Pilgrim Lodge All-Church Retreat!
Our annual retreat to Pilgrim Lodge will again be on Memorial Day weekend, this year May 27-29. As always, the weekend will be a great time, with canoeing, hiking, swimming, ping pong, singing, playing games, jigsaw puzzles, and Sunday morning worship service at the lakeside Chapel. Once again we’ll be joined by our friends from First Congregational Church in Eliot!

Everyone is invited to bring juice, and either a dessert, cold salad, or breakfast bread to share. Registration forms and permission slips for friends will be available at church in the coming weeks.

We don’t want the cost to get in the way for anyone who wants to participate, so if you need some help with this, please talk to Pastor Brad.

We hope you can join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and relaxation on the beautiful shores of Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner, ME.

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Kittery Coffee House Season Finale!
Saturday May 14, 6:30pm
The final coffee house of the 2015-2016 season is coming right up, and this month it will benefit our general fund! Let’s show our extravagant Second Christian gratitude to all the folks who come out to support these dedicated local (near and far) musicians and great causes through the year by signing up to bring some food, helping to set-up, clean-up, or just come out to hear some terrifically talented musicians!

AMIGOS 2016
Sunday May 15 our worship service will be focused on learning about and celebrating our now 12 year long Honduras mission project, AMIGOS. The iconic buckets may be gone, but the mission continues and remains vitally important in helping feed and educate young children in the rural mountain villages of Honduras. Sharon Beckwith, who helps coordinate our AMIGOS program in Honduras, will be with us to share her experiences with a newly “adopted” York Association mission – Daisy's Children.

Following worship we will enjoy a plata tipico lunch of rice and beans, tortillas, carnitas and fresh fruit, something like what the people of Honduras might eat. We’ll be putting out a bowl for donations.

Then stay for another fun Brown Bag Auction! Each person attending is invited to bring an item to be auctioned off (with a value of $5.00 or more) and place it in a plain brown paper bag. Be sure to seal the top, so there's no peeking! Be creative! If your item is unique or of significant value make sure you tell our Auctioneer prior to the bidding. Then get ready to start bidding! You never know what you may go home with! So start thinking about what you’d like to put into a brown bag for the auction and bring them for May 15. It will be a fun time with Pastor Brad as our auctioneer. Let's see if we can beat last year's total.

Save the date – May 15 – and help us help Daisy's Children. Contact Priscilla deRochemont for more information (derochemont@comcast.net).
Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief.
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.
– from The Talmud

This quote appeared again this past week on my Facebook feed. It had been there before, and it reminded me, once again, of the task that is set before us as The Church, and as our church here in Kittery. There is, indeed, an enormous amount of need in our world today, even right here in our community, even right here in our church. And none of us can do it all, but each of us can do our part!

When we talked about the Gift of Temptation during our Gifts of the Dark Wood worship series, you may remember that we were reminded that the biggest temptations we face are not necessarily the “usual suspects” – gluttony, sloth, or greed – but all of the opportunities we meet to do good. We have only so much time, we can do only so much, and so we must choose carefully how we use our particular gifts.

So we have to choose. Who are we now? What are we going to be? What is the essence of our ministry here on Government St., and how are we called to serve this community in which God has placed us? Obviously, this is not the same community that was first gathered here in 1843, and not the same community that banded together in 1896 to rebuild this church after a devastating fire. It’s not the same community that 50 years ago gathered families from around the neighborhood into an overflowing Sunday school. The world is a different place now, and we are in a different place now.

Our Mission Statement reminds us not only of the kind of community we are, but perhaps even more importantly the kind of community we are called to become. So let’s look forward. Let’s lean into that vision and start wrestling with the question of who we are and why God has put us here on Government St.!

So how are we becoming a welcoming community? How are we learning about discipleship? How are we going out into the world? And what place do you have in what God is doing here?

We can’t be (and shouldn’t try to be) all things to all people. But we can – and should – be a place of extravagant welcome and good news for those who seek a place to gather, to wonder, to question, to struggle, to love.

