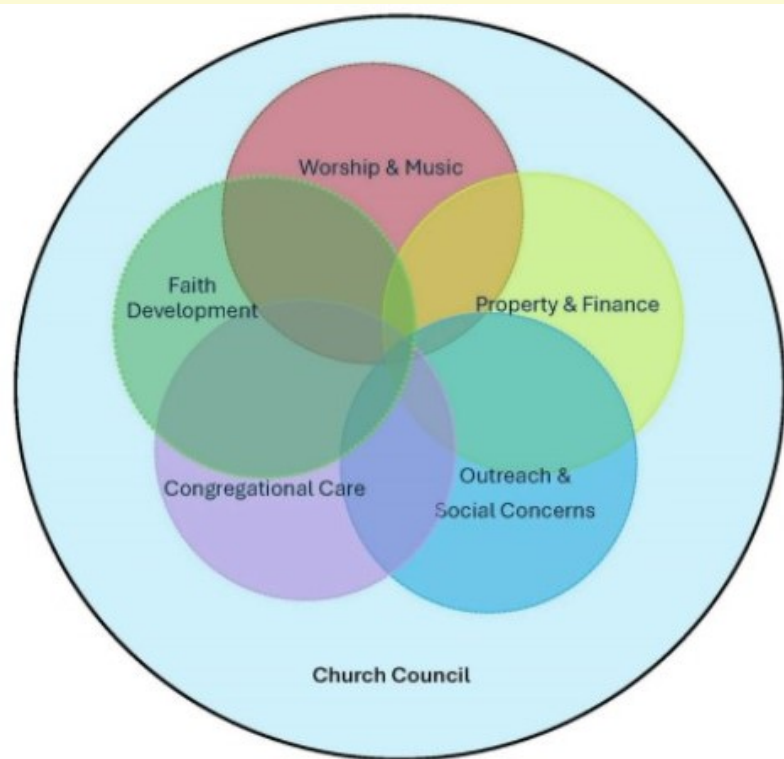


First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC



*VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love,
embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.*

*MISSION: Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith,
cultivate love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.*

The MEETING HOUSE CHIMES Feburary 2025

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544*

VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

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peace, and do justice.

Welcome to the Feburary edition of the Chimes!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." ..*Jeremiah 29:11*



Myers' Musings *February, 2025* *"Happy New Year!"*

Dear church family,

While we are beginning the month of February, and because we just had our Annual Meeting where we implemented a one-year trial new system of governance, in many ways this feels a bit like the new year. So I am offering some reflections on a year gone by and what 2025 may bring.

All in all, 2024 was a "pretty" normal year for me. I trimmed my beard twice a week, I got 18 haircuts, and discovered a great new barber – my wife, Deb! I showered nearly every day, either Deb or I went to buy groceries at least twice a week. There were some very bright spots: we spent some wonderful time with our granddaughters Ava and Olivia, spent a week cruising the inside passage in Alaska, getting heat pumps installed before the summer began, and having the privilege of serving this church for the entire year. There were a couple of bummers – had surgery for a new left knee in April, I tried to lose weight (mostly unsuccessfully), and during Thanksgiving discovered we needed a new roof. All in all, it was a "pretty" normal year. I am not sure what 2025 will bring. As usual I have high hopes. But as the year unfolds, alas, at the end of 2024 I am rather sure that I will chock up 2025 as another "pretty normal"

year. In some ways, I hope I can say it will be far from normal, but anyway I wish you all a Happy New Year!

I have learned to try not to make what will turn out to be New Year's resolutions. They generally don't get much beyond the second week of February.

But none-the-less I embrace 2025! It will be another year of God's grace! I am not yet sure what form that grace will take, but during 2025 year I am sure that Deb and I will celebrate the wonder of our grand-daughters growing up, we will enjoy (is a trip to Italy in the works?), we will have really sacred moments at our spot on Pemaquid Pond, we will enjoy the blessings of the harvest of my "tin can" garden as my grand-daughters call it. And it will be exciting to see this church adapt to a new way of doing our churchly things. And I suspect that I will experience some things that will deflate my spirits for a (hopefully) small period of time, and I am sure there will be disappointments in how our world treats one another.

Collectively as a church, who knows what is around the corner as we begin and journey through 2025: Will we receive a new pastor? Will the trial period prove to be the answer to our church work? Will we find a way to replace the Summerfest Income? In 2025 will we take steps of faith rejoicing in the words of Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen."

