



Elijah Kellogg Church, Congregational Newsletter

March 2014

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Soundings

By Rev. John Carson

The Journey that is Lent

Dear Friends,

The journey that is Lent is 40 days in length – seven weeks long, excluding Sundays – recalling Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness on their way to God's Promised Land and Jesus' 40 days in the desert being tempted by the Devil and tended by the Holy Spirit.

Lent is the name given to the period of preparation for the festival of Easter. The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Lenten*, which means "Spring."

The journey that is Lent begins with ashes and Ash Wednesday. While not often celebrated in our Free Church tradition, Ash Wednesday has been a special day in the Church Universal since at least the sixth century. Ashes

are most often associated with humility, mourning and grief. Jewish and Christian traditions associate ashes with confession and penitence, two leading themes of the Lenten season.

The journey that is Lent concludes at the open door of an empty tomb. On Easter morning, we celebrate God's victory of love and life in Jesus' resurrection – and with it, the hope and promise of our own.

The journey that is Lent is an important journey – ancient, and yet, ever new. There is always something more to learn, and to experience, during these 40 days. And Lent's invitation is to journey and to learn – together.

I look forward to our traveling together – from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning, from repentance to resurrection, and all the places in between. I pray God bless us with a "good and holy" Lent, and I look forward to seeing all of you – in church!

Grace and Peace.

John



A lot is happening in March at EKC!

Please be sure to check the calendar listings carefully and the website for more information and updates on the great many events taking place this month at EKC!



Parlor Improvements Underway

Parlor improvements have begun with great progress being made. To learn more, please read the article on.....page 6.

Brown Bag for March – *Everyone is welcome*

Submitted by Bill Hunter

The Brown Bag Lunch is scheduled for **12:00pm on March 11**, and will feature Ash Cove resident **John Monaghan**, who is the chairman of the Town of Harpswell's Energy Committee and Principal of **Project Management & Energy Solutions**. A Civil Engineer, Certified Energy Manager, Certified Energy Auditor, Certified Building Analyst and LEED AP, John has been involved in commercial and institutional construction since 1975.



We've all read about the growing interest in geothermal heating and heat pumps, wood pellet boilers and the efficiencies of the various systems available today. John will remove some of the mystery and share his knowledge and experience with us.

As the Regional Manager for Pizzagalli Construction's Portland office, he oversaw the Libra Foundation's Pineland campus development—the renovation and retrofit of 23 historic buildings—as well as renovations of the Portland Museum of Art and Auburn City Hall. His experience in energy efficient projects led to Small Business audits for Efficiency Maine, a Program Partner in Efficiency Maine's Multi-family program and he is a Participating Energy Advisor for Efficiency Maine's Residential Program. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor for energy and sustainable building courses at Southern Maine Community College. He has served as a volunteer Team Leader for Habitat for Humanity. John earned his Civil Engineering degree from the University of Massachusetts, has pursued graduate studies in Construction Management at Worcester Polytec, and holds certificates in Sustainable Business and Project Management from the University Southern Maine. PMES is a Veteran Owned Business.

Join us on March 11 at noon and bring a sandwich and a friend. The coffee will be hot and fresh and all are welcome!



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

It's not too early to start thinking about the November Holiday Fair. We are planning to hold a meeting to share ideas about what you think works, or doesn't work. We have received some suggestions from a number of people and would like to hear what you have to offer. This could mean being open to change.

We are eager to have your input.

Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, March 6th at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall**; and we will see you then.

Linda Clement and Ruth Smith

Faith & Family

by Denise Perry, Christian Education Director

Train a child in a way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6



CHANCE AUCTION RUNS
March 2-14th



Friday, March 14th
TALENT SHOW & AUCTION
6:00pm
Pizza and Drinks will be
available for \$1.00 each.
All proceeds benefit Heifer
International!



EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 19th

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Sunday School – The Sunday School organized a Baking Night and a Bake Sale to raise money for Beatriz Domain, our sponsorship child. With all of your donations and support of the sale, they raised \$160! Thank you!

KC-JAM – Attend our Talent Show on Friday, March 14th to see KC-JAM live. On Palm Sunday a jazzy rendition of *Jesus Loves Me* will be performed during the worship service.

HS YAK – Jaime Merriam and Caroline Daniel along with Rev. Nancy White and Sandra Golonka spent a week *Matthew 28 Orphanage* in Haiti. If you visit Rev. Nancy White's Facebook page you will find posts of their mission trip. We hope to be scheduling an evening to hear all about this wonderful outreach – stay tuned.



FAMILY MINISTRIES & MISSIONS PROJECTS

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business. It provides wool, milk, eggs, and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food, and a sustainable livelihood. That is what **Heifer International** is all about! Help us the month of March raise money to support this wonderful cause. Here are some ways you can support this mission.

