

THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

A publication of the First Congregational Church

of Scarborough, Maine 04074

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Harvest Time

A fond childhood memory I have from growing up in New Hampshire, is of our trips in the Fall to the apple orchards to go apple picking. We were city folk and so the drive to the country was a family outing. I remember how excited we were to pick so many apples and then bring them home in my Dad's truck. My brothers and I enjoyed climbing the trees in our quest to get that most perfect apple that was out of our reach otherwise. I remember the cooking frenzy of applesauce and apple pies when we got home, and I can still see my grandmother and mother working in the kitchen peeling apple after apple!

I continued the apple picking tradition when I had my own family. We were country folk, and so the drive to the apple orchard was much shorter, though it was still a family outing. We enjoyed picking the apples, and my young sons would climb the trees to get that most perfect apple. Sometimes the fun was just in climbing the trees! I usually brought a blanket so we could all sit down for an apple snack. After we had our apple harvest we would go to the barn to pay for them. There were always many other things to buy like fresh vegetables, apple cider, and pumpkins. Of course, we bought some of each. The pumpkin choosing was especially fun! Fall harvest time is still one of my favorite times of the year.

As we cycle through the seasons of the year, we experience the abundance and providence of God's gift of life. It is so wonderful to reap the harvest. And it is a little sad to watch the mother plants wither once their job is done. I am reminded of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, which speaks of the seasons of life and how there is a time for everything in God's purpose.



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time for war, and a time for peace.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Though some might disagree with this teacher’s resigned conclusions, the main point comes from observing life and honoring God’s presence and mystery in all things. Ecclesiastes reminds us of our need for humility as we stand in awe of God’s mastery and mystery.

It seems to me that “awe” is the proper sentiment at harvest time, as God’s abundance in the grand design for life stirs in us a sense of deep appreciation. I do believe that for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven - in the garden and apple orchards, and in the days of our lives. My grandmother and my mother have both passed away. My young children have grown up and have families of their own now. Yet I still enjoy spending time in the kitchen in the Fall, peeling a big bag of apples and making applesauce and apple pies. I cherish the days that have passed, and I anticipate the days yet to come, picking apples with my grandchildren. For I know that although I cannot see the big picture, our benevolent God does. And this fills my heart with gratitude.

I wish you a Happy Harvest!

Blessings and Peace,

Reverend Linda C. Hey



MISSION SURVEY RESULTS AND RESULTING ACTION

The Outreach and Stewardship Ministry wants to thank those of you who completed our survey last spring to help identify those areas that our congregation feels are most important for our mission donations. Twenty-eight members responded with the top four considered most important were:

Food Insecurity

Homelessness

Living in Poverty, Medical Care, Education & Life Skills

Domestic & Child Abuse, Sex Trafficking, Missing & Exploited Children, Sexual Abuse & Rape



Going forward we will focus on these areas for the next 6 months for mission donations. However, we will still prioritize donation requests from our congregation or emergency events. We plan to survey our members each year.

At our September 8th meeting, in keeping with our plan above, we chose to send \$1000 to the Locker Project, an organization connecting food-insecure children with nourishing food. If you'd like more information about the Locker Project here is a link to their web site. <https://mainelockerproject.org/>

BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS

are planned for October and November! We will be studying the Lectionary Scriptures that will be read the following Sunday.

Where: Annex parlor

When: Wednesday afternoons at 3 O'clock.

October 2, October 16, October 30, November 13

Who: Everyone is welcome! No need to sign up.

Bring a Bible and something to write on.

I will make copies of the Scripture for everyone, and thought provoking readings.

Each session is completely independent of the others, so you don't need to commit to attending. Come when you can and share your thoughts if you like, or just listen.

