, he spread good news of God's love and forgiveness. He was a radical protestor against the injustices of Caesar's Kingdom. He was crucified and resurrected by God.

The holy spirit is the essence of God and Jesus that exists within all believers. It guides, assures and teaches us.

The church is the gathering of God's servants and believers into worship and prayer. The purpose of the church is to spread God's message of love, forgiveness and justice. As members of Christ Church we are called upon to live by the ten commandments and to do our very best to make the world a better place by giving our money and mending and rebuilding the lives of those less fortunate.

Being a Christian means that you are dedicated to living your life along the lines of the way Jesus taught us. You believe in Christ and in what he symbolizes. To do what you are called upon to do.

God promises us life, free will, love, forgiveness and the assurance that we will never be without him through our triumphs and our sorrows.

Woodfords church is like an extended family to me. No matter what goes on in the outside world, Woodfords is always constant. I have grown up in this church, made some good friends and had some good times. Woodfords Church is a very important part of my life



“What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.”
~Eleanor Powell

2nd Annual Arts Auction for our Missions Program



Calling all Artists and Artisans

Once again we are asking you to donate one piece of your art work for a Silent Auction on December 9th. Last year nearly 30 people generously contributed a wide variety of art for our congregation's enjoyment and all the proceeds were given to our Missions Committee.

Please join us by contributing something you create. It will be a beautiful show and a worthwhile project, helping those in need.

Call Avon Oakes at 761-0467 to join us or if you want more information.

Thank you,
Avon Oakes
Music & Arts Committee



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

THE WOODFORDS DEPOT

Every year during the 2nd week in May, Seely Hall at Woodfords Church is turned into a depot. Box after box bound for destinations all over the world are collected on behalf of Church World Service by Woodford's volunteers. The boxes containing layettes, school supplies and health supplies are brought to Woodfords from folks in churches throughout the state of Maine.

Our Woodfords volunteers check in the boxes and make sure they are ready for shipping. This year our volunteers were depot organizer Becky Johnson, Nancy Vaughan, Jeanette Hall, and Warren and June McCubrey. We thank them very much for all their hard work.

“The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him.”
~William McGill



Holy Conversations

Enthusiasm is high for HOLY CONVERSATIONS! As of this writing, 10 hosts have invited varied groups to meet for conversation, and the response has been pleasantly surprising. There are 4 additional conversations scheduled for the end of June and early July with another still to be set. People have been speaking

up: "I haven't gotten my invitation" But when they call, they are quickly linked with a host.

The exchanges have been lively with each participant engaged in the dialogue--both speaking and listening. There is an opportunity to engage in Bible study in an unusual format and then to respond to and discuss five questions about the church. Members often leave grateful that they have been able to think seriously about their faith and about Woodfords Church, that they've been able to speak of their delight in and concerns for the church, and that they have been heard. I have been present for nearly all the meetings and expect to be there for most of the rest... *"I am continually amazed at the response both from hosts and from guests. I leave each session lifted by the love and care people share and by their hope for Woodfords' future. It's been an unexpected blessing!"*

The connections members make through these gatherings will stay with them a long while. But the information they shared will go next to the Strategic Planning Team for sifting, sorting, and rearranging into patterns directed to Woodfords' future. This Council appointed Team first met on Wednesday June 27 to organize and develop their work further. The Team consists of Bob Carten, Margo Halverson, Sue Ann Nolan, Pete Sampson, Howard Skillings, Ellen Smith-Erb, and Barbara Thomson. They will continue on with the Council's blessing and move forward under Richard's leadership when he returns and Joan departs.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND -OR HOST A GATHERING, there's still time to call Janet Peterson at 781-2057 or Sharon at the office. We want to hear from you right away!

-Joan Mabon

**"Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines."
~Satchel Paige, 1974**

Grant Fund Set to Cast Off for a Fun Day



You won't want to miss this trip-- so call the church office today (774-8243) and make your reservations!