See you in church,
**Deacon’s Meeting Highlights – April 12**

**Attendance:** Pastor Brad Hirst, Laura Donnell, Wilma Wheeler, Lucille Melhorn, Elaine Hansberry, Bea Paisley and Sharon and Ernie Wiswell.

**Old Business:**
Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.
Filling vacancies of outgoing Deacons was discussed.
We were given an update on Patty Higgins ordination process.
Next month’s secretary will be Elaine Hansberry.

**New Business:**
The quarterly meeting is April 24. One of the questions to be discussed will be the need for 4 meetings verses 2.

**Upcoming events:**
- **May 1:** Worship With Your Hands
- **May 13:** Memorial Service for Ellen Bickmore
- **May 15:** The AMIGOS Program and Daisy’s Children
- **May 27 - 29:** Pilgrim Lodge
- **June 20:** We host Bike & Build
- **July 17:** Worship at Fort Foster

**What’s On The Pastor’s Mind:**
One of the subjects that Pastor Brad mentioned was the importance for everyone to make sure, if we notice a new face in our worship service, to greet them and invite them back. More than a smile, let’s speak to them, invite them down for our after church coffee. If they come, introduce them to others in our congregation.

Our Pastor will be out of the pulpit for the following dates: May 29 for Pilgrim Lodge, June 19 (Kittery Block Party weekend), and on holiday from June 27 thru July 11.

Respectfully submitted, Bea Paisley

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**Quarterly Meeting Highlights – April 24**

The meeting convened at 11:20 AM with President Wanda Conte presiding and prayer was offered by Pastor Brad. Twenty two members and 1 friend were present. The minutes of the January 24th meeting were accepted as presented. The Treasurer’s report was explained with several errors noted that will be corrected. Voted to accept the report for audit.

**Unfinished Business:**
The committee for the new patio area will be meeting with a contractor to discuss plans and get a bid on costs. It was voted to move forward on ordering Memorial Bricks for the patio area.
Wanda has talked with others about ways to improve income from the parking lot and will bring ideas to the Council meeting.

Fellowship dues are $16.00 per person and we are all encouraged to pay for them. A $50.00 gift card to Warren’s Lobster House will be drawn from the names of those who have paid by May 1st. Also we are encouraged to pay the initial offering fee.

**New Business:**
A Building use application has been drawn up and is use for groups that want to use the Church.
Our tenants at the Parsonage are being transferred by the Navy and the house will be rented again. We will need to prepare the parsonage by cleaning and touching up paint, etc.
May 1st we will be worshiping with our hands. Wear work clothes, bring your tools of choice and be ready to clean the Church and yard.
A list of the plays Hackmatack Playhouse will be displayed and you are asked to choose the play that interests you the most. The play with the most votes will be chosen.
A change in quarterly meetings was discussed. This would need a by-law change. It was suggested that we go to a semi-annual schedule and change our fiscal year to July – July. That would change the meeting to June and December. Special meeting may be called if needed throughout the year. This will be presented at the July meeting and confirmed at the October meeting if agreed upon. So voted.
The York Assn. meeting this afternoon will focus on the LBGT issue of being open and affirming. The Seacoast Gay Men’s group has invited the leaders of the Church to a pot luck supper on May 2.

**Ministry Team Updates:**
Communications – Edythe Niles - we need more people trained to run the camera on Sundays. Also if you have ideas for the bulletin board, please talk to her about your ideas.
Deacons – Ernie Wiswell - Worship with your hands. Trustee – Robert McDonough will have a list of projects for May 1st. The hot water heater for the large restroom quit working and will be replaced. All the major work on the outside of the building has been completed with the exception of the patio area.
Welcome – no report
Learning – book club Tuesday the 26th of May.
Going Out – Priscilla talked about AMIGOS and Daisy’s Children fundraisers.
Stewardship – no report
The Mission Statement was recited and we adjourned at 12:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
~ M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe
**May's Featured Jazz Musician**

**Chico Hamilton**

Our featured musician for our Second Sunday Jazz Church on May 8 will be **Foreststorn "Chico" Hamilton**, (1921 – 2013). He was an American jazz drummer and bandleader and came to prominence as sideman with the likes of Lester Young, Gerry Mulligan, Count Basie ad Lena Horne. He then struck out as a bandleader, first with a quintet featuring the cello as a lead instrument, an unusual choice for a jazz band in the 1950s, and subsequently leading a number of groups over the years that performed cool jazz, post bop, and jazz fusion.

