



# *The Steeple Press*

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Winslow Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
January/February 2009

## *Happy New Year!*

Welcome to 2009 and another stage in the life of the Winslow Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. 2008 was a busy year. The most noticeable event was the departure of our beloved minister, Rev. Hal Tucker. We will miss him and his wife, Tina, and we pray that God will be with him as he searches for healing and wish him well in his renewed retirement. We have been blessed with brilliant ministry over the years. We will continue to have brilliance in the pulpit in the person of Rev. George Fowler who has agreed to serve in that capacity for now.

We also pray for the strength, determination and willpower to do, rather than just to pray. We have seen new members join our church. We have witnessed the baptism of a future generation of members. We have confirmed a new class that has chosen to remain active in the life of the church. We have witnessed the passing on to heaven of some of our cherished loved ones. Our church is strong.

In many ways, Rev. Tucker has been preparing us for self sufficiency for a while now. The Church Council is making ready the path forward to select the Search Committee and to work with them to conduct an efficient process. The Maine Conference is set to give support to us in any way that we see fit. It will not be an easy process. We are a small church that lives and thinks LARGE.

The search process may not be as long as the first one to replace Rev. Quigg, but we will need to be patient. As of now, we will not look for an Interim Minister, in the hopes that this process moves quickly. However speedy, the search will be thorough. We are already working on a local church profile and we will take as much time as we need to find another “perfect fit” and manage the transition.

The Board of Deacons is prepared for its role in the pastoral search process. We are blessed to have Rev. George Fowler minister to us and we are further blessed to have Rev. George Darling and several other local ministers to give of their time and to give us the time to conduct our search. Our Budget and Stewardship committee has prepared a reasonably accurate 2009 budget that will keep us financially sound through this year of uncertainty. Because of the generosity and activities of our membership, we are still financially above water. But I must remind everyone that we need to be diligent with our giving. The Trustees are literally “keeping the roof over our heads” and heat in the furnace, but it all requires money and energy. All of our committees and boards are active and dedicated. The Music Ministry is wonderful.

As President of the Church Council, I thank you all sincerely. I don't like to single out individuals for their exemplary contributions. You always risk missing someone or offending others. I will say, however, that everyone in their role is the best that there could possibly be.

May the words that we say and the deeds that we do, be acceptable before God.

Yours in the faith,  
David Deas, President of the Church Council

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Dear *Steeple Press* Readers:

It is the privilege of editors to occasionally step out from behind their pages and speak with readers. While that discussion could be about a notable reporter or newsmaker, it is most often about a change in the publication – format, style or content – as the editor has the responsibility to explain the changes to the loyal readers. And change is the reason that I’m speaking with you today.



*The Steeple Press* newsletter has been published six times a year for many years. When I became Editor in 2004, I took over a beloved institution which I hope I have maintained and enriched. But, in five years, I’ve learned that we – our congregation, the Winslow Congregational Church – needs to adapt to make our communications more relevant and reflect the changing media world in which we live.

At their December meeting, the Church Council approved a plan in which I proposed to decrease the number of printed newsletters to three per year and to add a monthly e-mail newsletter for everyone. The change will allow us to reach active members with more timely information and still continue our mission to reach a wider audience.

The three, printed newsletters will begin next month and roughly follow this schedule:

Publication Date (approx.)	February 20	June 20	October 20
Topics Covered	*Results of Annual Meeting/Leadership Breakfast *Lent and Easter *Church school wrap	*Church school-Fall kick-off *Summer schedule *Blueberry Festival	*Stewardship *Advent *Christmas *Preview of annual meeting

The monthly, e-mail newsletter – tentatively titled *The Steeple exPress* – will be sent to all members on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, beginning in March. You can sign up for *The Steeple exPress* by sending an e-mail to me at [news.winslowucc@gmail.com](mailto:news.winslowucc@gmail.com) or beginning next week in church. For members who don’t have computers, internet access or e-mail, a limited number of paper copies will be available in the upper narthex on the first Sunday following the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we wanted to assure you that your e-mail address will be handled with discretion and propriety. As such, the Church Council also adopted the following e-mail address guidelines:

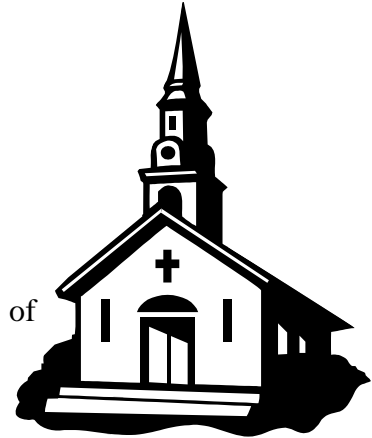
- The Winslow Congregational Church will never sell or distribute your e-mail address to any other for-profit or non-profit organizations.
- All e-mail newsletters will be sent to members “Blind Carbon Copy (BCC)” so that e-mail addresses will not be visible to other subscribers.
- At the bottom of each e-mail newsletter will be “unsubscribe” information.
- The newsletter editor will be the sole holder of the complete e-mail list and any use of the list for other church purposes will need to go through the newsletter editor (such as using the e-mail list to announce a storm cancellation of services).

