

News from the AKS

Oakland Sidney United Methodist Church - Oakland, ME

www.oaksumc.org

Reverend Susan Davenport, Pastor

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March 2009

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441-1410

March, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I am writing this letter to you it is Ash Wednesday. For many of us this means going to church for a special service that includes having a cross marked on our foreheads with ashes, just as we will do this evening. It is a visible sign that is meant to remind us of two things:

- (1) **Our humanity:** "remember you are dust and to dust you will return."
- (2) **The gift of God's forgiveness and new life:** "repent and believe the gospel."

During the forty days of Lent we are given the opportunity to intentionally discipline ourselves to let these two things find deeper root within our lives. For example, to claim our humanity with its time limited opportunity on this earth may propel us to savor the sunrise/sunset; to take great delight in our loved ones; to reach out beyond our divisions to others; to live in the here and now more than the then and there; and to really live our life with gratitude and courage.

Likewise, to be more consciously aware of God's forgiveness and strength for beginning again can motivate us to cultivate our relationship with God; to find ways to help others to know that they too are loved and given new life; to serve the least, the last, and the forgotten ones as if they were Jesus in disguise; and to live more congruently with our words (beliefs) and our actions.

After the Ash Wednesday service many folks who leave the ashes visible find people in stores, at work, or school, mentioning to them, "Did you know you have a smudge on your forehead?" It becomes an opportunity to say, "Yes, and this is what it means to me."

We live in a world that needs a visible reminder of our humanity and God's forgiveness. The forty days of Lent lets us "**be**" the ashes other will see. So, my question to you is this... "**How will you make an ASH of yourself?**"

With prayers for a blessed Lent,

Pastor Sue



Prayer List

Norman Bartlett
Betty Chadbourne
Geneva Fitch
Pam & Keith Leavitt
Harold McDougall
Barbara Ryder
Ruth Stanley
Ina & Leonard Stymiest
Anita Willett
Our Servicemen & women
Our D. S. Beverly Stenmark
Our Bishop, Peter Weaver

United Methodist Women

The UMW will hold its March meeting on **Thursday, March 5th at 7pm in the church.** The program for the evening will be a special service of a Call to Prayer and Self Denial, led by Pastor Sue. We have invited our sister UMW Units from the area to join us as well. A special offering will be taken for Missions, and refreshments will be served following the program. All the women of the church are encouraged to join us.

United Methodist Men

The UMM will not meet for breakfast during the month of March. Their next meeting will be April 4th.

Double and One

Double and One will be meeting on **Saturday, March 14th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall** to celebrate St. Patrick's Day; you know what that means, Boiled Dinnah (Pastor Sue is cooking)! Everyone is invited so come join the fun.



Ahead!!!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Saturday, March 7th!**

Free Lunch

Our monthly Free Lunch will be held on **Wednesday, March 11th at noon.** The menu is American Chop Suey and/or Homemade Soup, Garlic or Plain Bread and Dessert Bars. Sounds scrumptious so come and have lunch with your friends and enjoy the fellowship.

AYC International Youth Exchange Program

AYC is a Waterville based International Exchange Program between Waterville Area Public High Schools and their "Sister Schools" in Chongqing, China. AYC is currently looking for host families for high school students for the Fall, 2009 school year in Oakland. Students will attend Messalonskee HS for a full school year. Host families will provide housing, meals, and are asked to include these youngsters as part of their family. A stipend of \$2,500.00 is afforded to each host family. If you are interested in being a host family, you may contact Gary Poulin, Director of AYC by emailing him at garypoulin_98@yahoo.com or by calling him at 314-8066 (cell phone).



Reunion

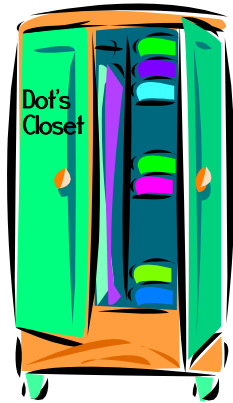
Did you go to Sunday school at OAKS? We are celebrating our first ever reunion on **Sunday, March 29th** in worship, and afterward at coffee hour. You're invited to come and bring your SS Memories. Do you have pictures, certificates, pins, or other SS memorabilia? Bring them with you to display and share those memories with others. Everyone is welcomed.

Congratulations OAKS!

We have received a letter of thanks and congratulations from our District Superintendent, Rev. Beverly Stenmark, along with a World Parish Citation for achieving payment of 100% of our 2008 Mission Shares. "Well done good and faithful servants."

News from the Outreach Committee

At the last meeting of the Outreach Committee a prayerful discussion was held about the possibility of opening a Thrift Shop at our church to go along with the Food Bank. The committee is very excited about this new undertaking, and has decided to name it "Dot's Closet," in honor of Dot Brackett. Dot faithfully worked in the Food Bank and was always interested in ways to help those who needed a hand. We are currently seeking approval from the Trustees and the Administrative Board for this project which will be housed in one of our Sunday school rooms. Watch for more information about this and pray for God's blessing on this endeavor.



NAMI-Maine Family-to-Family Education Program

If you, or someone you know, lives with a person struggling with major depression, Bipolar Disorder (Manic Depression), Schizophrenia, Borderline Personality Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Brain Disorders, or Addictive Disorders, the National Association for the Mentally Ill in Maine is sponsoring a free twelve week series of classes structured to help care-givers understand and support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well-being. These classes start on Tuesday, April 14th in Waterville from 6:30-9:00pm. To register for these free classes, or for more information, contact Darlene at NMAI Maine: 1-800-464-5767.



