



# The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter

September, 2014

Table of Contents	Page
From the Pastor .....	1
This Month at RVCC.....	2
Adult Bible Study.....	2
Council Minutes.....	3
World Communion Sunday .....	3
Bread Fair.....	3
Prayer Concerns.....	4
A Prayer for Harvest Time.....	4
September Lectionary.....	4
Rev. Nancy's Sermons Online.....	4
Financial Update .....	5
Spiritual Spa .....	5
Monday Meal.....	5
Mission Trip Poem.....	6
School Kits.....	6
Rally Day .....	6
Bluegrass Concert.....	7
Grocery Cards .....	7
Grief Support.....	8
Rally Day Parent Meeting.....	8
Mouths of Children .....	8
Cumberland Association Meeting	8
New Liturgists .....	8
Sharing Your Garden's Wealth.....	8
Family Movie Night.....	8
Gardening Help Needed.....	8
Pot Roast Supper .....	9

## From the Pastor...

### "Mission Trip 2014"

Our 2014 mission trip has been completed, and the nine folks on our mission team have returned home safe and sound – and definitely changed inside! Thanks to Joe, Caryl, Marie, Tom, Sue, Lois, Chuck, and Martha for joining me in an enriching, thought provoking, down and dirty in the mud five days at Maine Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield.

This year's trip was very different from last year. Though the work we did was no more difficult (and, in some ways, was technically easier), our assignment challenged us to raise deep and difficult questions about how and why we "do" mission in the church.

Each of us kept a journal for the time we were away, and I want to share a few excerpts that reflected our struggle with those questions about our expectations for those we serve and about our own prejudices that lie perhaps closer to consciousness than we like to think.

"Who are we to jump to conclusions? But it can be second nature to do so.

Thank you, God, for your guidance and compassion. What would you do and in what spirit would you do this – our work with this family?

Just read of the passing of Robin Williams. That makes you stop and think about how vulnerable we all are in this little world. We may never know all the details but as I have learned very often dealing with my demons....sometimes the inside doesn't match the outside.

I don't even realize how judgmental and prejudice my thoughts are until hours later.

As I sit back later and hear a few others share their dismay at the living conditions, surmising what has brought the family to this situation, and I realize my thoughts were not alone. I reach a bit deeper to think of my own living conditions. I certainly don't have the cleanest house, I don't have the most kempt yard in the neighborhood, and I don't strive to 'have it all'. We each prioritize and either fight for more or accept what we have - thus the phrase "to each his own" but I'm struggling with how bad things must be to just 'accept'.

*Continued next page . . .*

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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). If you have any questions contact Debbie Feagans or Judy Munson. Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071- [office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org) or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – [cmmunson24@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmunson24@yahoo.com) – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

## *This Month at RVCC . . .*

September 5, 2014-	6:30 p.m. – Boy Scout Pack Committee meeting
September 7, 2014-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Rally Sunday!
September 8, 2014-	6:30 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop Committee meeting RVCC hosts Monday Meal
September 10, 2014-	6:30 p.m. – Council Meeting
September 14, 2014-	10:00 a.m. – Worship – Sunday School begins
September 20, 2014-	5:00 p.m. – Pot Roast Supper
September 21, 2014-	10:00 a.m. – Worship
September 28, 2014-	10:00 a.m. - Worship

**Please join us for the Fellowship Café Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. September is an open month, so please bring some goodies to share!**

**The Vestry will be open for our Gathering Space every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to noon.**

Adult Bible Study is every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Line Dancing is every Monday and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and a low impact class on Friday at 10:00 a.m..

Boy Scout Troop 800 meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Fellowship is every Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

A.A. meeting every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adult Summer Book Study**

The 6-session summer book study this year is "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. Sessions are on Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. New participants are always welcome! Please contact the office or Walt Read 655-2317 if you have questions about the study.

### *From the Pastor, continued . . .*

I do not know (the family's) circumstances totally, so no more judgment!

Yes, it's about giving and doing as God would do, but it's also (and probably most) about what can change within our hearts and perspectives. It's about not just doing and execution and getting it done but also about listening and empathy and communicating – with each other, but also with the family we serve.

We talked about our reaction to the trailer and the family and then realized that maybe we had a few prejudices ourselves, some expectations, and some disappointments about our experience. We needed to be self-conscious about the importance of OUR experience and pour in a few cups of "what's it like for our homeowners" and a few tablespoons of communication with a pinch of common sense.

