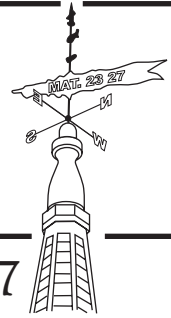


The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter



October 2007

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As many of you know, our three children are scattered to the four winds this fall. Heather is in South Africa as a teacher for The Traveling School. Soon she will be traveling through Botswana and Namibia in a converted bus with her 13 high school girls and three teachers. She has little e-mail access, though most recently we heard that she had rappelled down a 300 foot shear cliff.

Paddy is teaching in NE Washington, DC in one of the highest crime rate areas of the city. At his school, the students all walk through metal detectors each day and have their back packs checked for non-school-related paraphernalia. The teachers are all admonished not to walk the three blocks to the metro alone after dark.

Tim is studying in Madrid, Spain. He also rides the metro all over the city, has been to Rome and plans to go to Morocco (wants to see what an Arab country is like), Denmark, and Switzerland (to ski in the Alps) before he arrives in Maine for Christmas.

People often ask me these questions: "Don't you worry about them? Aren't you afraid when they travel like that?"

I think that worrying is part and parcel of being a parent, no matter how old your children are. However, fear? I don't want to think that is the case though I do believe that we live in a fear-based society more and more each day.

I spoke to a kindergarten-aged child at another church recently. She hid behind her mother's legs. His mother explained that in her preschool, parents and children are taught to have a list of "acceptable" people that can be spoken to. If you're not on the list, the child is supposed to consider you a stranger and off limits. What a sad way to raise children!

We fear for our children's safety, so we let them talk with only a handful of people. We fear that we won't have enough resources, so we hoard what we do have. We fear terrorism, so we go to war.

But when do we fear for our souls and our humanity, so that we will finally listen to the Gospel message and learn to trust that God has something better in mind for us? Let's not live in fear, but live in love and trust that it will make all the difference.

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 20th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf) and clipart/photos as jpg or tif. Hand written articles may be submitted as well. If you have a computer/email question or problem contact John Hanley.

Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, P.O. Box 285 (Main St.), Raymond, ME 04071 - office@rvccme.org or to John Hanley, 221 Valley Rd, Raymond, ME 04071 - weathervane@rvccme.org - Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Congratulations to Tom Wiley!

Tom Wiley, Scoutmaster of Troop 800 and one of our Deacons was recently awarded the 2007 Casco Bay District Award of Merit for his outstanding contributions to Boy Scouting. Congratulations Tom!

100,000 People for Peace

This month, Rev. John H. Thomas - the United Church of Christ's General Minister and President will travel to Washington, DC, along with other church leaders, to call on the US government to end the war in Iraq. He intends to carry with him the names of 100,000 people for peace. If you are interested in being one of those 100,000, you can sign the petition online at <http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/> or you can send your handwritten signature (include name, city/state, and church name) to Pastoral letter Endorsers, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-01100.

Words to Ponder

We spend so much of our time projecting into the future, or wistfully gazing upon the past -- "If only I had more money...", "If only I'd stayed in school...", "If only I could lose those last 10 pounds."

It often seems like that evasive "if-only" holds the key to everything that is missing in our lives. It's a never-ending cycle. As soon as we get the "if only," we find something else that's missing.

In our lives, we attempt to fill the void with all sorts of things -- romance, food, shopping, diet, exercise,... each one of those ill-fitting substitutes further severing us from our own truth....What we long for is already within us.

Wholeness and satisfaction are our birthrights. Instead of looking outside of ourselves for that missing something, what if we turned our attentions inward, and realized that what we need, what we long for, what we're missing is already within us?

What could happen in your life if you decided today that who and what you are, right now, is enough?

Lisa Olsen

How to Build Community (continued)

Ask a question...hire young people for odd jobs...organize a block party...bake extra and share....ask for help when you need it....open your shades.....to be continued....

Lectionary Lessons for October

October 7th – World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 14th – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17: 11-19

October 21st – Elder Sunday

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-4.5

Luke 18:1-8

October 28th – Reformation Sunday

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our prayers of concern go out to:

Those in our Church Family

Helene Bent, Kathleen Bent, Charlotte Rowe, Gwen Stewart, and Frank Sullivan.

In our Extended Family

Darlene & Howie Dodge, Daniel Knight, and Muriel Trafford.

In our Community

Dora and Bobby Durgin, Liz Harvey, The Webber family, all of our service men and women, and all others near and far who are sick or in need.

Some bits of practical wisdom:

- Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.
- If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Summary of September 13, 2007 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, on Thursday September 13th.

Present were: Dick, Leigh, Lori, Nancy F., Jane, Rod, Nancy Y. and Rolf

Absent: Brian

Dick Day offered the opening prayer to begin our meeting.

Minutes from our July 12th Council Meeting were unanimously approved, as amended. There was no council meeting in August.

