

The Woodfords Beacon

JULY 2010



It Takes a Congregation to Make a Church

It takes many hours of dedicated practice, planning, and participation to carry out the worship and education programs of Woodfords Church. From September through May, many folks are involved with Children's Christian Education, Adult Education Programs, and our three Choirs. We thank everyone for all their devoted, enthusiastic, and thoughtful hard work, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the key folks involved. ***On this cover page, and on pages 4-5,*** are the names of people who gave of their time and talent on a weekly basis. But there are many more people who have given many gifts planning adult educational programs, mission programs, art programs, and fellowship activities that form the core of the worship and mission experience of Woodfords Church.

So please accept our heartfelt thanks for all you do for Woodfords Church.

A Big Thank You to our Church School Leadership Team

Church School Co-Superintendents

Elaine Nadzo and Denise Chadbourne

Workshop Leaders and Helpers

Carolyn Bird, Mary Bonauto, Kristen Crean, Jennifer Curran, Susanne Dodson, Colleen McKee, Kevin McKee, Kathi Paradise, Linda Pinkham, Flynn Ross, Ellen Smith-Erb, Jen Southard, Jen Tabb, Leanne Walker, Cathy Walter, Brent Wooten.

Special Thanks to These Workshop Leaders,

Who Took Responsibility for the Entire Church School Year

Amy Haile and Amy Johnson: Pre-School and Kindergarten Class
Marge Sampson and Judy Wolfe: Community B (Grades 4-8)



Our Church Family

Happy July Birth To...

Peg Griswold.....	7/2	Tove Pranger	7/18
Elizabeth Sampson	7/2	Brad Young.....	7/18
Dorothy Balabas	7/3	Julie Armstrong	7/19
Connie Smith	7/5	Isabel Nieves	7/19
Harold Sprague.....	7/5	Maureen Quinn.....	7/19
Susan August-Brown	7/6	Janet Stewart	7/19
Robert Belanger.....	7/6	Joanne Bingham.....	7/20
Grace Belanger	7/6	Andrea Cuddy.....	7/20
Amelie Gosselin	7/6	Jordan Cuddy	7/20
Shaelynn Marcroft.....	7/6	Sadie Armstrong.....	7/21
John Watson	7/8	Jack Armstrong.....	7/21
Bethany Campbell	7/10	Joe Benoit.....	7/22
Megan Campbell.....	7/10	Peg Emerson	7/22
Alec Troxell	7/10	Casey Mahoney.....	7/22
John Bancroft.....	7/11	Betty Allen.....	7/23
Kallie Ciechowski	7/12	Nancy Caldwell.....	7/23
Patrick Joyce	7/12	Bruce Canterbury	7/23
Terry Philbrook.....	7/12	Sydney Girsch.....	7/23
Sally Serunian	7/13	Charles Melcher	7/24
Gary Smith	7/13	Jasper Gritter.....	7/25
Meagan Keast.....	7/14	Katherine Miller	7/27
Stephanie Crockett	7/15	Lily August-Brown	7/30
Tim Davis	7/15	Emily Paradise	7/30
Meghan Suslovic.....	7/15	Linda Anderson	7/31
Joanne Bartlett	7/16	Warren McCubrey.....	7/31
Harriet Hill	7/18		

Congratulations on Your Baby !

The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to Lindsay (Meader) Ross and husband Brian Ross upon the news of the birth of Madison Ava Ross, on June 9th. Grandparents Pam Meader and Robert Meader are pretty happy as well! Blessings to you all!!

Wedding Congratulations

The congregation of Woodfords Church sends its blessings and prayers to Sara Dorothy Norsworthy and Christopher Michael Otis, who were wed at Woodfords Church on May 1, 2010.

We wish them every blessing as they begin their lives together.

Happy July Anniversary To...

- Karin & Jorma Kurry7/01/1995
- Kristin & Jason Hurley7/05/1997
- Fran & Dan Paris.....7/06/1957
- Janet & Patrick Joyce.....7/08/1989
- Joanne & Allen Bingham7/14/1956
- Julie & Kirk Armstrong.....7/22/2000
- Nancy Caldwell & John
Maurice7/24/1982
- Peg & Steve Griswold7/25/1986
- Kelly & Justin Bragdon.....7/25/2003
- Kelly & Kristyle Gosselin7/26/2003
- Leslie & Roy Ouellette7/27/1975
- Georgia & Fred Doughty7/29/1961



Our Church Family Mourns



The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to the family and friends of Richard Pratt upon the news of his death on June 11.