This will be an all day bus trip to Bailey Island, to include sight-seeing, lunch at Cook's Restaurant, shopping at Land's End Gift Shop and it's all going to happen on Friday, August 10. You'll meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 am and will return at approximately 5:30pm. We have room on the VIP bus for 55 folks-- so don't wait to come aboard!

If you would like to join us, call the church office at 774-8243 with your choice of meal and make a reservation. There is a nominal fee of \$10.00 per person to help defray expenses. Reservations must be in by August 3, 2007.

It will be a grand day out-- we hope you can join us.


SPECIAL SUMMER WORSHIP MUSIC

During the Summer Months, while our Chancel Choir is in recess, our Music Director Harold Stover has arranged for special music for worship services.

Here is the schedule



7/1	Andrea Sutcliffe, soprano; Barbara Sutcliffe, also, Kallie Ciechomski, viola
7/8	Rhee Michelle, soprano
7/15	Bruce Canterbury, baritone & French Horn
7/22	Catriona Shepherd, trumpet
7/29	Kristen Fox, oboe
8/5	Bruce Canterbury, baritone & French Horn
8/12	maineblend, vocal ensemble
8/19	Harold Stover, organ & piano
8/26	Kristen Fox, oboe
9/2	Joe Heasley, tenor; Jesse Heasley, contrabass
9/9	Harold Stover, organ and piano

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00am-Worship Service 12:30pm-Music & Arts Committee 5:00pm-AA	2 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle	3 8:00am-Men's Discussion Group 6:00pm-OA	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY 	5 5:30pm-Men's Basketball	6 5:00pm-Swett/Fusco Rehearsal 6:00pm-Pierce/Molina Rehearsal 7:00pm-AA	7 10:00am-Downeast Fair Craft Making 12:00pm-Pierce/Molina wedding 4:00pm-Swett/Fusco wedding
8 9:00am-Worship Service 10:15am-New Members' Class 5:00pm-AA	9 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle	10 8:00am -Men's Disc. Group 12:00pm-Cumberland Assoc Mtg 6:00pm -Overeaters Anon 6:30pm -PFLAG 7:00pm -Debtors Anon -Wayside Soup Kitchen Bd	11 9:30am-LaLeche League 6:15am-AA 6:30pm-Diaconate 7:00pm-Education Comm at the Beyers residence 7:00pm-Widow & Widowers 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	12 5:30pm-Men's Basketball	13 7:00pm-AA	14
15 WAYSIDE SOUP SUNDAY 8:00am-Lay Ministry Group 9:00am-Worship Service 10:15am-New Members' Class 5:00pm-AA	16 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 12:30pm-Lay Ministry Group	17 8:00am- Men's Disc. Group 6:00pm-Overeaters Anon 7:00pm-Real Property -Debtors Anon	18 1:30pm-Park Danforth Worship 6:15pm-AA 7:00pm-Finance Comm 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	19 5:30pm-Men's Basketball 7:00pm-Grant Fund Comm 7:30pm-Singles' Network	20 BEACON DUE 5:00pm-Flaherty/Prokey rehearsal 7:00pm-AA	21 10:00am-Downeast Fair Craft Making 4:00pm-Flaherty/Prokey wedding
22 9:00am-Worship Service 10:15am-New Members' Class 5:00pm-AA	23 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle 3:00pm-FOKO	24 8:00am-Men's Disc. Group 6:00pm-Overeaters Anon 7:00pm-Debtor's Anon	25 BEACON MAILED 9:30am-LaLeche League 11:30am-Invested Funds 6:15pm-AA 7:00pm-Widow & Widowers 7:30pm-Divorce Perspectives	26 5:30pm-Men's Basketball	27 7:00pm-AA	28
29 NEW MEMBERS JOIN 9:00am-Worship Service 5:00pm-AA	30 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-Friendship Circle	31 8:00am-Men's Disc. Group 6:00pm -Overeaters Anon 7:00pm-Debtor's Anon				

July 2007

Note: please check with your committee for meeting dates and times not on calendar.



Please check the Announcements in the bulletin and church email messages for other committee meeting times.