God says our thoughts are not God's thoughts" and our ways are not God's ways; but by looking with the eyes of our faith, we can see the hand of God in all we do and rejoice at God's blessings poured out on our lives. Happy New Year (again) and for all my life I give thanks!

May God's Grace and Peace be with you!

Dave Myers

(See the "Sermons and Scriptures" section below for the upcoming Sermons)

Highlights from the January Council meeting

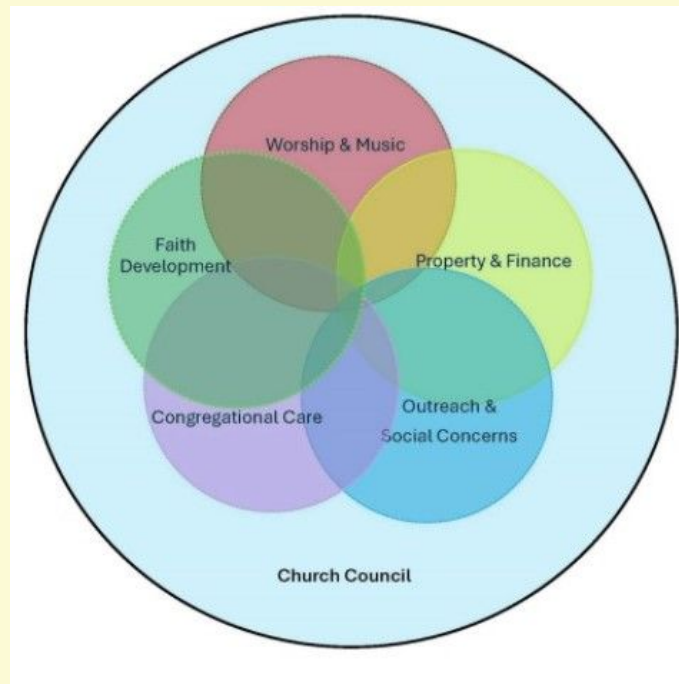
Much of our last meeting was spent preparing for the annual meeting. Thanks to everyone who came out for that event and helped make decisions about the upcoming year.

Two things discussed at the council meeting and mentioned at the annual meeting would benefit from your attention now.

One, the council voted that we will NOT do Summerfest in the full-scale tradition of the past. However, we still want to do fundraisers to support the various missions, charities and service organizations. We need your ideas! What parts of Summerfest are worth keeping? What alternatives might work better? Please talk to Nancy Roby, Martha Speed, Linda Wallace, or Susan Zimmerman if you have suggestions for what activities might bring in dollars from the community as well as the congregation. Spaghetti dinners serenaded by our lovely choir? A talent auction? A recipe auction? What interests you?

Second, we heard a report on problems with the organ. No decisions have been made as to what to do, as we need to gather more information. If you love the music program, would you be willing to work with Joel and figure out details of the options we face? We might need to form a “capital campaign” to raise funds; volunteers to help organize that would be much appreciated!

Cindy Clement



REPORT FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee chairperson resigned during the year, so the council as a whole acted in that capacity. Here is the report to be included in the annual report documentation

-Cindy

The 2024 Council acted in lieu of a separate committee.

The Council recommends that in 2025 FCCW try working with 3 officers – council president, clerk, and treasurer – rather than try again to fill the council secretary and vice-president roles. The clerk would fill the role of secretary, and if the president were not available, we could ask team co-chairs to choose a temporary moderator for any given meeting.

The 2024 Council as a whole has worked together to nominate 3 officers and 10 co-chairs of the 5 proposed teams.

We also think it would be useful to name people who are willing to be "routine helpers" on each committee. There are many hands willing to further evolve the ministries of the church, continuing traditions that remain useful and making changes where adaptations seem appropriate. Being named as a routine helper is different from being nominated to serve for several years on a committee – we want to reduce the "burden" of committee meetings and long-term commitments.

We know there are people who will also help out now and then. We hope and pray that at least some of the individuals who help a team occasionally will find it so worthwhile that they evolve into regular contributors. We hope that this less rigid, more organic approach to channeling the time and talent of our members will succeed where the efforts to fulfill the letter of the current bylaws have not.

Here is the list including people who have agreed to serve.