Richard had been a member of Woodfords Church since 2001 and had served as our Sunday sexton for many years.



The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to Mary Jeton and family upon the news of the death of Mary's husband, Francis J. Jeton on June 3rd.



The congregation sends its blessings and prayers to Jennifer Curran and partner Carolyn Thomas and family upon the news of the death of Jen's father, William Curran, of Georgetown, Massachusetts, on June 6.

May their souls rest in peace.

*"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."
(Psalm 103:33-34)*



A Very Special Thank You to our Woodfords Choirs!

Our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and our Children's Choir enhances and gives expression to our worship. We thank all the members of all three choirs who give tirelessly of their time and talents every week by attending rehearsals and then contributing to the worship service on Sundays.

We especially want to thank Jeanette Hall, who has been a faithful member of the Chancel Choir for 40 years.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR 2009 - 2010

Susanna Adams
Nancy Anderson
Georgia Bancroft
Judy Blanchard
George Bouchard
Bruce Canterbury
Dave Clark
Sue Clark
Rebecca Coy
Suzanne d'Bourget
Joan Dinsmore
Bill Doughty
Jessica Doughty
Susan Doughty
Lawrence Furbish
Carol Gillis
Jeanette Hall
Anette Hartwell
Ken Hartwell
Julie Ann Heinrich

Jean Johnson
Wes Johnson
Carolyn Lambert
Beth Lunt
Rhee Michelle
Nancy Meiners
Pete Sampson
Kevin Scott
Cindy Short
Tom Smith
Elizabeth Stover
Barbara Sutcliffe
Rebecca Wallace
Adrienne-Marie Wilson
Jay Young
Rita Zanichkowsky

Choir Librarians: Sue Clark and
Susan Doughty

WOODFORDS' RINGERS BELL CHOIR 2009 - 2010

Linda Anderson
Roberta Page Barker
Joanne Bingham
Leah Cohen
Jeanette Hall
Jane Hunt
Avon Oakes
Alison Ouellette
Lesley Ouellette
Marion McDonald

Andee Schmearer
Marilyn Winward

Special thanks to Meg Helming,
Chelsea and Rebecca Ouellette,
Rhee Michelle, and
Maria Woodbury.



THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR 2009 - 2010

Karen Verdelli and Leslie Ouellette, Directors

Madison Hurley
Maggie Lawless
Meredith McKeeman
Benjamin Meza

Tyra Pranger
Sadie Rhinehardt
Libby Verdelli
Sara Wasdahl
Natalie Wooten



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

The Woodfords Church World Service Depot

Thank you Becky Johnson and her team of volunteers who once again staffed the Church World Service kit depot at Woodfords Church. This year over 2,350 kits were delivered and processed for shipping and are on their way to folks in trouble throughout the United States and the world!

Report from The 79th Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the UCC 2010

The delegates from Woodfords Church were Moderator Jeff Jordan, Nick and Elaine Nadzo, Adrienne-Marie Wilson, and Ministers Carolyn Lambert and Annette Mott. Here are reflections from one of the delegates.

Visions and Dreams- we all have these for ourselves and for our loved ones. The theme for this year's Annual Meeting was "Reframing Church: Visions and Dreams." When first walking into the Dearborn Gym at the University of Maine Farmington, the back drop for the stage was a soft mint green fabric, with randomly placed hand painted pictures (symbols of the church). Separate from the pictures were randomly placed frames. Sometimes you have the frame before the picture is complete, other times you have a complete picture but you can not find the right frame. I believe Woodfords Church has a frame with a couple of cracks and a picture that needs some work. Woodfords Church has visions and dreams and we have the opportunity to turn them into reality for how our churches' picture will look in its completed frame. All of us have different visions and dreams for how Woodfords is going to look. How would you fix the frame and make the picture complete?

