

February Update – 2016

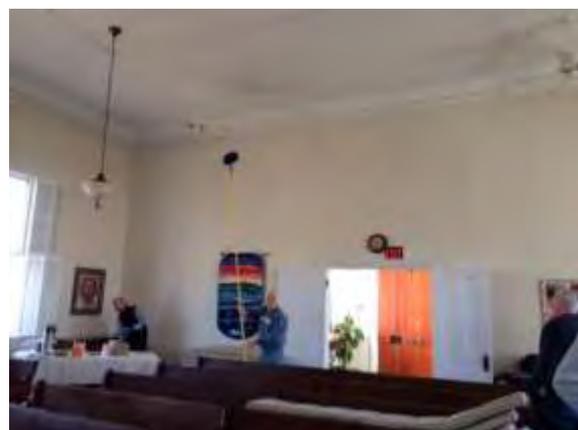
Dear friends,

It has been quite a few weeks for all of us. Jan outdid herself in January leading spectacular worship experiences, and you repaid her royally with an amazing final celebratory service with outstanding and moving music and a lovely and enjoyable luncheon. The flowers, the food, the videos, the speeches, the music and the gifts made for a grand send-off for a grand lady. Both Jan and Ed were deeply touched and they will always remember the love poured out for them on that day.



My first two weeks leading the Sunday services were extremely meaningful for me, due to your warm support, encouragement and gratitude. I know that not having Jan as pastor is very difficult, as are the changes that naturally come with a new leader. But you have all been extremely gracious, and I am enormously grateful.

Thank you to everyone who helped to clean the church and the office. Due to Jan taking her personal furnishings with her and my replacing some of them, the office has a new look. I hope that you will find it a pleasant and comfortable space to meet and minister in your various roles. Blessings, Nancy



Who is that man with the impressive cleaning tool? On January 31st Bob Sherman ended his tenure as moderator and co-moderator of Union Church. The second picture exemplifies that Bob did

whatever was needed to advance the mission of the church. Jen Comeau spoke for all of us at the annual meeting when she said:

Dear Bob,

Thank you for demonstrating what compassionate leadership is all about. As Moderator, you've shown us how to show up for each other, speak lovingly, set an example by working harder than everyone else, and walk with humility and vigor the path of God. With hearts filled with love and gratitude, we thank you!

Cookie Bakers Needed: Union Church is hosting the dinner at In A Pinch, one of our long-time mission partners, on Tuesday, February 9. Are you able to help out by baking a batch of cookies, brownies, or bars for dessert? A sign out sheet is at the church entrance. If you have any questions or would like someone to pick up your cookies for delivery to In A Pinch, please contact Debbie Lamb (282-2644).

Tuesday, February 9th, is our annual Mardi Gras celebration. Laissez les bon temps rouler at the Biddeford Pool Community Club at 6p.m. for appetizers or 6:30p.m. for dinner. Sign up at church, or with Shantia shantiawg@gmail.com, (508-450-2001) to bring a dish, or help out, or make a donation. And don't forget the Margaritas - a much anticipated and delicious little fundraiser at the event.



Feb. 10th at 7:00p.m. There will be a short prayer service to begin the holy season of Lent. All are welcome.

LENTEN OFFERINGS and Opportunities

- **Wednesdays 12:00-1:30, Starting February 10th**, a **book discussion** of Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr will be take place at the Union Church Office. New and used copies of the book are available on Amazon.
- **Bible study/sharing** on the Parables of Jesus will be held on **Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:30**, beginning February 11th at the Union Church Office. I'll be using two references: Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy Jill Levine and

Parables, the Arrows of God by Megan McKenna. Both books are available new or used at Amazon, but are not necessary for the study. You may want to refer to other resources, or use none at all. You need only bring a Bible, any version you like.

- **Holy Cross Anglican Primary School** - The Missions Committee has chosen the Holy Cross Anglican Primary School to be the beneficiary of our Lenten Offering once again this year. The church began sponsoring Luis Choc, a 12 year old student at the school, in September. The school is located in the incredibly poor neighborhood of San Mateo on Ambergris Caye, Belize. San Mateo was recognized by the Red Cross as being the most at risk community in the country. Holy Cross was founded in 2006 by two missionaries from Virginia and provides not only an excellent education for the children of San Mateo but also nutritious lunches and dental and medical care. The school relies heavily on donations and volunteers and always has a long wish list of needed items. Marlin and Laura Cobb will be traveling to Belize at the end of the month and will visit the school. They would love to be able to bring many of the wish list items with them! If you are able to provide something from the list, please bring it to church by **February 20th**. There will be boxes on the side pews at the front of the church for the collection. If you prefer, monetary donations are also welcome and can be done any time during the Lenten season. Thank you for your help!

Most Urgently Needed :

Wide Tip Permanent Markers

Laminating pouches for laminating machine (8.9"x11.4")

School glue (white glue, not glue sticks) ideally in 48 oz. bottles

Pocket Folders for teachers

Composition books for students

Cardstock – white, letter size

Laptop Computers – for our Std 6 class. Used in good working order is fine.

Scientific calculators 10

Permanent Markers – Sharpies

Staple Guns/staples – T21 (1/4 6mm)

Scissors – Adult/children sizes

Paint brushes 2", 3", 4"

Head lice shampoo

Boys/girls shoes sizes 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

To see the complete wish list and read more about the school visit www.holycrossbelize.org

- **Mission Moments** – To help church members and friends become more familiar with the missions that we are involved with at home and abroad, there will be a short presentation at the beginning of each service starting February 7th and continuing through Lent. When you hear about these services you may decide to support them during Lent by contributing financially or volunteering.



"Oh, this dinner room"



February 14th is not only the first Sunday in Lent, it is also Valentine's Day! There will be an opportunity during the Sunday service for couples in a committed relationship to privately renew their vows to each other. Living together over time and growing personally, what you choose to commit to now may be different than what you promised to each other in years past. Think about it, pray over it, and maybe discuss it together, and come prepared to celebrate your love in a vow ceremony. Those of you not in

coupleship have particular reason to attend to caring for yourselves. The vowing ritual will be an opportunity for you to commit to self-love through healthy choices and fostering nurturing relationships.



Due to Presidents' Day February 15th there will be no Saco Meals Program dinner. The Union Church crew is back on duty on the third Monday in March.

Reiki Schedule: Reiki will be at the home of Deborah Burke, 1 Oakwood Drive in Saco on February 11th and February 25th.