- ***Fill the Ark*** is a daily missions-giving program that spans for four weeks. It offers individuals and families an opportunity to learn about – and offer a helping hand to – families across the globe. As you fill an ark with money, you'll learn how your gifts can share God's love. When your Arks are filled, bring them back in to be counted.
- Participate in our ***Chance Auction*** March 2-14. It is a combination of a raffle and a silent auction. The difference is that each item has its own 'hat'. This allows the ticket buyer to choose which prize to focus on. Purchase as many tickets as you want for \$1.00 each. Place one or more tickets in the 'hat' beside any item that you want to win. At the conclusion of bidding, one winning ticket is drawn from each 'hat' and the item is given to the owner of that ticket. Tickets can be purchased in the office or during coffee hour. Items are on display in Fellowship Hall. Drawing will take place at the conclusion of the Talent Show on March 14th.
- ***Quarter Tubes*** will be set up in Fellowship Hall. It takes a 36 inches tube filled with Quarter (that's \$120) to donate a sheep or goat to a family. How many animals can we donate?

With Blessings,
Denise Perry



Capital Campaign Update

by Bill Hunter & Carol Coultas

The Capital Campaign Committee continues to make progress toward our formal April kick-off. But the efforts to raise \$400,000 over three years have already been buoyed by some very generous donors. Currently, more than \$222,500 has been pledged toward the \$400,000 goal. How wonderful!

Thanks to the varied skills of Cindy Lavan, our administrative assistant, a nearly final version of the campaign's brochure is undergoing a final proof. The brochure explains the campaign and the work we hope to accomplish using the funds. We are also seeking quotes to print the brochure and for envelopes and various campaign materials. The bones of a web page are under way so updates on the campaign can be posted at www.elijahkelloggchurch.org.

Additionally, members of the communications subcommittee have started exploring various historic renovation and preservation grants that might be appropriate for our church. Stay tuned and **save April 27th for a special kick-off event!**

All in all, there's great energy and enthusiasm for this project -- one we hope preserves both the structure and the ministry of our church for generations to come.



Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to attend our monthly Women's Fellowship gathering on

Tuesday, March 4, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

We hope you'll want to participate in a unique program we have planned.

We'd like you to bring and display an object which is special to you. Do you have a favorite item you're willing to let others see? Bring it and share a story about it or just come and see what others have to share.

Following the program, we'll meet for lunch (please bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be served.) Our monthly business meeting will follow.

Parlor Improvements Continue

by Kay Greenwood



We will soon be moving out extraneous furniture items and art work from the parlor. If there are any pieces of art that you and your family contributed in the past, please feel free to reclaim it. Our thought is to sell all items that will not be used, including the books that will be culled from the library, at the Barn Sale with the proceeds going back to the general church fund. Any pieces that can be used in other areas will be re-located within the church. Nothing will go to waste. It is the Maine way!

The committee is very excited about the choices we have made and pray that you will be happy with the selections as well.

By the time you read this, the cove molding around the library and ceiling will have been completed, the electrical work will have been done, the fabrics for the re-upholstering will have been delivered, the furniture delivered and perhaps the painting will have begun.



Stay tuned for the final chapter in April and do talk to any of the committee members if you have any questions or concerns. We are endeavoring to create a comfortable sanctuary within our parlor that will be in keeping with the history and needs of the church in as cohesive a manner as possible as we try to be as non-disruptive to the workings of the congregation as we can. **Due to circumstances beyond our control, we may not always succeed, but be assured we will try.**



Finance Committee Update

by Louise Huntington



The Board of Finance last reported good news to you at our Annual Meeting in late January. We had ended 2013 with a small surplus for the second year in a row, and we are looking forward to 2014 with cautious optimism on the finance front.

At the Annual Meeting, as Chair of the Finance Board, I said that the financial health of our church can be tipped from surplus to deficit by the giving of a single family. We are living very close to that tipping point.

Since the Annual Meeting, we have come to realize that with the death of several of our most generous donors, our income for the coming year is lower than we'd hoped for. It is our hope that with the revival of our famous church suppers, the addition of several new community events, and our regular fund-raising events – ***The Barn Sale, the Chicken Barbeque and the Holiday Fair*** – we will be able to continue to operate in the black the upcoming year.

We do not want to alarm anyone, but we wanted you to know that we are watching our finances carefully. The Board is very aware of the importance of your participation in church activities – we need your help to maintain the health of the Kellogg Church, and we need you to work together for our common good.

Easter Flowers

Special flowers are being planned for Easter Sunday. As a convenience for those who wish to honor loved ones, an order form follows. **Forms are due by Friday, April 4th** and maybe put in the Flower Committee mailbox outside the office door – or given to a member of the committee:



Carrie Bubier	Elizabeth Dyer
Pat Myer	Linda Clement
Linda Gillis	Ellie Patterson

The plants are available at \$9.50 each.

Easter Lilies _____

Daffodils _____

Tulips: Orange _____ Pink _____ Purple _____ Red _____
 No preference _____

In loving memory of

In honor of

Given by _____

Telephone (____) _____

We ask that you pick up your plants after the Easter Sunday service or within a week after Easter to take home or deliver to a recipient.



Elijah Kellogg Church Annual Barn and Book Sale

Saturday, June 28th, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

Featuring books, household goods, toys, games, sports equipment, and the Women's Fellowship Bake Sale.

Rent a table and sell your own treasures in our Flea Market area.

There will be a hot dog lunch. Free coffee will be served during the Sale.

Start saving your donations as you begin your spring cleaning. Pick up service will be available. We find we cannot sell exercise equipment, metal beds, bedding, clothing or electronics.

A schedule of drop-off times in late May and during June will be announced.

Co-chairs are Kay Greenwood 833-833-0907. and Louise Huntington, 725-5657.