President – Cindy Clement

Treasurer – Deb Myers

Church Clerk – Becky Lenz

Worship and Music Co-chairs – Libby Mooney and Linda Wallace

Congregational Care Co-chairs – Judith Sutter and

Susan Zimmerman

Faith Development – Sherri Dunbar and Angie Eddy

Outreach – Nancy Roby and Martha Speed

Property and Finance –

Beth Maxwell and Deb Myers

Here is an initial list of people to be recognized as "routine helpers"
– volunteers easily added!

Worship and Music Helpers – Mary McKinney, Carol Peck,
Raegan Eddy, Dave Myers, Joel Pierce

Congregational Care Helpers – Jane Junkert, Anne Harris,
Ron Sanchez, Lisa Hargreaves

Faith Development Helpers – Susan Attwood, Libby Mooney,
Oscar Wallace

Outreach Helpers – Laurie Labar, Beth Maxwell, Deb Myers,
Linda Wallace

Property and Finance Helpers – Deb Olson, Tom Clement,
David Lenz, Ken Cooper

As mentioned above, there are many other people who have contributed time and talent in the past and who are willing to do so in the future. We have talked to many of the people whose names do not appear above, so we know they remain committed but also want to step back from leadership positions. That said, we haven't talked to everyone, so suggestions are welcome!

We discussed the timing of changes to the bylaws to reflect our plans for restructuring the council and the committees of the church. The sub-committee working on drafting changes will have a recommendation ready for the January meeting, and if the Council agrees, a presentation will be made at the annual meeting. We agreed that we should plan for the intended council structure rather than try to fill the full slate of positions required by the current bylaws, since that task is impossible, as demonstrated by the number of unfilled positions for 2024.

We agreed that we will propose a President/Moderator/Council Chair (title TBD), a Treasurer, and a Clerk who will also fulfill the role of Secretary to the incorporated church.

Acting in lieu of the non-existent Nominating Committee, we identified a set of candidates to ask if they would be willing to serve in these roles. Similarly, we discussed a set of individuals to ask to be co-captains of the proposed five teams.

We also identified people who might be enthusiastic about helping the co-captains; the list included several people who already serve on the council and agreed to take on these roles. The goal is to have a full slate for 13 positions to propose to the congregation before the annual meeting at the end of January.



Thank you everyone who helped making a joyful noise dropping their coins in the collection pails on January 26.

We received over \$90 in coins, currency and checks for St. Philip's food pantry.

Drivers Anyone?

If you would like to provide an occasional ride to and from church on Sunday mornings for those unable to drive themselves, please call Lisa Hargreaves at 207-315-0802. Thank you!

A blue rectangular graphic with a background image of a church service. The text "Church Live streaming" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Church
Live streaming

Streaming Sunday Services

Are you good with Audio/Visual equipment? If not, would you like to learn?

The church needs a few more people to step up and stream our services on Sundays. Tom Clement, Dewey Harris, Chris Sieracki and Sarah Whitfield have made an enormous commitment to be responsible for streaming our services each Sunday.

Please contact any of our current "stream team" or Libby Mooney if you would like to become part of the team!



Would you like to bring in flowers to grace our sanctuary?

Bringing in your favorite houseplant to share would be wonderful! Would you be willing to leave your beautiful offering for more than one week?

Please sign up for two weeks in a row if you'd like. Cut flowers are always welcome too!



HELP WANTED

As we move forward with the new governance structure that was approved at the Annual Meeting, we will be providing information each month about opportunities for people to help our new teams.

We'll start this month with tasks that are done continually, namely helping with worship and coffee hour.

You can help by being a reader, an usher, or bringing flowers each week.

Bringing flowers could be as easy as bringing one of your favorite house plants, a dried arrangement that you already have, or making an arrangement of winter evergreens.

As always, we need volunteers to bring finger food for coffee hour, to plate up that food and set it out on the food table, and to clean up after coffee hour.

Sign-up sheets for these tasks can be found in Fellowship Hall. Watch this space every month to see new opportunities as they arise.



Help Wanted, please sign up!

Sadly, at the time of this publication we had no sign-ups for coffee hour.

Worship themes and Sermons for February 2025

February 2:

Communion. Sermon: “Today!” based on Luke 4:4 – 10.

What happens when the hometown boy returns after making a name for himself? Jesus, after being baptized and having begun his ministry in neighboring towns, returns to Nazareth. It started out well, but . . .