Pastoral Reflection: Nancy handed out sheets with three words and a question on them. Faith, Hope and Love were the words. The question was which of these three virtues best describes RVCC? We all agreed that Love describes us best for many different reasons. Love of God as well as love of each other. Spreading God's love through our mission efforts locally and globally. However, we also discussed how without faith and hope in God and the gift of eternal life, we wouldn't be able to express that love.

Next we covered one of the ideas brought about from the Action Planning Retreat. It is the idea of coming up with an exit interview plan, specifically, what questions to ask. Nancy had done some research on this and gave us all a series of sample questions to review. We also discussed who should hold the interview. It was decided that Council will ask that one of the deacons do this the next time the situation arises. Council will review the sample questions individually, and we will finalize a plan for exit interviews at the next meeting. Our hope is that when someone decides to leave RVCC we can learn not only why, but how we may have better been able to meet this person's/family's expectations and needs.

Reports of the Coordinators

Treasurer (Rodney) provided us with the monthly statements. Council reviewed August month-end Financial Report, showing Income YTD. Pledges are on budget, but expenses are currently over, due to the new roof. Rodney thanked Nancy Y. for all her efforts on the financial front. The council accepted the Treasurer's report as given.

Church Clerk (Lori) As it is the clerk's responsibility to record and report statistical changes to our membership, we acknowledged the passing of long time member and friend of RVCC Ernie Knight. He

RVCC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT - Through August 2007 -

Year to Date Receipts Budget	52,816.00
Year to Date Receipts Actual	<u>59,007.32</u>
Favorable (Unfavorable) to budget	6,191.32
Year to Date Expense Budget	52,443.41
Year to Date Expense Actual	<u>69,218.69</u>
Favorable (Unfavorable) to budget	(16,775.28)
Net Income (Loss) Budget	372.59
Net Income (Loss) Actual	<u>(10,211.37)</u>
Favorable (Unfavorable) to budget	(10,583.96)
Budget Receipts for the Month	6,157.00
Actual Receipts for the Month	<u>6,390.17</u>
Favorable (Unfavorable) to budget	233.17

will be missed by all and as with the loss of any of our RVCC family; his passing is so much more than just statistical data. It is a reminder of how we are all woven into the fabric of each other's lives, and of how we are all touched by the people we meet, grow to love and say good bye to when they are called home. It is a reminder that we are all gifts to one another as a part of God's family.

We are looking for a new clerk to join the council for 2008. Anyone interested in this area should speak to Rev. Nancy or any council member.

Trustee (Dick) In our July minutes, we reported that work had begun on our new roof with an unexpected complication. The estimate we received from Roof Masters for \$9,750.00 was for a maximum of two layers of shingles. Upon starting the job, it was discovered that we had three layers making the labor, disposal and time of the job more than what was expected. The roof is now completed and we settled with Roof Masters for an additional payment of \$2,500, even though their extra work/costs were closer to \$5,000. Both Roof Masters and RVCC acted in good faith during this resolution.

Exterior painting of RVCC including the church's deck and parsonage is complete. The council would like to thank the inmates at the Windham Correctional facility for a job well done.

The trustees are cleaning the Sunday school rooms. Many of the items being removed will be donated to Salvation Army.

The trustees and Council thank Elisabeth Lachance for

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her excellent painting of the downstairs lower hallway and stairwell. What a difference it has made! We hope to have the upper hallway done in the very near future.

Missions Committee (Leigh) The Neighbor's in Need special UCC mission offering will be received on October 7th. Watch for informational inserts in the bulletin to learn more about the important work done through Neighbors in Need.

The mission committee will be gearing up soon for the Annual Thanksgiving Basket giving project. We will once again share our vestry space and work with the Raymond Food Pantry. This joint effort makes it possible to reach as many families as we can with the help they need. Let's all give generously of the gifts God has given us when asked to start bringing in food items for this wonderful RVCC mission effort.

Missions is in contact with Raymond Elementary to seek another child to support through our Cherish a Child program. We've been notified that the child we've been helping is no longer in need of our support. More information will be provided on this as it becomes available.

Christian Ed Committee (Rev. Nancy) The summer Adult Bible Study "The Will of God" has been well attended. Those involved have given it high praise and thank Walt Read for his leadership again this year.

Shannon Nichols is looking into a joint RVCC community study for the Advent season based on the book "Unplugging the Christmas Machine." We will provide more on this as it develops.

Sunday school teachers and the C.E. task force have met. Eleven children are registered for Sunday school at this time and registration will continue again this Sunday. The 4th, 5th, 6th grade classroom will be painted soon with the children helping. The Boy Scout computers have all been removed and two desk top P.C.'s will be donated, one by the Foran's and one by the Allen's. C.E. will begin previewing what's going on in Sunday school each month in the Weathervane. This will start with the October newsletter.

The youth group will be led this year by Vicki & Scott Gordan and Brenda & Jeff Stevenson and will have its first meeting soon. Thanks to the Gordan's and Stevenson's for their willingness to guide this terrific group of young adults.