Our Conference Minister, David Gaewski, gave his state of the conference address; I took away two topics that I felt needed to be shared with Woodfords. The first is to find the church's unique quality. Then the unique quality will lead the church to vitality. Our unique quality could be seen as our building, our strong tie to mission, or our newly designed church school program. What is the unique quality of Woodfords that has set us apart from the rest? The second is turning trends into opportunities. Two of maybe several trends Woodfords is facing are the continuation of losing members and not gaining new members and losing pledging units. How do we turn these trends into opportunities that will grow Woodfords Church?

In between the plenary (meetings) there were two workshops. One of the workshops I attended was "Recognizing Invisible Barriers." We as members, friends of members, and regular visitors do not necessarily see the barriers that a person might have when coming to Woodfords Church for the first time. During the workshop there were five main components that were discussed.

Information – We have a sign that says ‘Woodfords Church’, the time of the service, and names of the ministers. A person new to the area or making the decision to come to church for the first time might ask: what happens at a service? what are ministers? what do they do?

Physical – Woodfords has made many improvements over the years so people of all abilities can come into the building.

Liturgical – There are words and phrases within the church that a non-church going person might not know and that could create a barrier for their understanding. What is a sanctuary? What does Pentecost mean? What is the history behind communion?

Connective – There are close knit groups of people at Woodfords; is there room for new people to feel welcome and connected from the first time they visit?

Irrelevant – People who are not church goers or who have no church connection may find church to be irrelevant to their lives. How do we communicate that it is relevant and help them make the connection to their own lives?

There are many more barriers a church can have that would prevent new people from coming, staying, understanding, and feeling welcome. Some barriers are noticeable and some are not. Put your self in the situation one Sunday as if you are coming to Woodfords for the first time. What are the barriers you face? What needs to be changed or improved?

Woodfords members, friends of members, and visitors need to work together to fix the cracks in the frame, do some work on the picture, find our unique quality, and identify the barriers, in order to have the church / faith community that is in our vision and dream. I do not have a Magic 8 Ball to give me the answers and to my knowledge there is only one who does. However, we can look for those answers in our visions and dreams. ***WE HAVE TO WORK & PRAY TOGETHER*** then we will have the church / faith community that is important to us and will welcome new people into Woodfords Church.

I want to thank the members of Woodfords Church for voting for me to be one of the church’s lay delegates to represent Woodfords. I find it an honor and privilege to represent our church at Annual Meeting, Cumberland Association Meetings and other conference events throughout the year.

Adrienne-Marie Wilson

If You Are Interested in the Middle East?

Woodfords Church will be offering an adult study on the Middle East entitled "Steadfast Hope" the first three Sundays in November- there will be more information forthcoming about this in future Beacons.



The following film offering may be of some interest as a precursor to this series: James Longley's widely acclaimed documentary film **Gaza Strip** will be shown on Saturday, July 10, at 7:00pm at Sacred Heart/St. Dominic Church, Church Hall, corner of Mellen and Sherman Streets in Portland.

American documentary filmmaker James Longley traveled to the Gaza Strip in January of 2001, planning to stay for two weeks and collect preliminary material for a film about the Palestinian intifada. He threw away his return ticket and stayed for another 3 months, shooting over 75 hours of material throughout the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip follows a range of people and events following the election of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, including the first major armed incursion into "Area A" by IDF forces during this intifada. The film is filmed almost entirely in a verite style, focusing on ordinary Palestinians rather than politicians and pundits. More observation than political argument, Gaza Strip offers a rare look inside the stark realities of Palestinian life and death under Israeli military

Following the film there will be a discussion on Gaza's humanitarian needs, with special guest **Barbara West**, of PeaceWorks, Brunswick Maine, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

"The absence of voice-over narration and talking-head interviews gives his portrait of daily life under duress a riveting immediacy ... in the best verite tradition, there are moments in "Gaza Strip" that disclose a wrenching human reality deeper and more basic than any politics."- A. O. Scott, The New York Times

"An unflinchingly honest portrayal of a population under siege. As a perspective that is largely excluded from American attention, it deserves the widest possible audience."- Washington Report on Middle East Affairs

**GRANT FUND ACTIVITIES FOR
WOODFORDS MEMBERS OVER 65**



- **Picnic at Panther Pond (weather permitting)**
Thursday, July 15th, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm,
Bring a dessert or side dish to share and your own chair.
RSVP to Cecelia at 774-8243



Meet at Woodfords at 10:30 am. The group will then carpool over to Dan & Fran Paris' camp on Panther Pond. Dan and Fran will be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share for lunch. Bring bathing suits and towels if you feel like going for a swim. And please bring your own chair.