Hamilton was born in Los Angeles, one of three brothers. He started his career in a band with Charles Mingus, Illinois Jacquet, Ernie Royal, Dexter Gordon, Buddy Collette, and Jack Kelso. Engagements with Lionel Hampton, T-Bone Walker, Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Sammie Davis, Jr., and Billie Holiday established his career.

Hamilton appeared in *You'll Never Get Rich* as part of the backing group supporting Fred Astaire, and played on the soundtrack of the Bing Crosby, Bob Hope movie, *Road to Bali* (1952).

**2016 Fellowship Dues**

A grateful “Thank you!” to everyone who contributed his or her $16 per person towards our 2016 Maine Conference/York Association Fellowship Dues.

As of April 26 we have received $416, from 25 members and friends. There is still time to contribute! Please make a note on your offering envelope if you are donating to “Fellowship Dues.” Every little bit helps – we can all do our part!

**Hackmatack Playhouse!**

We are looking to schedule soon our annual adult fellowship trip up to Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick. Always a fun time, this year we have our choice of four productions:

- *Noises Off* – June 17-July 2
- *On the Town* – July 6-23
- *Once Upon a Mattress* – July 27-August 13
- *Almost, Maine* – August 17-September 3

Make your desires known by signing up on the sheet in the vestry, or speak with Priscilla deRochemont.

**Housing Needed for International Students/Workers**

Each summer as many as 100 university students from many different countries come to Kittery to work in our hotels, restaurants, and service industry. And there is always a critical need for housing. Kittery's J-1 Seacoast Coalition Committee, chaired by town councilor Jeff Thomson, assists these young people enrolled in this work/travel/cultural exchange program.

Do you have a room you might be willing to rent to foreign university students with J-1 visas? Are you interested in hearing about other ways you might show these guests our extravagant hospitality? If you can rent a room, donate a bicycle, or help to give rides to a supermarket, shopping center, beach, etc., please let us know!

To find out how you can be involved, or if you just want more information, please contact Frank DeSarro at 207-439-8635 or frank03904@comcast.net.

**Book Group: Tuesday May 17**

**A Walk in the Woods**

Our monthly book group will meet on Tuesday, May 17th to discuss Bill Bryson’s *A Walk in the Woods*. Back in the U.S. after 20 years in Britain, Bill Bryson decides to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the Appalachian Trail. Accompanied only by his old college buddy, Bryson starts out one March morning in north Georgia. This often hilarious account of the foibles of 2 inept adventurers is sprinkled with fascinating details of the history of the AT, its wildlife, and tales of famous and not so famous hikers.

To conclude our book group for the summer, we will enjoy the movie, *A Walk in the Woods*, during our June meeting on Tuesday, June 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for May or June’s gathering or both! Call Nadine Donnell at 363-7640 or e-mail her at cdonnell@maine.rr.com if you have any questions.
Happy 173rd Anniversary
Second Christian Church!
May 25, 1843 ~ May 25, 2016

On May 25, 1843, the Second Christian Church was formally organized. Under the guidance of Rev. George Payne, the following statement was signed by the original 26 members:

We the undersigned agree to unite together as a Church of God to be known by the name of the Second Christian Church of Kittery, Maine. And further agree to take the Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice. We also agree to watch for each other’s spiritual good, to admonish in love, and to use all possible exertions for the building of each other up in the most holy faith.

The reason for this separation from the First Christian Church over on Haley Road at Crockett's Neck, was that it would be more convenient for the residents of the new neighborhood developing near the Navy Yard, called Foreside.

By the close of the century, the congregation swelled to 306 members, and were preparing for their 50th anniversary with a major remodeling. At this time the church was considered to be the “handsomest and most costly house of worship” in Kittery. However, tragedy struck on February 16, 1896 when fire destroyed the building, leaving only the bell and organ. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on May 25, 1896. This new, much larger building was dedicated on December 10, 1896, and it still stands here today.

The church continued to thrive during the twentieth century. In 1931 the church became a member of the York County Congregational Association, and in 1961 voted to become a member in the United Church of Christ.

Clerk's Records Second Christian Society, Kittery, Maine Vol. 2 April 6, 1866 - May 2, 1893.

We are:
God-centered,
Christ-formed,
Spirit-led,

AMIGOS
Mission Trip to Honduras

Join this summer's AMIGOS mission trip to Honduras July 19-27, 2016. The focus of the trip will be to work alongside our Honduran partners to help purchase and distribute the supplies for the AMIGOS school lunch program.

Those going on the trip will have the opportunity to meet and work along side of the people we reach out to in the Conception Del Norte area of Honduras. You will see where and how they live.

You will visit villages and small mountain communities that will never appear in tourist brochures. Most importantly, you will visit the schools and meet the children, teachers and families who so much look forward to and need the food we are providing.

The trip will run for one week. The cost of the trip will be approximately $1,200 which will include airfare, lodging, transportation and meals.

Applications are due MAY 22, and are available on the Missions Board in the Vestry, or ask Pastor Brad. If you are interested in finding out more about the trip contact:
Sharon Beckwith: daisyschildren@gmail.com
207.651.5558
Lucy Putnam: enlputnam@yahoo.com
603.742.8381
Beth Hoffman: bhoffman@metrocast.net
207.439.1105

If you have a willing heart and hands that are eager to serve through this project, please volunteer to be part of this exciting and unforgettable trip!

The trip is being organized and sponsored by the York Association Mission Committee.
Reminder: We collect food for FOOTPRINTS and END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (May 8th)

DEACONS OF THE MONTH FOR MAY: Sharon Wiswell & Lucille Melhorn

May Ushers: May Greeters: May Liturgists:
01 Vic and Bobbie Contella 01 Kathy Maloney 08 Alan Robinson
08 Don and Alison Hannan 08 Edith & John Grindle 15 Kathy Maloney
15 Wanda Conte and Lucille Melhorn 15 Edythe Niles 15 Wanda Conte
22 Edie Niles and Paulette Beers 22 Lezlye Shea 22 Wanda Conte
29 Charlie and Nadine Donnell 29 Jean & Michael Badger 29 Mark Fecteau

OUR PRAYER LIST
Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Bill Baran Betty Chapman Marjorie Lucas
Brett Hartenbach Beryl Hill Bob & Judith Thurlow
Mildred Leland Ed & Gwen Mossman Lezlye Shea
Carrie Varney Francesca Molly Banville
Roger Kenney Colin M Ed “Bing” Kettles

If you are aware of anyone who should be added to or taken off our prayer list, please contact the church office.

May Birthdays

May 1 Makayla Runey
May 4 Ashley Foye
May 9 Lezlye Shea
May 9 Mike Effenberger
May 9 Ryleigh Foye
May 12 Bob Bickmore
May 13 Paris MacKenzie
May 13 Becky Barbour
May 17 Erika Shea
May 17 Bea Paisley
May 19 Edythe Niles
May 21 Jean Badger
May 21 Marion Raitt
May 25 Alison Hannan
May 26 Judy Jumper
May 28 Cynthia Boyd
May 29 Linda Baran

May Anniversaries

May 17 David & Wanda Conta
May 23 John & Edith Grindle
May 27 Tom & Laurie Rowan

Lectionary Readings for May

May 08 Acts 16:16-34, Ps 97, Rev 22:12-14, 16–17, 20-21, John 17:20-26
May 15 Pentecost Acts 2:1-21, Ps 104:24–34, 35b, Rom 8:14-17, John 14:8-17, (25-27)
May 22 Trinity Sunday Prov 8:1-4, 22-31, Ps 8, Rom 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Don’t forget to visit our ONLINE CALENDAR for up to the minute info!