Don Robinson has offered to refinish the table and small chairs in the nursery. He donated them many years ago as a memorial gift, and as part of an ongoing

interest will give of his time and talent to improve their condition. Council has agreed that the thrift shop will be a great place for the work to be done. Many thanks Don for this kindness!

Stewardship: (Rev. Nancy) The next Pot Roast supper is Saturday September 15th and we hope that all members and friends of RVCC will come out and enjoy a great meal.

Council is discussing ideas for this years Stewardship Pledge Campaign. At this time plans for a simpler, basic campaign are in the works. More development and a final plan will be prepared by the next meeting.

Nancy has had a discussion with Walt Read who may be interested in running the Stewardship Drive next year. We thank Walt for his consideration of this effort. Walt's insights on Stewardship will be a valuable asset, and we look forward to having him as part of the team for 2008.

Deacons (Jane) The deacons and deacon assistants all received information describing their respective duties at their last meeting.

A memorial service for Ernie Knight will be held on Saturday September 29th. Due to the expectation of a large attendance we will check the status of sound and video wiring in the vestry to accommodate seating in that area if needed.

The deacons and deacon assistants will have a retreat on October 13th and a service to install new Elders is being planned for October 21st. The deacons are also working on plans for Halloween.

Moderator (Rolf) Annual Meeting will be scheduled for January 20, 2008 with a snow date of January 27th. More planning for the annual meeting will be covered over the next few council meetings. Rolf has suggested that we have our current heating system evaluated. Doing this now will better prepare us for the day when a new or updated system may be needed. Included in the evaluation will be the possibility of getting air conditioning in the sanctuary in the future. The trustees will look into a company/contractor to do the evaluation.

Pastor (Rev. Nancy) Nancy will attend the Maine Conference Annual Meeting the last weekend in September. She will be joined by delegates Fran Mains and Joan Morton. On Sunday September 23rd our delegates will be available after to church for those who may have views to express to them that will be brought to the meeting. Please take advantage of this

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opportunity to express your opinions on this years resolutions.

On the Action Planning Initiatives:

- Mission Statement responses are being collected.
- The Mission Statement is on cards in the pews and we are considering getting them laminated.
- Volunteer interviews are going well and being printed each month in the Weathervane. Thanks to Fran Mains for her dedication on this.
- Fellowship Café pilot program time is over. Should we keep it going? Can different groups within the church host it?

Council agrees based on positive feedback we should keep it going. Having folks gather downstairs for greetings and laughter before worship is not only fun, but greatly appreciated by the choir as they rehearse. It is also providing a quiet space for those who seek a more meditative time in the sanctuary before worship begins. Please encourage everyone to come to church around 9:30 for a cup of coffee, a muffin or bagel, and to greet your friends before heading upstairs by 10:00 for worship.

Council has also agreed that if different groups in the church will host the Café for a month, we can all share the effort of keeping a great program going with minimal work for all. The deacons have volunteered to finish up September, while the Boy Scouts will take February 2008. We are asking these groups to consider hosting the Fellowship Café for a month:

Choir, Youth Group, Very Occasional Men's Choir, Missions, Trustees, Honduras Mission Team, CE Task Force and Teachers, Council, Sunday school, Shalom Club and Deacon Assistants. All that is expected is that you will be in the vestry in time to have a pot of coffee (the Mister Coffee pot) made and in the server by 9:30 with a second pot brewing. Have ready the cups, creamer and sugar on the counter. Also, you would provide the snacks, maybe even enough to share at coffee hour after church. The deacons will continue to do the clean up. If you or your group are interested, please contact Rev. Nancy.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Dan and Walt have installed a wireless router in the office. The Sunday school PC's, once in the classrooms will have wireless capability. Dan has submitted for council review a set of IT protocol procedures. Council will read and review these suggestions and report any concerns or questions back to Dan by e-mail. We hope to have an IT protocol for all users in place by our next council meeting and before the new

school room PC's are in.

Council has approved ordering a new stock of memorial contribution acknowledgement cards.

Next Council meeting will be Thursday October 11, 2007; at 7pm. Prayer will be offered by Rod.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Lambert, Church Clerk.

Getting To Know Our Volunteers

This month I asked Tom Wiley to take time from his busy schedule to give us his viewpoint on life as a volunteer. His work in all facets of church life, including his role as deacon and as a recently honored Boy Scout Leader, is extremely evident. It is also very evident that the wonderful work he does is a labor of love.

Questions for Volunteers for Weathervane Article

Question #1

What is your favorite part of doing your volunteer activity?

The favorite part would be that I can help someone. Whether it is a new member visiting our church, making sure the coffee is made, or working with a scout it is accomplishing the activity. I always reflect on how to make things better. I think it must be my typical male traits showing in that I need to fix things.

Question #2

Why did you decide to get involved in this activity or project?