I guess maybe we need to be less concerned about the satellite dishes on the roof, the whys and wherefores of the homeowner's lack of financial resources or their relationship with us as a mission team – and more concerned with what we were called to do – upgrade a pretty dismal living space so that the family – Laurie, Danny, Sky, Derek, Muffin, and the cats - can remain together under one roof and in one trailer. It may not be the sort of life we would want to be living, and we should never stop asking the bigger questions, never stop trying to untangle the roots of poverty, never stop walking in the footsteps of Jesus, but maybe for this week, we were called to set aside our prejudices and expectations and be content knowing that we have been that small church with a big heart in action, that we have made a difference.

This week was a lesson in realizing how often we make assumptions, how near to the surface our prejudices really lie, how the roots of rural poverty are tangled and many, how we are called to set all this aside, to be in the moment for a while, and to be Christ-like in our actions toward others."

**I hope that some newbies will join us on our 2015 trip to Maine Seacoast Mission, tentatively scheduled for July 5 – 10.**

In the meantime, check out our photo presentation on our church Youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCie3mBUqQtNI5nAsFNCn2-A>

In addition, read excerpts from the journals on Rev. Nancy's blog - <http://rvccspirit.blogspot.com/>

In closing, here is a prayer written by Lois Waldron, one of our team members:

*I have gained more spiritually by being a part of our group than I have ever imagined. Thank you, God, for taking me out of my comfort zone and into the mud. Amen.*

## Summary of August 6, 2014 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 by Scott Gordan. Present were Scott, Chuck, Nancy, Brenda S, Tom, and Judy.

Tom led us in prayer.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as circulated.

**Pastoral Reflection:** Rev. Nancy brought up the subject of stewardship for discussion. We all need to take ownership of the stewardship campaign. We need to think about what it would take for someone to pledge for the first time, or for them to increase their pledge. We also need to think about how we should present, and how they would want to receive that information. Various questions and strategies were discussed. What do we know about people and their pledge history? How much, per pledge unit, does it cost to run this church? Are there decisions we need to make about what we can or can't do unless pledges increase? Personal calls or visits can be intimidating. Should we consider small group presentations?

**Policy and Job Description Manual:** We continued our discussion and revision of this document.

**Treasurer:** Chuck presented his report. Pledges were down again for July, year to date they are down \$4,000. Loose plate offering and memorial contributions are making up the difference, but memorial gifts can not be recognized as income until the desires of the family are known. Memorial gifts are being removed from our income until we know where they should go. Fundraisers are continuing, suppers are doing well, but the concert by Daniel and Ashley did not bring in what we had hoped. Year to date, we have not made progress reducing our deficit. The report was accepted subject to audit.

**Trustees:** Scott reported that the signs at either end of Main Street should be up soon.

**Missions:** Tom reported that the group is leaving on the mission trip this Sunday. Supplies are currently being collected for school kits, although we do not put the kits together until March. Tom reported that we need leadership for the Monday meal program. We are responsible for a meal on September 8 and December 1. Fran Mains will not be able to provide the level of leadership which she has in the past. There is normally plenty of help the night of the meal.

**Christian Education:** Rev. Nancy reported that Rally Day will be on September 7. That will also be the final session of the summer program for kids. A packet of information is going out shortly to Sunday School families. The Christian Ed Task Force is planning to meet with parents of our Sunday School children at the end of August to present new program ideas. Walt Read will start his adult ed class on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewardship:** Brenda announced that another supper is coming up on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. The concert by Daniel and Ashley did not do well, options on how to do this better next year will be discussed.

**Deacons:** Tom reported for the deacons. They are looking for new people. Rita will be away for most of the fall and winter. Fran is not able to do as much as she has. They are looking for lay coverage for a couple of services in October and November when Rev. Nancy will be away.

**Pastor:** nothing further to report.

**Moderator:** nothing further to report.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, at 6:30 PM. Brenda will lead us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Munson, Clerk

## World Communion Sunday on October 5<sup>th</sup>

Fall is swiftly coming upon us, and so we look ahead to World Communion Sunday, which is traditionally the first Sunday in October. At that time, we will join with Christians all over the world - rich and poor, progressive and conservative, from big and small churches regardless of their usual communion schedule -to celebrate the sacrament that day. It is a time when we can truly feel that we are part of something bigger than our own church and that we are part of the global Body of Christ. Be sure to look for details!