Celebrate our Scouts



On Sunday, March 15th, we will be celebrating our Boy/Girl Scouts during worship. We are blessed to have a Boy Scout Troop, and three Girl Scout Troops that meet in our facility each week. This ongoing ministry with the youth of our community is another important way OAKS reaches out into the greater Oakland community.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at the church on the second Monday of each month at 1pm. You're always welcomed to join them!

New Coffee Fellowship Each Week

As a result of our "Share God's Love Fair," we have been blessed with many folks who have volunteered to host a coffee fellowship time each week after worship beginning on Sunday, March 1st. We invite you to spend a few minutes each week with some refreshments and conversation with your church family.



A Word from our Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, under the capable leadership of Rich Baker, is meeting monthly to keep a close eye on our financial situation and to make sure we are being good stewards of the resources you provide for the ministry at OAKS. We encourage you to be faithful to your giving/tithing by making sure you are up-to-date on your offering. We are doing everything we can to keep expenses down and ministry up. Please help us in this endeavor.

March Meetings

3/9: Membership Care & Nurture 7pm
3/12: Administrative Board 7pm
3/14: Worship Committee 10:30am
3/23: Outreach Committee 7pm

A Walk to Emmaus

Have you ever thought about taking the time for a personal retreat to renew and refresh your spirit? Maybe you need a Walk to Emmaus! This three day retreat is designed for men and women to refresh your faith, encourage your spiritual life, and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ. Walks are held twice a year, two for Men and two for Women, at the Notre Dame Spiritual Center in Alfred, Maine. The next Women's Walk is April 30th-May 3rd. Pastor Sue will be one of the Spiritual Directors on this weekend. If you would like more information, please speak to Pastor Sue soon. These walks fill up fast!

And remember to shop on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday when you want to share the rewards with OAKS.

Lectors:

3/1 Morgan Pullen
3/8 Terry Colby
3/15 Philip Finemore
3/22 Rick Leonard
3/29 Linda Sprague

Greeters:

3/1 Helen Willett & Gail Watson
3/8 Christine Reynolds & Linda Sprague
3/22 Karen & Nicole Connor
3/28 Terry & Scott Colby

Nursery Attendants:

3/1 Linda Sprague
3/8 Helen Willett
3/15 Ramona Freeman
3/22 Connor Leonard
3/29 Helen Willett

Coffee Hour Hosts:

3/1 Sarah Libby & Steve Campbell
3/8 UMW
3/15 Linda Sprague
3/22 Cheryl Leonard
3/29 Cathy Bond & Margaret Johnston



Program Changing

Beginning this week (March 1st) we will no longer need to collect and mail in Shaw's receipts. Shaw's has revamped their program and will be compiling our rewards by linking your Shaw's Reward's Card once you've linked it to our Neighborhood Rewards number (#49001018863). In addition only purchases made on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be counted.

It appears that most of us who shop at Shaw's will need a new rewards card. Once we have it we can go to www.shaws.com and click on Shaw's Cares and then Neighborhood Rewards to get to the Shopper's Login or Register with your Shaw's Rewards Card login. Once you've logged in, click Sign Me Up and follow the instructions to link your card to OAKS Neighborhood Rewards ID # 49001018863.

Lay Speaking Academy:



A Cluster of Courses for Beginning & Advanced Lay Speakers

April 18, 25, May 2, 2009
8:30 AM gathering,
9:00AM-1:00 PM class sessions
(with fellowship break)

At the Green St. United Methodist Church,
Augusta Maine

Basic Courses

**Introduction to Lay Speaking* with Rev. Desmond Parker
(final class session May 9 instead of May 2)

**Basic Refresher Course* with Pastor Tom Frey

Advanced Courses

**This Holy Mystery* with Rev. Richard Cullen

**Finding Our Voices: Communication Technology Serves the Gospel*

Teaching Team:

Rev. Karen Munson, Jim Jacobsen, Jim Brown

Sponsored by the Jesse Lee Cluster

Of the Mid Maine District United Methodist Church

All Course fees include books and materials

Basic Lay Speaking \$20

Basic Refresher Course \$10

Advanced Lay Speaker Courses \$30

to register contact: Ruth Cannon, 207-786-3929 ruthcannon@roadrunner.com.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
www.neumc.org/mme

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Communion Sunday	2	3 Daisies 3pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm @ Parsonage	4	5 Brownies 3pm UMW 7pm Matthew Colby	6 Allen Pullen	7
8 Daylight Savings Time  Begins	9 Prayer Shawl Ministry 1pm	10 Daisies 3pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm @ Parsonage	11 FREE LUNCH 12 noon Girl Scouts 3pm	12 Brownie 3pm Admin. Board 7pm	13 Clara & Ray Watson	14 Worship Committee 10:30am @ Parsonage Double & One 6pm Barbara Varney
15 Scout Sunday 10am Karen Conner	16	17 Daisies 3pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm @ Parsonage	18	19 Brownie 3pm Stephen Libby	20 First Day of Spring! 	21
22 One Great Hour of Sharing	23 Outreach Committee 7pm Webb Fox	24 Daisies 3pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm @ Parsonage Grace Burrell	25 Girl Scouts 3pm	26 Brownie 3pm	27	28 Everett Meader
29 Sunday School Reunion	30 Stephanie Begley	31 Daisies 3pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Prayer Group 7pm @				

2009



Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 8th

Highlights for March

FREE LUNCH – Noon March 11th
Double & One Boiled Dinner – March 14th
Scout Sunday – March 15th
Sunday School Reunion – March 29th

Look for details inside

OUR MISSION

We exist to draw people to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, enriching our lives together through love and service.

WORSHIP:10:00 a.m. nursery provided

Church Office phone disconnected use 465-2894 (Parsonage) or 992-6766 (Pastor's Cell)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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