- **Grant Fund Trip to the Ball Park**
To see the Portland Sea Dogs vs. the Bowie Baysox
(Orioles)

Thursday, August 5th

Game begins at 12 pm— Our seats have back and arm rests! We will be in sections #114 (Wheelchair accessible) and #214. Cost per person is \$5 and includes a reserved seat and lunch at the game. Please sign up with Cecelia ASAP. We will be carpooling over to the stadium and will need volunteer drivers.

Please sign up with Cecelia at 774-8243

Details regarding lunch and departure time will be sent to those who sign up.



The Portland Pridefest Parade

Thanks to Rachel Beyer, Ann Metcalfe, Jen Curran, Carolyn Thomas, Meghan Thomas Curran, Kristin and Madison Hurley, Joan Dinsmore and Gordon and Barbara Thomson for representing

Woodfords at the Pridefest parade and booth Saturday, June 19. It was a gorgeous day and loads of fun!

What is Pilgrim Lodge?

Pilgrim Lodge is a church camp owned by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, of which Woodfords Congregational Church is a part. For most of the year, Pilgrim Lodge hosts camps for children, youth, adults, and families.

However, during one special weekend in September, we, the Woodfords community, have PL entirely to ourselves!

Where is it?

Pilgrim Lodge is located on beautiful Lake Cobbosseecontee, nestled in the woods of West Gardiner, Maine. The camp itself consists of a large main lodge with a full camp kitchen and plenty of activity space plus fifteen or so rustic cabins with wood stoves and private baths. Yes, there is running water and electricity!

FMI on Pilgrim Lodge itself, check out: <http://pilgrimlodge.org/>

What does Woodfords do there?

We:

Cook our own meals (food included in the cost – we share cooking duties)

Organize our own programs

Worship together

Play games (some competitively...some not so much)

Swim, hike, canoe, fish, or just relax in a rocker and read!

But, most of all...we spend time together enjoying everything God has to offer us in a wonderful setting.

Anything else I should know?

The Woodfords Weekend at Pilgrim Lodge is for all of us at Woodfords, young, old or somewhere in between. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. If you are new to the church, Pilgrim Lodge Weekend is an absolutely fantastic way to connect with others in the church. For all of us, Pilgrim Lodge Weekend is a great way to refresh our spirits and re-energize our souls.

Please consider attending this year!! Fill out the registration form on the following pages and return it to the church office.



**WOODFORDS WEEKEND - PILGRIM LODGE
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2010**

Registration Deadline: September 3rd, 2010

**PLEASE SEND THIS REGISTRATION FORM
& CHECK TO CHURCH OFFICE.**

Name(s)

Phone # _____

Email _____

Areas interested in helping:

- _____ Cooking (being head chef for a meal)
- _____ Moderating the Saturday evening entertainment
- _____ Leading part of the Worship Service
- _____ Overseeing a craft activity
- _____ Organizing games

CONTINUED➔

COST

Number of Adults _____ @ \$50.00 ea _____

Number of Children 4-17 _____ @ \$25.00 ea _____
(Children 3 and under are free)

Saturday only (no overnight) _____ @\$15.00 ea _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____
(Family cap \$150.00)

Please note any dietary restrictions we should be aware of:



**SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE:
10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary**

COUNTERS		DEACONS SCHEDULE		
Date	Team	Date	Usher Team	Head Deacons
7/4	1	7/4	5	Friedrick / Keeley
7/11	2	7/11	6	Nelson / Toner
7/18	3	7/18	8	Campbell / Flaker
7/25	4	7/25	1	Meader / Goodwin

COMMUNION SUNDAY	
Elements Team:	Peterson / England



The Woodfords Beacon is published and edited by Sharon Stephenson, Office Manager

AUGUST BEACON ARTICLES DUE: JULY 20

JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

7/4	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30 or Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
7/11	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82 or Deut 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
7/18	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 or Gen 18-1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
7/25	Hos 1:2-10; Psalm 85 or Gen 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Col 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

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