You mean how long did they have to twist my arm here don't you? I always have a fear to commit to something. I think it is just my personality make up. I feel if I can't jump in with two feet in anything I do, that it is hard for me to commit. I always am second guessing myself but I guess that, in and of itself, is a trait which makes one stronger. Seems kind of ironic but it must be true.

Question #3

What did you learn about yourself or about your church family that surprised you through this activity or project?

Some of the biggest surprises would be that I actually could do it with success. I am always amazed when people comment on a scripture reading. Regarding the scouts it would be the number of people who have had some sort of tie to the program. Whether as a former leader, parent or even a scout themselves I am always surprised in where the discussion begins. An additional surprise would be the level of support and interest in the scouts which we still receive from the church. That is not always the "cool" thing to do these days. Thank You all for this.

What's Going On in Sunday School?

If your child is in grades 4-6, here's what he or she can expect in Sunday School for the month of October. Hope to see everyone!

October 7th

"To affirm how our faith grows through our relationships in the church" 2 Timothy 1:1-14

We will prepare for our classroom and invite EVERYONE to an after church OPEN HOUSE today!!

October 14th

"To explore the story of the ten lepers healed by Jesus Luke" 17:11-19

What do we have in common with 10 ancient lepers? Come find out as we learn about what it takes to be truly rejoicing by using the Bible and a resource sheet as our discovery tools.

October 21st

"Don't Lose Heart" Luke 18:1-8

There are so many ways to keep God in our lives. We'll talk about prayer and make prayer ribbons.

October 28th

"Heartfelt Prayers" Luke 18:9-14

We'll continue talking about prayer and will create a prayer wall in our classroom.

November 4th

"Welcoming Jesus" Luke 19:1-10

When we welcome others in our midst, we are welcoming Jesus. Today we will be the ones who welcome by baking goodies for coffee hour.

Christian Ed. Corner

Thanks to those who are volunteered as Sunday School teachers this year. Yours is a special and important ministry!

Nursery, Toddlers, and Kindergarten Alice Richards assisted by Bekah Gagne.

Grades 1-3 Tracie Morris and Debbie Wallingford.

Grades 4-6 Kim Allen and Vicki Gordan.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12) Scott and Vicki Gordan and Jeff and Brenda Stevenson.

Bean Bag Chairs Needed

Our Sunday School classes are looking for bean bag chairs for their newly painted (or soon to be painted) classrooms. If you have one to donate, please leave it in the Church Office or contact Rev. Nancy.

Toddlers and Kindergarten Class

The nursery, preschool, and kindergarten class is off to a fine start this year. We are currently exploring the creation story in the Bible. The children are also learning about God and their relationship to God. We learn through conversation, stories, crafts, and simple prayers. We plan to continue learning about Old Testament stories through the fall until late November when we will start our Advent season.

Throughout the year, we will emphasize that the Bible is the special book from which all the stories we hear in Sunday School come. We will also continually emphasize sharing, taking turns, and making God happy.

Our goal is to provide a pleasant place where the children feel they truly belong and where they have an excellent and fun experience learning more about God.

Mission News

The Fall ushers in an increased activity of Mission efforts and new opportunities for you to become involved!

We are increasing our focus on local mission work while we also continue our fundraising for the August 2008 Honduras Mission trip.

Locally, the Raymond Food Pantry is an important resource for food and staples to those in need. We are more actively supporting their good work by gathering items they most need to fill in their inventory. Currently, the items needed most are:

- Personal and cleaning products: Toothpaste, deodorant, soap, laundry detergents
- Paper Goods: Paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, and facial tissues

If you pick up one of these items on your next shopping trip, just drop it in the box on the Mission table in the vestry and we will regularly transport the items to the Food Pantry. Thank you to all who have already helped we delivered our first boxes in mid-September!

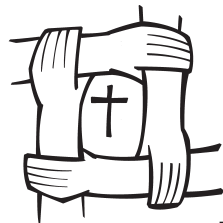
What are your plans for Saturday, October 20th? We hope they include a visit to the Honduras Bean Supper fundraiser in the vestry! The Bean Supper will take place from 4:30-6:00 PM. There will be hot dogs, baked beans, lots of salads, biscuits using Horace Drown's recipe(!), dessert, beverages and, most importantly, great people! The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. You can't beat that price and the proceeds will benefit the Mission trip to Honduras.

Make sure to mark your calendar now and don't forget to bring along your friends!

The Neighbor's in Need special UCC mission offering will be received on October 7th. The weekly bulletin inserts describe how these monies are used to help attain needed and deserved justice here in the United States for those without the means to gain it on their own. We hope you will consider supporting it on October 7th.

Leigh and Brian Walker, Mission Coordinators

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.



Doing mission together

COMMUNITY BEAN SUPPER

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

4:30 - 6:00 PM

\$6.00 for Adults

\$4.00 for Children

Raymond Village Community Church

121 Main St.

Beans, hot dogs, potato & pasta salads, cole slaw, homemade biscuits, desserts

TO BENEFIT HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Diana and Scott Picavet on the birth of their twin boys. James and Brady were born on September 19th and weighed 3 lbs 7 oz and 3 lbs 4 oz. Diana and Scott plan to have their sons baptized at RVCC late this fall.