I hope to see you there! Liane Giambalvo



JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON ESTATE PLANNING AND RETIREMENT

The Outreach and Stewardship Ministry is sponsoring its first education session on retirement and estate planning. It is important to consider what you want to do with your estate, your belongings and properties. This is a job that many of us don't want to tackle. No matter your position in this world, what you do with this planning protects you and your family. Even if you have done some of this work, this is a chance to learn about what kinds of updates you might need and changes that have occurred. There is always something to learn. We feel that this discussion will provide current information on planning and will help provide peace of mind for you and for your family.

Some of the topics they will discuss: Will vs. Trust; Estate Planning; Medicare; Social Security; Nursing Home vs. Assisted Living Facilities; Funerals and Advanced Planning, and donations to your church.

Don't miss the upcoming presentation by local educators who can help you plan and protect your future. They will meet at the Parish Hall on October 9 at 3:00pm and discuss a majority of issues that concern us as we think about the future.

Reservations are not required, but are appreciated. Call Elizabeth Meader, one of the educators, at 603-842-2543. Or give the church office a call, 207-883-4243. Please come in and take advantage of this informative session.

Ministry of Outreach & Stewardship



MEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Rev. Linda will be holding a New Member Orientation class after church on September 29th. New members will be welcomed into church membership on October 6th in worship. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the church please let Rev. Linda know.



MUSICAL NOTES

Happy October! Choir is up and running with five of our mighty veterans: Sue Fielding, Kate Sawdon, Vicki Flynn, Elaine Sederlund, and our relative newcomer, Dennis Bailey. I want to thank them ahead of time for their commitment to our worship through music. It is with gratitude that I also thank our former members, Ray and Brenda Birkner - veterans for sure! - and Don and Jean Showalter, newcomers for more than a season, for all of their time and efforts. And, for the future, I hope *YOU* might want to join us to try your singing voice out, too. Visiting in the choir is encouraged! If it's a good fit for you, whether for a Sunday, a season, or the whole year, you will know. Also, if you have special music you would like to suggest to us, or a special music event you might like to see happen in our church life, don't be shy. Send me an email, at wendynorthrup9@gmail.com, or catch me in church and tell me, or write a note. We want the church music to be what will inspire you most in your worship!

The adhoc Music Committee is back up and running, too, with lots of brainstorming about the music program and music needs of the church. Thank you to our Chair Sue Fielding, and Members: Pastor Linda Hey, Brenda Birkner, Mary Ellen Bossom, Kate Sawdon, and Minister of Music Wendy Northrup.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Please save the date!! On **Saturday, October 26th**, starting at 3:30 pm we will be holding our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot. We are hoping to have at least 20 cars participate in this very fun event.



There will be food, a fire pit and photo op. We always have a great time and enjoy some wonderful Fellowship with the rest of the participants. If you have any questions about participating please contact Terri Brown at terribrown1959@yahoo.com or 883-6093.

October Newsletter Building Advisory Committee Update

As you may know, a Building Advisory Committee (BAC) was formed in late 2023 by the Church Council “to investigate, evaluate and report back to the Council on the feasibility of the 3 major property initiative options”, and this is an update on our activity and progress.

The BAC has continued to meet a couple of times a month since late last year with our efforts focused on five primary areas: Assessment of Priorities and Scope, Feasibility Research, Cost Research, and Funding Research

Assessment of Priorities and Scope

The church has many high-priority property related maintenance and upkeep projects pending funding, and the BAC reviewed these to better understand the implications to property renovation/improvement initiatives and inter-dependencies. For example, adding a wheelchair lift to the church will require a foundation, digging into the parking lot, and taking off siding. This would conflict with any re-siding or parking lot re-paving maintenance effort. We would certainly want to avoid unnecessary expense.

The BAC’s primary focus has been improved building accessibility, both within each building, and between buildings along with renovated bathrooms at the parish hall for wheelchair accessibility. We’ve also worked on designs for basic office and storage space within the parish hall to enable sale of the office/annex building.

Clearly, the financial cost of the pending maintenance and upkeep projects will heavily contend with funding needed for renovation/improvement initiatives and most certainly require some level of fundraising.