## World Communion Sunday Bread Fair

Everyone is encouraged to bring a loaf of bread for our annual bread fair after worship on October 5<sup>th</sup>, which is World Communion Sunday. Everything will be priced at \$5.00, and all proceeds will be donated to Bread for the World, the foremost Christian organization dedicated to ending world hunger. Missions has traditionally agreed to match our sales. Yeast breads, quick breads, muffins, etc. are all welcome!

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

## Prayer Concerns



### Our prayers of concern go out to:

#### In our Church Family:

Michael & Pauline Cadotte, Louise & Bill Doyle, Jane Jordan, Ginny Parker, Dorothy & Dick Putscher, Kathy Stephens, Muriel Trafford, The Extended Family of Rosemary Tripp, Muriel Yeager.

#### In our Extended Family:

Joshua Lambert, Suellen Lightfoot, Ron Riecken, Sandy Winde.

#### In our Community:

Linda Krause, Scott Webster.

#### Serving Our Country in Humanitarian Organizations or in the Military:

Brandon Keene, Lacey Knudsen, Chris McLeod, Joe White.

## A Prayer for Harvest Time

God of seed and growth and harvest,  
Creator of need, creator of satisfaction;  
Give us, we pray, our daily bread,  
Sufficient and assured for all.

Give us also, we pray, the bread of life,  
And we shall have a care to feed the hungry, and to seek  
for peace and justice in the world.

Help us, then, to remember and to know  
That you are our life today and every day;  
You are the food we need, now and forever. Amen.

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

## Read Rev. Nancy's Sermons Online

People frequently ask for copies of Rev. Nancy's sermons. They can be found online on her blog entitled RVCC Spirit at <http://rvccspirit.blogspot.com/>. To date, her blog has received nearly 4500 hits from every continent across the globe. Her sermons are generally posted on Wednesdays.

## Lectionary Lessons for September

It is not often that our focus lectionary lessons (in bold) for all the Sundays of a given month come from the same story cycle or even the same Biblical book.

However, this month, all of our focus readings are from the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible). In addition, they are all from the Moses cycle and include the stories of the origin of Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, the gift to the escaped Hebrew slaves of manna in the desert, and Moses, working with God, obtaining water from a rock.

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Rally Day

**Exodus 12:1-14**

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 14:19-31**

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 16:2-15**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 17:1-7**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32





Submitted by Chuck Waldron

July 2014	Month Actual	Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year <u>to</u> Date Budget
Income	\$5,707.46	\$9,104.57	\$49,402.48	\$49,685.56
Expenses	\$7,878.34	\$8,528.47	\$59,474.30	\$57,504.92
Difference	-\$2,170.88	\$576.10	-\$10,071.82	-\$7,064.08

Comments on the finances above:

The trend this year has now been well established. Pledged contributions are not meeting the levels we promised. This month our contributions were over \$1,500 short of the amount we promised as pledges for the month. Collectively, for the year we are over \$3,000 short. Our 2 fund raisers for the month had mixed results. The concert losing under \$100, and the dinner making over \$500. Year to date the fund raisers no longer make up for the shortfall of the pledges. This month our total expenses were \$650 below budget. Year to date we are just \$1,969 over budget; \$1,865 due to the mismatched timing of the choir robes income vs. expenses mentioned in previous updates. Our cost savings have accumulated over the summer to offset all but \$100 of the high winter heating, electric, and snow removal costs.

Here is what I learned:

I learned this month that often gifts given in memory of a loved one are accepted and the family members can suggest how those funds be spent. This means when the gifts come in over a lengthy time, the interim accounting of those funds doesn't accurately reflect the potential desires. The gifts should be set aside and not recognized as income until the desires are known. This year we have had such gifts continuing to come in, So we have removed the gifts from our income and will reintroduce them should that be the desires.

Offer/Disclaimer:

I am more than happy to answer any questions that anyone has about our budget or any actual expenses. As stated above, the information is what I learned. There is the possibility I learned it incorrectly, so feel free to let me know that too. I can be reached via email at walleyct@aol.com or you can corner me after the service on Sundays or leave me a note in the office and I'll get back to you.