I welcome your feedback on these changes – positive and negative! There still may be a few kinks as we sort out what makes each newsletter version fresh, useful and relevant to our congregation. But the goal, as always, is to enhance the mission of this congregation by improving communications.

May God continue to bless this congregation and its work in the world—Tammy Gould, Editor

## *The Life of Our Church*

TO: ALL CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
FROM: David Deas, Church Council President  
DATE: January 11, 2009  
RE: ANNUAL MEETING



Publishing the call for the ANNUAL MEETING assures the members of the congregation of the date, time, place and business to be transacted.

All comments and suggestions regarding the life and activities of the Winslow Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be welcomed.

### WINSLOW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CALL TO THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Pursuant to Article IV(2c) of the By-Laws of the Winslow Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, “the Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held in January at which time the election of offices shall take place. The exact date of this meeting will be set by the Church Council.”

The exact date of the meeting will be **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009**, at noonday following the worship service and a pot-luck lunch. The exact place is 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow, Maine.

The following business will be transacted:

1. Receive and act upon reports of boards and committees of the church
2. Receive and act upon the 2009 church financial budget as presented by the church council
3. Hear the report of the nominating committee and elect officers and board members
4. Other

Submitted by  
Joyce T. Rushton  
Church Clerk

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Copies of the annual reports of the boards and committees are available in the lower narthex of the church. If you would like a set and cannot pick up your own, kindly call the church at 872-2544 and leave your request and mailing address on our answering machine, or call Joyce Rushton at 465-7834. These reports will be formally accepted at our Annual Meeting.

A pot luck luncheon will precede the business of the Annual Meeting on January 25. A sign-up list is located in Fellowship Hall or you may simply bring a covered dish of your choice. All are encouraged to attend.

## The Life of Our Church

Our **15th Annual Leadership Conference** will be held on Saturday, February 7, beginning at 8:30 a.m. This conference affords common time for all officers, boards, and committees, outgoing and incoming members to assess current programs and events and to prepare for the upcoming year.

2009 is again a transition time for our church and the theme for this year's conference is **OPEN THE DOOR, A NEW LIGHT!** We will need to review our local church profile, develop a plan for updating our membership, and assess our communication needs (e-mail lists, emergency plan, evacuation plan, telephone tree, church answering machine, etc.). Remember: This conference "jump starts" our new church year!



**Bible Study** continues in Isaiah. The group is studying the many similarities between what is happening in the world today and what happened in Isaiah's time. Isaiah was a prophet to his people, but his words ring true today. Join us for Bible Study on Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m. (except the third Monday of the month) in the Christian Education building. The Bible Study schedule is:

- ✠ January 12—Isaiah 8 & 9
- ✠ January 26—Isaiah 9 & 10
- ✠ February 2—Isaiah 10 & 11
- ✠ February 9—Isaiah 11 & 12
- ✠ February 23—Isaiah 12 & 13



The January **Book Discussion** will be on *Deep Roots: A Maine Legacy* by Esther Wood. Ms. Wood tells "moving stories of her ancestors in a small Maine village. She shows us the people who came as pioneers, who were born there and who came from away. Here are the deep roots of village life in New England." Judy Larson has one more

copy of the book if anyone is interested in joining the discussion. These copies have been borrowed on loan from other libraries and there is no cost. The book discussion will be on Monday, January 19, 2009 at the home of Dick Boutin, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The February book is *While You're Here, Doc: Farnyard Adventures of a Maine Veterinarian* by Bradford B. Brown. The book discussion will be held on Monday, February 16, at the home of Ron and Peggy Caouette.



### **Income and Expense Report**

November	Income	\$11,932.09
	(including \$6,235.77 from Blueberry Festival)	
	Expenses	\$7,436.28
December	Income	\$6,889.52
	Expenses	\$4,239.92



**Search Committee Interest Survey:** The Church Council is looking for representatives from our congregation to serve on the new Pastoral Search Committee. To assist with the selection process, an Interest Survey has been put together to assist the Council with this process. If you are interested, please fill out the survey—found on pink paper in the upper narthex—and turn it into Council President David Deas by Sunday, January 18th. A sub-committee is going to review the surveys and make a recommendation to establish the Pastoral Search Committee at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 25th.



The **local church profile** starts today! Please review the enclosure on colored paper. We need each family to complete one and return it to the church by Sunday, February 1. Thank you! ❧

**FAMILY QUESTIONNAIRE**

**COMPLETE ONE QUESTIONNAIRE PER FAMILY UNIT**

Please take a moment to respond to the following confidential questions. Responses will help the Pastoral Search Committee create a Local Church Profile for our church. This profile will be used to describe our church to potential pastors. **Please complete this form by Sunday, February 1 and return it to the box in Fellowship Hall or mail it to: Winslow Congregational Church, attn: Search Committee, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow, ME 04901.** Thank you!