Feasibility Research

The BAC contacted five Maine and New England based religious organizations that have recently undergone building construction or renovation. From those organizations we learned that:

- Most organizations funded their projects (ranging from \$800,000 to over \$4 million) via a combination of fundraising and loans. External fund-raising companies were typically used. Grants were not a major source of funding.

- Most organizations with an endowment fund did not tap them for their projects
- Renovations and building projects targeted accessibility issues, but also heating/cooling needs and upgrade of spaces to raise revenue and meet community needs

- The building improvements and renovations typically resulted in growth in worshipers and annual income

The BAC has done additional research and feasibility analysis of the Long-Range Plan (LRP) wheelchair lift conceptual proposals. For example, the LRP calls for lift access between floors of the parish hall, but the current bathrooms are not wheelchair or even walker accessible. Upgrading the bathrooms will require nearly twice the space which impacting existing classroom and possibly Food Pantry space. It is highly likely that all proposed property initiatives will have some less-than-desirable impact.

Cost Research

In 2023, the Ministry of Governing and Finances (MG&F) worked with Gawron-Turgeon Architects (GTA) to develop conceptual plans for a Connector building between the back of the church and the right side of the Parish Hall and replace the existing kitchen addition behind the church. A high-level estimate for that project provided by a commercial builder was \$3.1 million and would involve an elevator, office space, fully accessible bathrooms replacing the one in the church and two in the parish hall and a modern commercial-type kitchen.

To understand the potential cost implications of alternative initiatives, the BAC has been working with Gawron on updated conceptual plans for wheelchair lifts, accessible bathrooms in the church and parish hall, and renovations for office space in the parish hall. A reduced-scope Connector, with an elevator, but without the kitchen renovation, bathrooms, or office space is also being researched. We hope to soon have high-level cost estimates for all these options for comparison purposes.

Funding Research

There are several ways for a church to raise funds for property initiatives including securing loans, capital fundraising campaigns, grants, and/or selling assets. For example, in 2022, the parsonage was sold with the proceeds put into income producing investments, primarily to increase church income to help pay a housing allowance to current and future ministerial staff.

The BAC has secured current market values for the annex and a land parcel along Woodside Drive that could potentially be sold to raise funds. Even so, the sale proceeds of these assets would likely not cover the expenses of the key property initiatives.

With the assistance of Pam Joy, several potential foundations that make financial grants and loans were identified and researched. In addition, in working with the State Fire Marshall's office on sprinkler requirements, some additional grant sources were identified and researched. With few exceptions, most of the grants and loans are limited and would not cover a substantial part of our needed building renovations. However, there may be opportunities for funding some of the significant maintenance and improvement projects faced by the church.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) and other organizations offer capital campaign fundraising services for a fee. These will need to be explored in more depth as our church moves forward with any property enhancement initiative. The UCC also offers financing / loans for church building projects, and the BAC has gathered information regarding their financing terms, conditions and rates.

The BAC plans to host a Q&A session for the congregation this fall. We always welcome your suggestions and concerns, so please feel free to contact any of our committee members or email the church office with your thoughts.

Joanne Brown
Cliff Colville
Elaine Sederlund
Rob Willey

NEWS FROM GOVERNING & FINANCE

FINANCIAL UPDATE: FCC Treasurer Lynne Hermann and member of the Ministry of Governing & Finance will host a session after neighboring on October 27th to update the congregation on the church's financial picture. The report will cover Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and the current Year to Date from July 2024 through September 30.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FRESH AIR FELLOWSHIP: A Fall Clean-up is scheduled for November 2, starting at 8:30 am and wrapping up by noon if necessary). Many hands lighten the load, so join us with a rake or clippers and enjoy fellowship and fresh air.



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Church Website	www.fccscarborough.com
Church Telephone #	(207) 883-2342
Pastor: Rev. Linda Hey	rlindahey2@gmail.com
Office Hours:	9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Monday through Friday

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Women's Fellowship is having their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Vestry. We will be having a pot luck supper, so bring an entree, side dish or salad to share. Merry Roberts and Betty Holmes are the hostesses for the evening and will provide the dessert! There will be musical entertainment/sing along and after dinner we will have our business meeting. We hope everyone can come - whether you are a member or not! Women's Fellowship is open to all ladies of the church. Hope to see you there!



The second meeting of Women's Fellowship on October 22, 2024 at 2:00 in the Ladies Parlor will have a very interesting program. Scarborough Police Chief Mark Holmquist will join us to talk about his time as an honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. Our hostesses for that meeting are Diane Brown and Sharon Haskell. We hope you can join us.



It's hard to believe, but the Yuletide Fair is fast approaching. It will be held on December 7, 2024 from 8:30-noon. In the past few months we have asked that those who make pickles, relish, jams and jellies make a few extra jars for the fair. Since gardening season is almost done, we are changing our requests. It's time to start crafting, knitting and thinking about baking! The following items will be needed for the fair:

JEWELRY - do you have some jewelry you no longer wear and would like to get rid of? Consider giving it to either Ruth Bruns or Mary Ellen Bossom at any time for the Jewelry Table.

CRAFTS - knit items like hats, mittens and scarves. We can use more items for babies and men/boys, also items for women/girls in bright, contemporary colors. And how about items in Scarborough's school colors of red and white! Aprons are always appreciated and gnomes are popular every year.

COOKIE WALK - get your cookie sheets ready to bake lots of cookies! Think about some different, delicious cookies to make. We tend to get lots of chocolate chip, so other flavors are very much appreciated. This table sells out almost every year, so lots of cookies will be needed!

CANDY - are you known for a special kind of candy - needhams, fudge, peanut clusters or caramels? We hope you will consider making some for the fair!

GENTLY USED CHRISTMAS - this is a very popular table for people to find bargains! If you have gently used Christmas items you no longer want, now is the time to gather them together to be sold at the fair.

BAKED GOODS - people love to get treats to eat or gift during the holiday season and this table fills that need. This year we will be looking for the following homemade items: salsa, jam/jelly, pickles/relish, cornbread, whoopie pies, pies, baked beans, soup, cupcakes, hot fudge sauce, applesauce, cranberry relish, cinnamon buns, coffee cakes, bread, Chex Mix. We tend to get a lot of pumpkin and zucchini items, so different flavors would be much appreciated.

As the fair gets closer, we will give you drop-off dates/times, how food items are to be packaged, etc. We know we can always count on the people of our church to help out. And we thank you for that! If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Brown at rmbrown128@yahoo.com.

CRAFTS AND FELLOWSHIP.

This group meets every Tuesday afternoon (except for Women's Fellowship meeting days) at 2:00 in the Annex. Bring a craft to work on or just come to chat. Everyone is welcome!



MEMBERS, FRIENDS & CHURCH LIFE with Terri Brown's help had a successful picnic inside the vestry on Sunday Sept 8! All who came enjoyed making their Italian sandwich and talking to everyone again! Welcome back and be looking forward to a happy, healthy fall! Keep in touch as you never know what Members, Friends and Church Life might be doing next! It might be SCARY!!!! Joanne Brown Chairman



**“Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,
and the glory of children is their parents”.**

Proverbs 17:6

Seen here, seven of Bryce and Merri Roberts’
grandchildren listen to Rev. Hey’s lesson

AFTER THE SALE

(to the tune of After the Ball)

After the Sale is over,

After the shoppers leave,

There’s lots of things left over,

Stuff that nobody needs!

That’s when we call The Dump Guys,

They’ll come and take it all.

Then we can resume the use of

Our Parish Hall.



PARISH HALL HAPPENINGS:

Saturday, Sept. 28

Annual Meeting of the John Libby Family Association

An all day gathering with 50 people expected to attend.

Sunday, October 6

The Scarborough Historical Society will start meeting in our Parish Hall on the first Sunday of each month starting at 3:00 pm. (No meeting in December because of our Yuletide Fair)