### **Spiritual Spa is for ALL women!**

The Spiritual Spa is a group of women in our church who meet about once a month to share in community and grow deeper spiritually. Sometimes they read a book together to discuss. Other times they reflect on a particular question. All are welcome to join in and be part of the Spa! The next meeting is at Adma Willis' home on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. FMI contact Rev. Nancy or Caryl Gilman. For directions, call Adma at 310-0323.

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

### **Monday Meal Coming on September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Our church will be preparing and serving a Monday Meal on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the North Windham Union Church. Monday Meal is a free community meal supported by area churches. Watch for details on ways that you can help out! We will need people to donate food and also to help serve at the meal.

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

## Gather Round: Our Mission Trip Poem

Following is the poem, which provided us each day with continuity and a sense of grounding as we set out to our jobsite.

gather round

I have a story to tell  
of one who reached inside himself  
and took a handful of love  
like a pile of stardust  
and said: this is for you

it is all you need  
it is all you will ever need  
there is enough here  
to change the whole world  
take it

many laughed at him  
mocked him  
and ignored the invitation

but some dared to take it  
and those who did  
noticed something about this love

they found they could do what the gift-giver could do  
they could stand with the lost  
welcome the traveler  
eat with the hungry

they found themselves doing what the man first did to  
them  
give something of themselves to others

they became like the man  
offering themselves  
and as they offered themselves  
others took the invitation  
and many still do  
and many still trust  
it is enough to change the whole world

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on "Listening to the Stones".

## STOCK UP FOR SCHOOL KITS!

Now is a perfect time to hit all the back to school sales as we work on collecting for our 2014 School Kit donation. As you may remember, we send these kits out in the spring but the time to purchase supplies are now. Won't you help ensure we are able to share our fellowship across the miles and help us with collecting items? The list is below.

- 3 Notebooks (70 Sheets spiral) Not loose leaf paper
- Blunt Tipped Scissors
- Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners
- 24 Count Crayons
- 12" rulers
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers



## Rally Day

Rally Day marks the beginning of the Sunday School year here in our church. This year, on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>, we welcome all children to join in our Nursery and Sunday School programs. There will be a special final session of our Summer Sunday Children's Program to which all of the children are invited. Even if your child did not attend the program this summer, the Rally Day activities are still sure to be fun. Regular Sunday School will begin the following Sunday.

**Hopefully you have received a registration form and additional information in the mail! We really need updated information on the kids, so PLEASE complete the registration form and bring it on Rally Day – EVEN if there are no changes from the previous year!**

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

# RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CONCERTS

SPONSORED BY THE VILLAGE CHURCH

*Proudly Presents*

## ERICA BROWN AND THE BLUEGRASS CONNECTION

Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 7 pm



Raymond Village Community Church,  
27 Main Street, Raymond

**Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for children -  
available at the door.**

*For More Information, please see Frank Morrison*

**\$10,000 and climbing!**



The RVCC grocery card program reached a new milestone in 2014. In the four years that we've been selling cards to Hannaford and Shaws, the church has received over \$10,000 in profit from this silent fundraiser. The program is part of our budget each year – with annual revenue anticipated at \$2,500 in 2014 sales.

Each \$100 grocery card purchased results in the church earning \$5. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this program. Every purchase keeps us on track to achieve goal. Don't forget to pick up your card(s) after church.

### **Grief Support Meetings**

**VNA Home Health Hospice is offering an open grief support meeting the first Tuesday of the month.**

**Sept. 2, Tuesday, 6:00 – 7:30 PM  
North Windham Union Church  
723 Roosevelt Trail, Rt. 302, Windham, ME**

**FMI Linda Hopkins  
Bereavement Support Coordinator  
VNA Home Health Hospice at 400-8714**

Sponsored by North Windham Union Church UCC  
Mission Committee.

### **Rally Day Meeting for Parents**

The CE Task Force has received feedback that our older children might benefit from a bit of restructuring of the Sunday morning routine. Because the Task Force feels that it is still important for these kids to continue to be in Sunday School, we would like to be able to let them have their own separate activities a couple of times each month. However, we can do this ONLY with the assistance and support of their parents.

Consequently, there will be a meeting for parents of kids in 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade after church on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss strategies and plans for better meeting the needs of our older children.