**PROFILE OF CONGREGATION:**

1. Age: list the total number of members in each age group that are in your household including yourself:

\_\_\_\_\_ 0-5 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 19-34 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 50-64 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 75 years or older  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6-18 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 35-49 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 65-74 years

2. Education of adults in your household, list all adult members in your household including yourself:

\_\_\_\_\_ Did not complete high school      \_\_\_\_\_ Some college/vocational      \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate school  
\_\_\_\_\_ High school graduate      \_\_\_\_\_ College graduate

3. Family units, check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Couple with children at home      \_\_\_\_\_ Single  
\_\_\_\_\_ Couple without children at home      \_\_\_\_\_ Single parent with children at home

4. What is the occupation of each adult in your household:

\_\_\_\_\_ Business      \_\_\_\_\_ Farmer/rancher      \_\_\_\_\_ Professional      \_\_\_\_\_ Tradesperson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clerical      \_\_\_\_\_ Laborer/      \_\_\_\_\_ Student      \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
\_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturing

5. What is the current employment information of each adult in your household

\_\_\_\_\_ Employed      \_\_\_\_\_ Not currently employed      \_\_\_\_\_ Retired

**PLEASE RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU WISH**

6. Describe three distinctive attributes of our community:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Identify major trends you envision in our community during the next five years:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

8. List three or four problem areas confronting our community that you feel our church should address:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Identify major trends you envision in our church in the next five years:

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10. Identify the three most important faith experiences or events in the history of our church:

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11. Identify the most challenging faith experience or event in the life of our church in the last three years and what you believe we learned from that experience:

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12. Describe the strengths or positive qualities of our church:

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13. Describe the style and content of preaching which you value:

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**Please return this form by Sunday, February 1, 2009**

**Drop it in the box in Fellowship Hall or mail it to: Winslow Congregational Church,  
attn: Search Committee, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow, ME 04901.**

## Birthdays

	<u>January</u>
Regan Smith	14
Peggy Caouette	14
Jill Daily	16
Gary Smith	16
Nathan LaFlamme	16
Neal Hawes	17
Ed Rushton	17
Matthew Bickford	18
Daniel Bickford	18
Sydney Vassey	19
Susan Barton	20
Cathy Cloutier	26
Heather Higgins	28
Rick Coggins	28

	<u>February</u>
Stephanie Higgins	1
Abby Roy	3
Parker Smith	5
Judy Larson	8
Seth Kimball	9
Mary Hansen	11
Ainsley Morrison	12
David Deas	22
Nancy Smiley	23
Mike Roy	23
Bethany Belanger	23
Debbie LaFlamme	24

## Prayer Requests

We ask for your prayers for the following people and concerns of our congregation.

### *For health and healing...*

Nancy Littlefield  
Debbie Smith  
Shirley Clark  
Pam Wentworth  
Ingrid Lee  
Natalie Pouillot

### *For those in nursing homes...*

### *For victims of domestic abuse...*

### *For all men and women in the military...*

### *For victims of natural disasters.*

During this interim period of supply ministry, should you have a pastoral emergency, please contact a member of the Board of Deacons. Prayer requests can be given to any member of the Board of Deacons or written in the prayer book in the upper narthex prior to service. Please also consult the back of the bulletin for the current list of prayer requests.☞



Do you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary? Please e-mail your special events and announcements to our new e-mail:

[news.winslowucc@gmail.com](mailto:news.winslowucc@gmail.com).

## Board of Deacons

Horace Libby	(207)873-1484
Debbie Laflamme	(207)453-9601
Jay Hanson	(207)465-4925
Judy Larson	(207)872-0971
Connie Coggins	(207)426-9133
Wendy Roy	(207)873-5202
Barbara Bickford	(207)968-2530

Winslow Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
12 Lithgow Street  
Winslow, ME 04901  
<http://home.midmaine.com/~winslowucc/>

## *Calendar of Events*

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WinslowUCC>

### January

- 12 Bible Study Group, CE Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 Book Discussion Group, Dick Boutin's home, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Crafty Ladies, CE Building, 9:30 a.m.
- 25 Annual Meeting, Fellowship Hall, following service
- 26 Bible Study Group, CE Building, 6:30 p.m.

### February

- 1 February In-gathering
- 2 Bible Study Group, CE Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Women's Fellowship, CE Building, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Leadership Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- 9 Bible Study Group, CE Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Book Discussion Group, Caouette home, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Crafty Ladies, CE Building, 9:30 a.m.
- 23 Bible Study Group, CE Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Ash Wednesday



Send your Bulletin Announcements and  
*Steeple Press* articles to our new  
e-mail address:  
[news.winslowucc@gmail.com](mailto:news.winslowucc@gmail.com)

Sign up for our new electronic newsletter,  
*The Steeple exPress*, too!