It's Not All About the Money...Thoughts on Stewardship

Have you ever seen a puppet show? Of course, audiences don't care about the performers behind the stage because the puppets appear to have a life of their own. Similarly many of us forget the hidden hands behind many church activities. It's all too easy to forget the members of the congregation who volunteer to clean the sanctuary and the building (Thanks Frank!)...It's all too easy to attend the suppers, forgetting those who work in the kitchen and on the floor and cleaning up and those who organize it all (Thanks Dick!). It's all too easy to pray for shut-ins, forgetting those who take the time to write and visit them (Thanks to so many of you!). Our lives are made of time. God's most precious gift was Jesus' time on earth. Surely spending time doing what the church needs behind the scenes is a vital part of saying "Thank you" to God. And saying thanks you in a variety of ways is what stewardship is all about.

(Adapted from a stewardship newsletter by Parish Publishing)

Stewardship Sunday is November 11th! Begin to prayerfully consider now how you will designate your time and treasures to RVCC this year! Watch for details!

~Martin Luther

Halloween at RVCC

As children in the community prepare their costumes and then upwards of 750 of them (!) flock down Main Street on Halloween Night, RVCC will be an active participant in the community festivities. Here are ways that you and your children can become involved:

1. **Annual Halloween Parade and Party on Saturday, October 27th.** We need someone to coordinate this event if we are going to move forward with it. If you can volunteer, please contact Rev. Nancy ASAP.
2. **Annual Great Pumpkin Display.** Cut out a jack-o-lantern and drop it off at the church on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, October 27th or 28th. You will see it brightly lit on the church steps on Halloween night. Whooooo knows? Maybe we can have 50 lit pumpkins this year!
3. **Candy on Halloween Night.** We will have something for all the trick or treaters on Halloween. Once again, we will be offering fairly traded chocolate bars as we continue to support fair labor and wage practices in the Third World. You can help us offset the cost of the candy by leaving a small contribution in the basket on the table in the Deacons' Corner. You can also help by handing out candy. Please contact Linda

Summer Produce Exchange

We have had summer squash, zucchini, lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers to share at our Sunday Produce Exchange! Nothing has been leftover, so it must be working. Keep bringing that extra produce, so that others in our congregation can enjoy it!

Thanks to Chris and Carl Plummer!

Chris and Carl Plummer, owners of Echo Lodge Organic Vegetables, have donated summer flowers on several occasions to be sold with proceeds often benefiting the Honduras Mission Trip. Thanks to Carl and Chris for their generosity and interest in RVCC!

And the Altar was Bare.....

...because there were no flowers. Please sign up in the Deacons' Corner in the Vestry for a Sunday and bring flowers for the altar. Our church looks so much welcoming that way! We will acknowledge contributions in the bulletin and Weathervane! You may also call the Church Office (655-7749) to volunteer for a Sunday!

Fellowship Café

All are invited to the Fellowship Café each Sunday before worship from 9:30 - 10:00 A.M. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee, a bit of food, and a lot of fellowship. In October, the Fellowship Café is brought to you by the Honduras Mission Team.

Update on our Action Planning Initiatives

We have LOTS to celebrate because we have accomplished much over the past few months since our Church Leaders' Action Planning Retreat. Here's a recap:

1. Mission Statement – we are finishing up asking the congregation to comment on the main points of our Mission Statement. Look for a summary and display soon!
2. Fellowship Café – It's up and running, with various groups in the church volunteering to host it each month. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
3. Volunteer Recognition in the Weathervane – Thanks to Frances Mains we have a Volunteer Corner each month now. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
4. Exit Interview Questions and Process Council – has developed questions and a process to talk with those leaving the church, so that we can learn from them how to improve our ministry. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Christian Education Task Force the Task Force is working, the classrooms are being rejuvenated, and better communication about the curriculum is being put in place. Though Sunday School is an ongoing initiative, it has begun, and so it is MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Join the Fun at Polly's Craft Days!

October 18th and October 25th

2:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Stop by for a few minutes, or stay the whole time! Polly will have craft supplies in the Vestry to make cards and to work on a couple of projects for the Christmas Fair. Bring your own ideas as well! You don't have to be an experienced "craft person" to make a contribution or just have fun. Those who have participated have had a wonderful time, so spread the word and join in!

Let's Learn About Honduras

Hurricane Felix recently made landfall near the border of Honduras and Nicaragua. Though not nearly as devastating as Hurricane Mitch in 1998, it left its mark. Following are excerpts from an article about the hurricane in the New York Times.

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, September 4 – Even as Hurricane Felix smashed ashore in northern Nicaragua on Tuesday and began inundating the adjacent Honduran countryside, it was an earlier storm, the devastating Hurricane Mitch of 1998, that haunted Hondurans.

Merchants recalled Mitch as they packed up belongings and hustled to higher ground. Residents told horror stories about it as they prayed that the new storm would not do what the earlier one did.

On Tuesday, Felix destroyed homes, flooded low-lying areas and caused thousands to flee for their safety.... It was the second Category 5 storm to rake the Caribbean coast this year, after Hurricane Dean the first time two Category 5 Atlantic storms have made landfall during the same year, experts said.

Esperanza Chávez, 54, who acknowledged not taking Mitch all that seriously, was somber about the threat of Felix.

“I trusted in God last time and I lost everything,” she said. “This time, we’re going and we’re taking everything with us.”

Hondurans have become hurricane experts of sorts, speaking knowledgeably of the Saffir-Simpson scale that rates hurricanes from relatively mild Category 1 storms to killer Category 5’s. While Felix lost strength, many Hondurans recalled that Mitch had dropped its hurricane status and was a tropical storm when it devastated their country.

“With the memory of Mitch, we now know what can happen,” said Jose Mario Escobar, 58, whose hillside neighborhood here, known as El Chile, was flooded in 1998. “We didn’t know much about hurricanes before. We’re smarter now.”

Still, not everybody was heeding the calls to head for higher ground. Another lesson Mitch taught was that criminals might take advantage of the chaos to burglarize homes.

“I know it’s dangerous but if I go, I know my home will be robbed,” said Delia Maria Savala, 29, who lost her home to Mitch but still lives in a neighborhood

along a riverbank that the government considers an endangered zone.

Those most vulnerable in the storm’s path, and the first to face its wrath, were Miskito Indians living in wooden homes along the remote Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

“I’m asking the people, no, I’m ordering them to leave their wood homes and head to shelters,” Marco Burgos, national commissioner of the Honduran emergency response center, told coastal residents over the radio. “Not one wooden house is going to survive such a hit.”

Inside the Honduran government’s emergency operations center, soldiers in camouflage mixed with aid workers and government officials, all working to head off a repeat of the horrors of 1998.

Yet no matter the preparations, Honduras remains poor and vulnerable. “Most of our municipalities have no firefighters, no ambulances,” Mr. Burgos said. “The people have to save themselves.”

Idea of the Month...To Introduce Your Friends to RVCC

How do you get friends and neighbors to venture into the church? Maybe NOT on a Sunday morning! How about inviting someone to participate in an event that is more community oriented, such as:

1. Shalom Club for children in 4th 6th grades
2. The Bean Supper on Saturday, October 20th, to benefit the Honduras Mission trip
3. The Halloween Parade and Party scheduled for Saturday, October 27th
4. The Raymond Village Church Great Pumpkin Display on Halloween Night

There are many ways to let everyone know what a friendly and welcoming group we are!

All-Saints Sunday and Day of Remembrance

November 4th is All Saint’s Sunday and is a day set aside to remember those in our families and in our congregation who passed away in the last year. If you have a family member that you would like remembered on that day, please speak with Rev. Nancy, call the church Office (655-7749), or e-mail office@rvccme.org

From the Deacons Table

Speaking of the "Deacons Table" please visit the table in the church vestry. Rev. Nancy keeps updated material of events that are happening, with forms and applications for those interested. Also on the table is a "Flowers for Sunday Worship" sign up sheet. The summer flowers supplied by our members, visitors, and from the local farm stand at Echo Lodge have been beautiful. God blesses us in Maine each fall with vibrant colors of foliage and beautiful colors in our gardens. It is always a joy to see those colors that enhance our service on Sunday mornings. Flowers that are in memory of, in celebration of, or just because, are welcomed from your garden or your florist. Let us know on the sign up sheet, and we will be sure to acknowledge the event in our worship bulletin.

October promises to be a busy time of year once again at RVCC. The 7th of October is World Communion Sunday. We hope to have lots of different breads and recipes to share at our fellowship table. On the 13th of October the deacons plan a retreat for all former, and present deacons, and all deacons assistants. This event will be held at the Windham Hill Church from 9:00am to 1:00 pm. The plans are for coffee and donuts, than an ice breaker event, a meditation time, a walk thru a labyrinth, pot luck lunch with a time for prayer and communion to follow and end the event. Sunday the 21st day of October will be our semi annual Elder Sunday. We will receive new elders on that date. This is a very special time to honor those who have served our church in a variety of capacities, including boards, and committees. The experience and wisdom of the Elders continue to be called upon to enhance the life of our church. Halloween night is a very special time in the town of Raymond. Last year we used 1,000 pieces of Fair Trade chocolate candy, and we ran out. We also requested donations to UNICEF and Pumpkins to light up the front of the church. We had 8 Pumpkins and several luminaries. Families through out the Main Street area in Raymond had wonderful displays that should not be missed. It was a fun night for those who participated from the church to see all the costumes and treat each child with a safe candy. We asked for donations thru the month of October to purchase the candy, so all members had some involvement even if they could not be present. We welcome all who would like to help on that very busy night.

May God grant blessings to each one of us as we build our church together.

Linda Eldridge,
Deacon Coordinator

Who Said That?

Quote for September 2nd.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by;
They are good, they are bad; they are weak, they are
strong,
Wise, foolish,--so am I;
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man.
- Sam Walter Foss,
House by the Side of the Road

Sam Walter Foss

Born: June 19, 1858, in Wrington, a village in Somerset, England

Died: February 26, 1911.

Sam Walter Foss, was a librarian and poet whose most famous works included "The House by the Side of the Road" and "The Coming American." He was born in rural Candia, New Hampshire. Foss lost his mother at age four, worked on his father's farm and went to school in the winter. He graduated from Brown University in 1882, and would be considered illustrious enough to warrant having his name inscribed on the mace. He married a minister's daughter, with whom he had a daughter and son. Foss used to write a poem a day for the newspapers, and his five volumes of collected poetry are of the frank and homely "common man" variety. "Bring me men to match my mountains, Bring me men to match my plains, Men with empires in their purpose, And new eras in their brains." These words were inscribed on a granite wall at the United States Air Force Academy to inspire cadets and officers, but they were removed in 2003.

He is buried in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Rhode Island.

Quotes for September 9th

"Without faith, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible."

~ Mary McLeod Bethune

"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something . . . I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands -- this is not optional -- my faith demands

continued on page 11

that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.”

~ Jimmy Carter

Mary McLeod Bethune

Born: July 10, 1875 in Mayesville, So. Carolina.

Died: May 18, 1955

Mary was one of seventeen children born to Samuel and Patsy McLeod, former slaves. She was educated at the Mayesville Presbyterian School, Scotia Seminary and the Moody Bible Institute. Her accomplishments are many and include: Founding the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls (now Bethune-Cookman College) in 1904, served as President of the National Association of Colored Women, Was a delegate and advisor to national conferences on education, child welfare, and home ownership, and served as consultant to the U. S. Secretary of War for selection of the first female officer candidates.

Jimmy Carter

Born: October 1, 1924 Plains, Georgia

Thirty-ninth President 1977-1981

Carter, who has rarely used his full name, James Earl Carter, Jr. was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. Peanut farming, talk of politics, and devotion to the Baptist faith were mainstays of his upbringing. Upon graduation in 1946 from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter married Rosalynn Smith. Jimmy Carter aspired to make Government “competent and compassionate,” responsive to the American people and their expectations. His achievements were notable, but in an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and continuing tensions, it was impossible for his administration to meet these high expectations. The seizure as hostages of the U. S. embassy staff in Iran dominated the news during the last 14 months of the administration. The consequences of Iran’s holding Americans captive, together with continuing inflation at home, contributed to Carter's defeat in 1980. Even then, he continued the difficult negotiations over the hostages. Iran finally released the 52 Americans the same day Carter left office.

Quotes for September 16th

“Some people talk about finding God, as if He could get lost.”

Author Unknown

“When we lose God, it is not God who is lost.”

Author Unknown

Quotes for September 23rd

“Peace on the outside comes from knowing God on the inside.”

~ Author Unknown

“We must move from asking God to take care of the things that are breaking our hearts, to praying about the things that are breaking His heart.”

~ Margaret Gibb

Margaret Gibb

Born: 1892

Died:?

The only thing I could find is that Margaret Gibb was a political activist and responsible for this one quote.

Quotes for September 30th

“Sometimes God calms the storm. At other times, he calms the sailor. And sometimes he makes us swim.”

~ Author Unknown

“In our lives there is bound to come some pain, surely as there are storms and falling rain; just believe that the one who holds the storms will bring the sun.”

~ Author Unknown

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lambert

Credits: Various Internet Sources

RVCC Very Occasional Men's Choir to Sing

All men in the congregation are invited to sing with the Very Occasional Men’s Choir on October 28th and December 9th. There will be one rehearsal the Sunday before for 30 or so minutes after church and a brief run through the morning of. If you would like to sing, please see Roy Lindell or Diane Goosetrey. You may also e-mail Diane at jgooset1@maine.rr.com.

College Corner

Tim Foran is studying in Madrid, Spain, this fall. He is participating in a Carleton College total immersion program and is learning about art, architecture, and Spanish culture. He is staying with a Spanish family and will speak only Spanish until the program ends just before Thanksgiving. Prior to arriving in Spain and armed with an Italian phrasebook, Tim spent three days in Rome eating pasta and marveling over the Forum and the Coliseum.

Kid's Korner

Or anyone who feels like a kid!

Secret Code

Use the code to discover what it says in Eccl 3:1.

A =	D =	E =	F =	G =	H =	I =	M =
N =	O =	R =	S =	T =	U =	V =	Y =

Answer: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

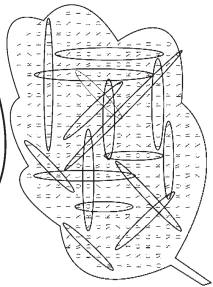


Word Find

In the northern hemisphere it is fall. Here are some words that are about fall. Can you find them?

- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- BOUNTY
- CHILLY WEATHER
- CIDER
- CORNUCOPIA
- END OF SUMMER
- FALL COLORS
- FIREPLACE
- FROST
- HARVEST
- PUMPKINS
- RAKING LEAVES
- SCHOOL
- SMOKE
- SWEATERS
- THANKSGIVING

	A	E		F	Y	V
	D		T	Z	W	Y
	A	Q	X	B	R	Z
	C	S	Z	C	H	E
	S	D	I	S	F	J
	E	G	K			
	L	H	A	O	O	M
	C	H	I	L	L	Y
	W	E	A	T	H	E
	R					
	F	I	N	B	R	G
	O	J	C	H	A	P
	I	Q	V	K	E	J
	R	D				
	K	S	C	L	T	L
	F	N	T	M	M	N
	E	U	C	N	F	A
	V	N	O	G	N	B
	O	W	I	P	X	B
	P	Q	U	Q	H	T
	Y	M	R	R	Z	H
	E	S	D	A	S	T
	I					
	U	D	B	S	R	O
	L	O	C	L	L	A
	F	V	U	C	T	K
	L	W	O	D	X	U
	E					
	F	E	Y	V	G	J
	U	D	Z	O	W	H
	A	N	I	B	T	O
	J	G	C	F	K	X
	D					
	R	L	E	Y	M	K
	N	F	L	P	G	S
	N	I	K	P	M	U
	P	N	H	S	N	I
	J	O	A	K	Z	P
	T	L	A	I	H	C
	M	Q	E	S	N	R
	A	I	O	U	S	
	P	A	T	P	C	M
	Y	U	B	A	D	H
	V	N	C	E	G	W
	F	K	D	M	E	
	E	X	G	O	P	F
	F	Y	R	G	H	O
	Z	H	P	I	A	I
	Q	A	B	M	I	
	J	C	R	G	K	L
	D	V	J	L	E	O
	K	F	M	L	G	S
	V	R	N	E	H	
	O	M	I	P	T	J
	E	Q	N	K	R	L
	E	C	A	L	P	E
	R	I	F	R	L	
	S	M	O	S	U	S
	W	E	A	T	E	R
	S	N	T	P	V	O
	N	U	Q			
	H	T	P	V	R	Q
	I	W	R	S	J	X
	S	X	K	Y	T	L
	G					
	U	A	W	M	V	T
	N	B	W	O		
	Z	U	C	X	P	



October 2007

RVCC Calendar online - check for the latest updates at www.rvccme.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WV Weathervane ♪ Choir rehearsals 7:00 pm	1 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2093 Meeting	2 6:30 pm BS Troop 800	3 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	4 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council	5 7:00 pm AA	6
7 10:00 am Worship	8 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting 7:00 pm BS Troop 800 Committee Meeting	9 6:30 pm BS Troop 800 ♪	10 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm - Deacons 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	11 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council	12 7:00 pm AA	13 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Vestry & Sanctuary use
14 10:00 am Worship	15 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2093 Meeting	16 6:30 pm BS Troop 800 ♪	17 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	18 2:30 - 9:00 pm Cards and crafts with Polly	19 7:00 pm AA	20 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Bean Supper Honduras Trip Benefit WV articles due
21 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Honduras Mission Team	22 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2093 Meeting	23 6:30 pm BS Troop 800 ♪	24 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	25 2:30 - 9:00 pm Crafts with Polly	26 7:00 pm AA	27
28 10:00 am Worship	29 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2093 Meeting	30 6:30 pm BS Troop 800 ♪	31 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	Nov 1 2:30 - 9:00 pm Cards and crafts with Polly	Nov 2 7:00 pm AA	Nov 3
Nov 4 10:00 am Worship	Nov 5	Nov 6 6:30 pm BS Troop 800 ♪	Nov 7 6:30 <u>am</u> Men's Fellowship 6:30 pm Pack 800 Den Meeting	Nov 8 2:30 - 9:00 pm Cards and crafts with Polly 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council	Nov 9 7:00 pm AA	Nov 10

**RAYMOND VILLAGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**Sunday Morning
Worship 10:00 AM**

Nursery Available and
Handicap Accessible

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Rev. Nancy Foran, Pastor

Lori Lambert, Secretary

Donna Hurd, Organist
and Choir Director

John Hanley,
Weathervane
Page Layout & Design

Frank Sullivan, Custodian

COMMUNITY BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, October 20
4:30 - 6 pm
\$6 for Adults
\$4 for Children

Raymond Village Community Church
121 Main St.

**Beans, hot dogs, potato & pasta salads, cole slaw,
homemade biscuits, desserts**

TO BENEFIT HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Please come and join us at
Worship and bring a friend!!!

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United Church of Christ
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PO Box 285
Raymond, ME 04071-0285
office@rvccme.org

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Next Newsletter Deadline:
October 20, 2007