(Submitted by CE Task Force and Rev. Nancy)

### **Out of the Mouths of Children.....**

During his life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and Republicans put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

### **Cumberland Association Fall Meeting**

Our church is part of the Cumberland Association of the United Church of Christ here in Maine. The Association is made up of UCC churches primarily in Cumberland County. The Association meets twice a year. The 2014 fall meeting will be at First Congregational Church in South Portland on Sunday afternoon, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Our lay delegates to the Association and the Conference are Linda Eldridge, Fran Mains, and Adma Willis.

### **New Liturgists for Sunday Worship**

We have four new liturgists who completed the Scripture Reading Workshop facilitated in July by Adrienne Milics. They are Lynn Gagne, Linda Eldridge, Brenda Stevenson, and Craig Messinger. Thanks to the four of them for volunteering to engage in this important worship ministry. And also MANY thanks to Adrienne for leading this workshop for a second year!

(Submitted by Rev. Nancy)

### **Sharing Your Garden's Wealth**

Do you have some extra produce from your own vegetable garden or an abundance of flowers from your perennial beds? Do you need some fresh locally grown produce or a bouquet of flowers to brighten your home?

Check out the basket in the Vestry following worship each Sunday. Share your extras with your church family – and help out those who cannot have their own garden!

### **Do You Enjoy Gardening – and/or Weedwacking?**

We are looking for someone to do some light gardening at church as needed – weeding, trimming, etc. We are also looking for someone to occasionally weed wack the grounds, especially the brick walkway. If you can help out, please talk with Scott Gordan or Rev. Nancy.

### **Family Movie Nights**

If there is interest, Rev. Nancy and Joe would like to host a series of Family Movie Nights as a way to continue to build our church community as well as reach out to the broader Raymond community. All are invited – children as well as adults. Movies would be G or PG rated and most likely would be shown early on a Saturday evening. If this is something you or your family might be interested in attending, please let Rev. Nancy know.

Don't  
Miss  
Out!

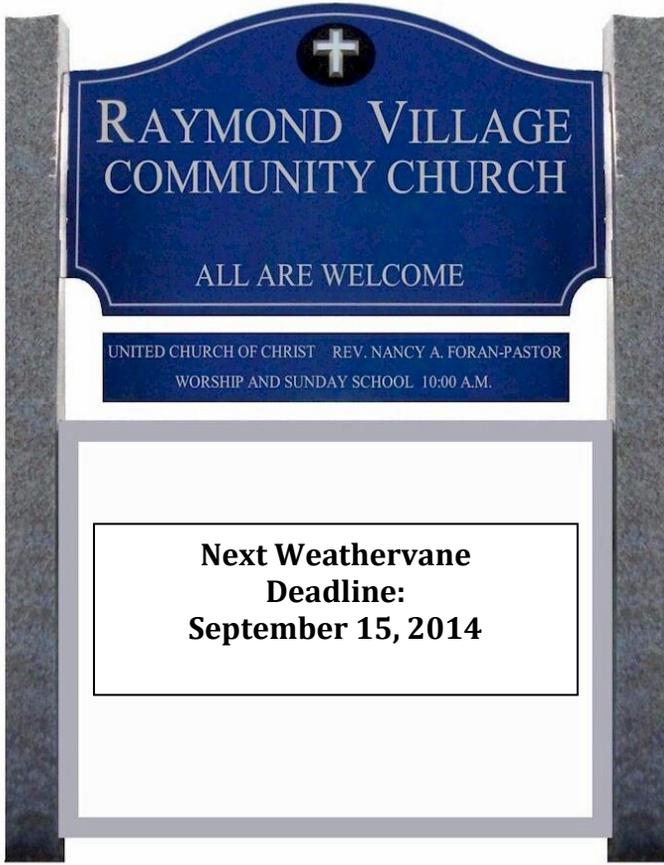
The last Pot Roast Supper in 2014 is Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

Join us for dinner  
5:00 – 6:30 pm

You'll be treated to a delicious home cooked meal of  
Pot Roast;  
Mashed Potato & Gravy;  
Carrots; Green Beans;  
a Roll & Dessert (apple crisp or gingerbread)



*Many thanks to everyone who has helped make our suppers  
successful fundraisers for the church*



NON-PROFIT  
ORGAN  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
RAYMOND ME  
04071  
PERMIT #3

Raymond Village Community Church  
United Church of Christ  
(207) 655-7749  
P.O. Box 285  
Raymond, ME 04071-0285  
[office@rvcme.org](mailto:office@rvcme.org)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED