



The Beacon

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church
Summer 2017

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

439 PARK AVENUE
AUBURN, MAINE 04210

Telephone: (207) 782-3972
www.auburnmethodist.org

Church Secretary, Joan Spitzform
Email: office@auburnmethodist.org

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Sunday School
Children and Youth 10:00 a.m.

Staff

Rev. Stephen Bascom, Pastor
sebisk@outlook.com

Judith Kuhn, Organist
Caroline Coffin, Choir Director
William Buzza, Bell Choir Director
Claire Cote, Children's Choir
Peter Poliquin, Custodian
Edith Ellis, Beacon Editor
Cherie Downing, SS Superintendent
Mitch Thomas, Music Director, early
service

Email articles to
sunnysidegardens@roadrunner.com

**BEACON deadline for submission
is the 10th of the month prior to
publication date.**

Next due date is August 10th
No Beacon July and August

The Pastors Pen

*"Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint,
But happy are those who keep the law." Proverbs 29:18 (NRSV)*

More often than we admit, there is a difference between what the Bible says and what we think it says. I have noticed this recently with regard to Proverbs 29:18. For much of my life and ministry, I have heard Bible teachers, church growth 'specialists,' and preachers (myself included, I confess) use the King James Version of this verse (ie, Where there is no vision, the people perish) as a marshalling trumpet call to visioning (if you imagine and communicate it well, they will come).

As a young teen, I remember the healing evangelist, Oral Roberts, using this verse to solicit financial support for a 'Praying Hands' monument at Oral Roberts University. I gave a month's allowance toward the cause. The monument was eventually constructed, but last I heard, the foundation shifted, causing it to lean like the Tower of Pisa—not quite the vision Oral had in mind.

The application of the KJV translation of this verse has led more than one Christian leader to re-define the role of pastor as that of 'Vision-caster,' one who imagines, sketches and convincingly communicates a vision of what the church should become. Everyone jump on board and away we go! No doubt many purpose-driven and good ministries have emerged from this approach. But it is better when scripture speaks to us than it is when we speak to scripture.

So what does Proverbs 29:18 actually say? If I understand it properly, the verse says, "If we don't take time to discern and learn what God is doing, we will stumble all over ourselves without common purpose. If we pay attention to what God reveals, we will succeed with joy."

I am deeply grateful for the 80+ seeds of vision that have been submitted for our 'Vision Garden' at church. If you haven't offered an idea, or if you have other ideas to contribute, please send them to us as soon as you can. In September, there will be an opportunity for us to discern together, perhaps at a church retreat, how God wants us to use these seed-ideas to shape our immediate and future life together. I am excited by the possibilities on the horizon; I hope you are, too!

Catch the Spirit!

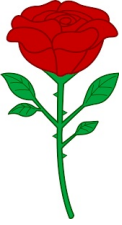
Rev. Steve Bascom, Pastor

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday is Pastor's Sabbath day.

Steve will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. – Noon and Thursday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. He is also available by appointment.

Parsonage Phone Number: 753-1275



Parish Notes

On May 8th, Eleanor Rolerson, member of UMCA for 66 years, embraced the arms of her Savior. A service celebrating her life was held on May 11th at the Albert and Burpee Funeral Home in Lewiston with

Rev. Bascom officiating. We are grateful to God for the gift of her life and her presence among us. Ellie was secretary of the guidance departments of various area schools for many years. Please keep her family in prayer.

Choir News

After prayer and discernment, Caroline Coffin, our incomparable Director of The Wesleyan Singers (Church Choir), announced that she will be stepping down from the position at the end of this choral year (Sunday, June 11th). Kary and Dana are expecting an addition to their family (Congratulations!!!), and decided the choir position is too much to juggle with family responsibilities at this time. We will miss Kary as Director, but certainly understand the decision. Please join us in thanking Kary for her dedication to the worship and concert life of our congregation on Sunday, June 11, Children's Sunday.

Sesame Street Comes to Church!

Children's Sunday, June 11th, 10 am

Join Big Bird, Bert, Ernie, Elmo, Count and the gang as they visit the United Methodist Church of Auburn to celebrate our children and youth on Children's Sunday, June 11th! The worship service will feature the Number 7 and the Letter F. We will honor our graduates, teachers and children, with a special time of recognition for Kary Coffin who has given so generously of her talents as director of The Wesleyan Singers. Find the Rainbow Connection as Sesame Street Comes to Church!



Search for a Choir Director

If you know of a candidate who may be interested in

applying for the position of choir director for The Wesleyan Singers, please let Lucille Webber (SPRC Chair) or Pastor Steve Bascom know. The choir complements worship at the 10 am service, from the second Sunday of September to the second Sunday of June, assists with special services and performs at two concerts (Christmas, spring).

New England Annual Conference

June 15th – 17th, 2017, Manchester, NH
"Vital Conversations: Race"

Ruth Southworth, Lay Representative
Rev. Steve Bascom, Clergy Representative
Lucille Webber, UMW Representative

Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for the many second-mile gifts that come to the church through thoughtful and generous givers. We thank Carroll Akers and Gary Bain for installing the new door at the end of the hall at the pre-school end of the building, Gordon Sweet for a Little Tykes house addition to the Children's Playground, Boy Scout Pack 111 for the gift of a new vacuum, Donna Bain for painting the church education wing hall and an anonymous donor who supplies all the paper needed for the church office. Not all gifts are known or discovered in a timely way, but you know who you are, and we thank God for you!

Confirmation this fall...

Pastor Steve Bascom will guide a Confirmation Journey this fall for youth, grade 5 and up. The Confirmation Journey will consist of three overnight retreats at the church: September 22-23, October 27-28 and November 10-11, with a special Celebration Trip on December 9th.

Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on December 10th, 10 am service. Several chaperones will be assisting with the overnight retreats and Celebration Trip. Youth will be given a mentor of their choice who will complement the Journey, following Safe Sanctuaries protocol. The retreats will begin on Friday nights at approximately 6 pm with a Pizza party and conclude on Saturdays at 12 noon. At the end of the Journey, participants may choose (or not) to be baptized (if they have not previously been baptized), to confirm their faith as a follower of Christ and to unite as a member of the United Methodist Church of Auburn. The Journey is a rite of passage that stays with participants forever!

Mother's Day Remembrance Thank You

On behalf of the members of Ruth Circle, thank you to everyone who participated in the Mother's Day Remembrance Bulletin this year. We started this annual mission fundraising project in 2000 and on May 21st of this year we sent a check to the Center for Wisdom's Women in Lewiston for \$307. This is the third local program relating to women or women and children that we have helped in these 17 years and the total donated in that time is \$6,310! We appreciate your generosity in helping us fulfill our annual mission project this year and in all the years past.

Maple Syrup Thank You!

Thank you to all who purchased Maine Maple Syrup during our Maple Syrup Fundraiser this spring. \$822 was raised to benefit the Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston. It was a SWEET profit to share with them!



Seedlings are Sprouting!

Check out the seedling garden that is growing in the fellowship hall in front of the bulletin board. There have been approximately 75 vision seeds submitted at this point in time. Several visions overlap in concept but the garden is definitely filling up. In fact, the garden is so full it is hard to read the seed packets. If you haven't submitted your vision seed, then there are still blank seed packets available. You can drop your ideas in the seed basket on the same table. In addition to those presented last month, here is another sample of vision seeds to peak your interest.

Install an outdoor digital church sign on Park Avenue that can be controlled by computer software.

Prepare a nature area and outdoor worship space in the wooded area at the end of the parking lot. Include a fire pit for "worship around the campfire".

Make scarves and tie them around trees and on fences for the cold homeless people to take during the winter. Also hats and mittens could be included with the scarves.

Hire a part-time youth director and assistant to supervise a teen center open to the community in the room vacated by the preschool. Establish a regular weekly time, provide snacks, games.

Friendly Reminders

High Street Food Pantry

The following items are needed on a weekly basis: peanut butter, toilet paper, and pasta sauce. Please place items in the grocery cart outside the sanctuary.

If you have questions about the pantry or wish to volunteer, please speak with Leroy Brown or Eric Howes. Thank you for supporting this mission and helping local people meet their most basic needs.

E-beacon Invitation

To receive your eBeacon, send an email to sunnysidegardens@roadrunner.com. If you would like to receive an electronic version of the Beacon **and** still receive a paper copy please be sure to specify this otherwise you will be removed from the mailing list for the Beacon. Many thanks to those that are already receiving their eBeacon! The group is growing. Please keep your email address up to date. If it changes, send a note to the email above.

P.S. You can also find the most recent and the last issues of the Beacon on our web site- auburnmethodist.org, so please check it out.

Box Tops for Education/ Campbell Labels

Collections of Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels will end in July. Thank you for your support of this project over the years. Gail Theberge

Don't Forget - Visit Our Mission Store!

In order to assist in the weekly collections for our three local mission projects: The Center for Wisdom's Women, The Auburn Preschool, and the High Street Food Cupboard, we have set up a mission store for your convenience. See the Mission Store table in the Fellowship Hall to see how you can help!



Faith Journey Collection Box

Faith Journey is supporting the Center for Wisdom's Women in Lewiston by having a collection box for FULL SIZED hygiene products for the women that they serve. You will find it on the table in the Narthex.

Christian Education

What Makes a Dad ?

God took the strength of a mountain
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of the summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in Spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need.
Then God combined all these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add.
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so He called it...DAD.

*Sunday School wishes all the Dads a blessed
Father's Day!*

June has arrived and with that comes the end of Sunday School. We have had a busy year. Attendance has been a challenge. I appreciate all the children who came on a regular basis and those who were able to attend when sport schedules did not interfere. Your presence in Sunday School means so much.

LAST DAY of SUNDAY SCHOOL will be June 11th. Sesame Street Comes to Church will be the program. You don't want to miss it.

Time for some THANK YOUs....

A huge thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and helpers who make our Sunday School Program a success. Your dedication and devotion each Sunday morning is appreciated more than words can say.

To all those who have helped with special events and activities...Trunk or Treat...Breakfast with the Easter Bunny....Drive-In Movie Night....Christmas Pageants....VBS... Children's Moments...filling in to cover a classroom or help in the Nursery at the last minute Thank you so very much. It takes the whole church to makes these events a success.

Congratulations to our High School Seniors....Cody Malpass, Koby Humason-Fulgham, Colin Woodhead,

and Michael Gordon. Michael has been a big help to us for several years at VBS helping Koby with the recreation. He also has taken a part in many of the Christmas Pageants.

May God bless your prayers with faith, your dreams with hope, and all your days with His love. You set a goal . Achieved it. Now it is time to pat yourself on the back and say..."Job Well Done!"

The Wentworth and Bill Hackett Scholarship recipients this year are Koby Humason-Fulgham and Eric Hall.

Camp Mechuwana.....we have 7 children who will be attending camp this year. What a joy it is to be able to see our youth take part . Have fun and we will be anxious to hear about your experience in the Fall.

VBS.....After many discussions and much praying we have decided to POSTPONE VBS this summer due to the construction that is taking place on the road right in front of the church. Barnyard Roundup will be taking place at a later date.

Be sure to check out TAKE OUT CHURCH which each of our Sunday School children will be receiving...Thank you to the Education Committee for your work on this project.

Have a safe, and enjoyable summer with family and friends. Rest, Relax and Re-energize



Summer Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
June		
1	Judy Sargent Amy Young	Butch & Cherie Downing
2	Shirley Bennett	
3	Carroll Akers	
11	Betty Young	
12	John Coffin Marilyn Rice	
13	Claire Emerson	
15	Patty Stone	
18		David & Holly Sysko
22	Stephanie Therriault	
23	Maynard Chapman	
24		Dana & Kary Coffin
25		Joel & Janet Irish
26	James DeCaylor	
27	Holly Sysko	
July		
1	Patti Ellery	
2	Dennis Lavoie Helen McKenley	
11	Daphne Ellis	Robert & Allison Franklin
13	Brenda Mower	
14	Gladys Chapman	
15	Desiree Cossey	
16		Joel & Edith Ellis
17		Walter & Kay Webb
25	Bob Allison	
29	Cherie Downing	
31	Carol Christopoulos	
August		
5	Koby Humason-Fulgham	
12	Dana Coffin	
13	Joel Ellis	
20	Kathryn MacDonald	
23		Dick & Kathy Gleason
24		Tony & Trudy Hodgdon
25	Kathy Gleason Debra Humason-Fulgham	
26		Bob & Susan Allison
28		Maurice & Shirley Keene
30		John & Sue DeRoche
31	Edith Ellis	

Church Calendar

June 2017

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 am	Early Morning Worship Service
9:00 am	Wesleyan Singers
9:15 am	Pastor's Prayer Circle
9:45 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
11:15 am	Conversation and Snacks

Thursday, June 1st

10:00 a.m.	Faith Journey
11:30 a.m.	Nurture Committee
5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 121
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Tigers
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Wolf
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Bears
6:30 p.m.	Webelos
7:00 p.m.	Church Council

Friday, June 2nd

9:00 a.m.	Music Together
10:15 a.m.	Music Together
6:30 p.m.	Troop 111 Meeting

Saturday, June 3rd

7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Music Together
10:00 a.m.	Music Together

Sunday, June 4th

8:30 a.m.	Communion Worship Service
9:10 a.m.	Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
3:00 p.m.	Music Together
4:00 p.m.	Music Together
5:30 p.m.	Music Together
5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m.	Private Men's Group

Monday, June 5th

5:30 p.m.	There is a Solution Group
6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
7:00 p.m.	Serenity Group
7:30 p.m.	Alanon
7:30 p.m.	AA

Tuesday, June 6th

5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2145
5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class

Wednesday, June 7th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
9:30 a.m. Music Together
11:00 a.m. Hopeful Earth Study
6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Singers
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, June 8th

11:30 a.m. Outreach Committee
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 121
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Tigers
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Wolf
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Bears
6:30 p.m. Webelos

Friday June 9th

10:00 a.m. Montello Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Meeting

Saturday, June 10th

9:00 a.m. Music Together
10:15 a.m. Music Together

Sunday, June 11th

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Wesleyan Singers
9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
5:30 a.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, June 12th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution Group
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
7:30 p.m. AA
7:30 p.m. Alanon

Tuesday, June 13th

5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class

Wednesday, June 14th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
9:30 a.m. Music Together
6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Singers
6:00 p.m. River Valley Girl Scouts
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, June 15th

5:00 p.m. SPRC Committee
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 121

Friday, June 16th

10:00 a.m. Schooner Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Court of Honor

Saturday, June 17th

9:30 a.m. Girl Scout Troop 2145

Sunday, June 18th

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Worship Committee
11:30 a.m. Mission Committee
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, June 19th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
7:30 p.m. AA
7:00 p.m. Alanon

Tuesday, June 20th

1:15 p.m. Naomi Circle
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
7:00 p.m. Troop 111 Committee

Wednesday, June 21st

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, June 22nd

10:00 a.m. Clover Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Literacy Volunteers Dinner
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class

Friday, June 23rd

No Activities Scheduled

Saturday, June 24th

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 25th

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, June 26th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
7:30 p.m. AA/Alanon

Tuesday, June 27th

10:00 a.m. Multiple Sclerosis Meeting
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class

Wednesday, June 28th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Breakfast
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, June 29th

5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class

Friday, June 30th

No Activities Scheduled

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The United Methodist Church of Auburn is an inter generational Christian Community whose mission is to embody Christ's love through a commitment to serve God by fulfilling the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our congregation and of our local and global communities.