February 9:

Sermon: “Fishing for People”

based on Luke 5:1 – 11. Jesus, trying to get away from the crowds “pressing in on him” goes fishing with Simon (Peter), Zebedee, James and John (all partners of Simon (Peter)). They don’t have much luck, until Jesus tells them to cast their nets into the deep waters. They caught so many fish their nets began to break! What are the “deep waters” of mid-Coast Maine where we can cast our nets?

February 16:

Sermon: “Call, Choice, or Fate”

based on Isaiah 49¹ – 1, I Corinthians 1:1 – 3, and John 1:29 – 34. Sometimes as we reflect on our lives we wonder how we got to the point we are at. Was it by our choice? Or perhaps by the “hands of fate”? Or could it have been from a call to do what we do? We will look at three examples from the Bible.

February 23:

Sermon: “Blessed Are . . . “

based on Micaah 6:1 – 8 and Matthew 5:1 – 12. The Beatitudes are

both beloved writing and very inspirational. But the Greek word for “blessed” is “osricha” which means “Happiness.”

March 2:

Transfiguration Sunday. Communion: Sermon: “Just Trying to Get Away From It All”

based on Exodus 34:29 – 35 and Luke 9:28 – 36. The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus happened on a mountain in front of Peter, James and John. We are told that Moses and Elijah also made an appearance, and afterward they disappeared a cloud “overtook them . . . and a voice came out of the cloud said: “This is My Son, the Chosen; listen to Him!” Sometimes I wish things could be made so clear to me, but I like Peter, James and John tried their best.

Faith Development (Christian Ed)

In January, the youth group collected blankets and towels for the local Animal Shelter to be delivered later this month.

They also placed "little surprises" around the church. If you find one, feel free to move it or take one home if you would like.

For February, they will be spreading some Valentine love around town by placing hearts around the downtown area, hopefully pictures to come next month.

The youth group will meet on the following Sundays; February 9th, 16th and 23rd at 11:45 am.

KINDNESS BAGS

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE HOMELESS

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS TO
MAKE HOMELESS BAG KITS. ITEMS
CAN BE PLACED IN THE BASKET IN
FELLOWSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**OUR YOUTH GROUP WILL SORT AND
PACK BAGS FOR PEOPLE TO GRAB**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE A BAG
TO DISTRIBUTE TO ANYONE IN NEED**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ANGELA EDDY
@ 207-607-2035.**

SUGGESTED ITEMS

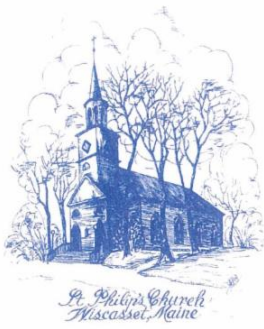
SOCKS
UNDERWEAR
DEODORANT
DISPOSABLE RAZORS
TOOTHBRUSH
TOOTHPASTE
COMBS/BRUSH
GALLON SIZE BAGS
WET WIPES
HAND WARMERS
GLOVES
TISSUES
FEMININE PRODUCTS
HAND WARMERS
WASH CLOTHS

TRAVEL SIZE

SOAP/BODY WASH
LOTION
SHAMPOO
HAND SANITIZER

FOOD ITEMS

WATER BOTTLES
GRANOLA BARS
TRAIL MIX
SNACK ITEMS



Saint Philip's Church

12 HODGE STREET
WISCASSET, MAINE 04578
stphilipswiscasset.org

January 9, 2025


To the Dear People of the Wiscasset Congregational Church:

Year after year, down through time, we have seen your ancient and beautiful church, a beacon of bright white, standing at the top of the Common, while we in our smaller gray building with the red doors, followed your example of helpful welcome, especially to those in true need.

Now we have become those in true need. Our congregation has come to the sad understanding of the reality of that truth and what it would mean to the people who depend on us to help them feed and clothe their families, provide necessary supplies and advice on finding resources to ease their worries. But, God has sent us you! First, your ministry's ongoing partnership with us to stave off food insecurity for children in Wiscasset schools, and your Summerfest that helps so many worthy and diverse charities; and now, your comforting words and incredibly generous donation. Your contribution to the Capital Campaign has given us room to breathe, and time to find better ways to continue our historic building preservation and helping ministries. Now we can move forward from here with renewed energy and determination.

"Thank you" from St. Philip's Church! With your help in place, perhaps there really can be "a Balm in Gilead."

Yours in Christ,

The People of St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Chairman Fundraising Committee

St. Philips Capital Campaign

St. Phillip's Church, our sister Church in Wiscasset, is undergoing a capital campaign to raise money for their continued operation.

Specifically, they are attempting to raise \$100,000 for repairs and improvements to their building that last saw a significant renovation in 1866 and \$100,000 for ongoing pastoral and outreach functions.

As such, your Trustees recommended and in November Church Council approved a donation from our endowment of \$20,000. This donation is from FCCW as a fellow Wiscasset Church. Individual Church members are encouraged to provide their own contributions to this campaign.

Thanks, Dewey Harris for Trustees

SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS

SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS with Will Matteson, Substance Use Prevention Coordinator of Healthy Lincoln County on February 26th

Safe storage and disposal of medications is not the most exciting topic, but it is one of great importance. Preventing accidental exposure to drugs in the home is the first reason to store drugs safely in the home, and remove them when they are no longer in use. Getting rid of old drugs may not be as simple as we like when we realize that flushing them down the toilet is contributing to watershed pollution. Healthy Lincoln County can help by providing FREE medication safety tools and spreading awareness of other local resources.

HLC's Substance Use Prevention Educator, Will Matteson, will be presenting to the Organ Society on Safe Storage and Disposal of Medication on February 26th at 10 A.M.

Participants will receive a free Weekly Pill Organizer and Detera Drug Deactivation pouch, and also have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about local resources.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING OUR NEW "KEEPER OF THE CHURCH HISTORY"?

Hi all! You've probably heard that Greg and I are moving to Thornton Oaks in Brunswick at the end of the year, and I would like someone to replace me as the "Keeper of the Church History".

All the boxes in the safe are catalogued except one, and a notebook is available in the safe closet which lists the contents of each box. A lot of you heard about our many historic items at our 250th Anniversary Celebration last summer.

Please let me know if you would be interested in taking over the job. I will be happy to walk you through the process which is pretty much complete. We just need someone who can familiarize

themselves with our wonderful church history.

Many thanks! Joan Shea, joanzone7@gmail.com, 207-882-4067.

+++++

A Message from the Trustees:

Please practice of closing **all** doors when we're not in the building.

Closed doors make a huge difference in the event of a fire.

Thank you,
Your Trustees

CLYNK Reminder

CLYNK bags, in which you put your returnable bottles and cans, are available in the church office. The tags that must be put on these bags are in Fellowship Hall tacked on the CIS bulletin board near the kitchen; there are also pre-tagged bags there.



Take the tagged filled bags (no more than 20 pounds) to any local Hannaford CLYNK station or bring it to church and notify Beth Maxwell who will take the bag to Hannaford. There is a bag in the kitchen if you want to bring in bottles and cans and deposit them there instead of collecting them at home.

The money collected by using these bags is used to support the Feed Our Scholars program.

Many thanks for participating in this effort.

In Season in *February*



Brussels Sprouts



Lemons



Napa Cabbage



Grapefruit



Butternut Squash



Peas



Guava



Asparagus



Lamb's Lettuce



Passion Fruit



Leeks



Oranges



Grapefruit



Cress



Turnips



Kohlrabi

eatsmarter.com/eat-healthy/seasonal-calendar-february

EatSmarter!

Pastoral Care

In case of a pastoral emergency please use Rev. Dave's cell phone 202-302-6903. Office hours are T, W, Th 9:00am - 12:00pm. Please continue to use the church number (297-882-7544) for all other church business.

Cindy Clemet
Church Council President

Directories!

If you have moved, new phone number, new email address, please let the office know so we can update the directory with any changes.

The 2025 directory are now available. Please pick one up in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. If you are away, Ted is happy to put one in the mail to you, or Email to it to you.

Please keep the office posted when phone numbers or addresses change. It is easy to update the database so the next time the directory is printed, your change will be included.



Thank you for reading the January issue of The Chimes!

If you have news, you'd like to share for the **February issue**, please send in your article by **January 20th** to fccw@myfairpoint.com.

[>> Click here for the January Chimes](#)

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
Mailing address: P.O. Box 350
www.uccwiscasset.org ~ fccw@myfairpoint.net
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm*

*Worship: Sunday 10 a.m.
Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David C. Myers
Music Director: Joel Pierce
Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert
Sexton: Mary McKinney*

*Shining the Light of Christ
FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
in the Heart of Wiscasset*



Try email marketing for free today!