



PT Corner

Thankfulness

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving this year. For our family, some old traditions went away, and some new ones began. Change is hard, but it was all good.



One of the things I am most thankful for is all of you – my church family. As I thought about how much you all mean to me, it took me to many of Paul's letters in the New Testament. Did you know that Paul offers a word of thankfulness in eight of his letters?

In his letter to the Romans, Paul thanked the church in Rome, "because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world." They were living out their faith in a way that the good news was being proclaimed.

His words of thankfulness to the church in Corinth is a bit longer, in chapter 1, verses 4-7.

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,
5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,
6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,
7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds them of the gift of grace given to them, and highlights how they have been given, and are using their gifts in speech, in knowledge, and in testimony.

In Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, Paul thanks them this way in chapter 1, verses 3-5.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,
5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

I love this – he thanked them for their participation in the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul thanks them for their faith in Christ, and for the love they have for all the saints – their brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, Paul thanks them for their work of faith, their labor of love, and their steadfast hope in Christ Jesus.

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Maine Baptist Association (MEBA) 30th Annual Meeting

I had the honor of representing WMBC at the Annual MEBA meeting on October 1 along with Pastor Tom, Betsy, Pat Pray and my husband, Chuck. MEBA is



an association of 26 Baptist churches throughout Maine committed to helping one another, relationship building, and expanding the Kingdom. The main theme of the meeting was "Better Together". The director, Mike Nerney, believes that the churches can "have tremendous impact when we recognize that we are better together". One example he cited was the paint project in Skowhegan at Free Street Church.

As MEBA works at being "Better Together", Dr. Nerney seeks to "blur the line between those newer church plants and the older churches so that we can support one another..." There was a panel composed of 3 pastors from 3 different church plants; 2 in Gorham and 1 in Damariscotta. They shared their personal and spiritual challenges, as well as victories, in a very open and honest manner. They appreciate the support of MEBA and covet prayers as they navigate and confront the challenges in planting a new church.

There were also breakout sessions offered to participants. The topics ranged from working with missional partnerships, growing healthy small groups, creating ways for people to connect to the church family and how to be ready to minister in your community during a crisis. Pastors from First Baptist Church, Houston, led two of the breakout sessions.

Budgets, election of officers, worship music, prayer, open pastor positions, retiring pastors, reports and a great lunch was also included at the annual meeting. Attending the meeting really increased my understanding of WMBC's affiliations, the needs throughout the state, and the commitment of the churches in spreading the Gospel in Maine. I would encourage anyone to attend next year.

— Chris Gallup

Family Game Night

Join us the second Friday of each month at 6:30. Bring games, snacks or just come.



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In his second letter to the Thessalonians, he thanks them for their enlarged faith, and their love that grows ever greater, recognizing that they are well on the road of sanctification.

Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, thanks Timothy for his sincere faith within him.

Then, lastly, in Paul's letter to Philemon, Paul thanks Philemon for his love and for his faith toward all the saints.

We can be thankful for our health. We can be thankful for our provision – food in our cupboards, a roof over our heads, a job that pays the bills. We can be thankful for our families. All good things for which we can thank God.

But I love Paul's example of thanking God for fellow believers – fellow Christians – the saints, who are using their gifts and talents to walk in humble obedience to the call God has put on their lives. Working together within the church to further His Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

So, I am thankful for all of you. I am thankful for your willing service to God through the church. I am thankful for your faithfulness. I am thankful for your love of the saints, and how you manifest this love through service, and through fellowship.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12, verse 7

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

I am thankful for a church that is always working toward the common good. May we continue all the more in the coming year.

Christ's Love in Action

Once again, the church body had the opportunity to share Christ's love this Christmas by participating in the annual gift giving at Edgewood Nursing Home in Farmington, the "Cookies for Kids Christmas Party" at Free Street Church in Skowhegan and the New Hope Women's Shelter in Solon.



Thank you to Annette Stanley for organizing the Edgewood event. We were able to fulfill 48 resident's gift requests.

More than 1,200 cookies were made and delivered to the Free Street Church. Thank you to Bryan Fitch and Tammy Dunphy for leading this effort, and to all the happy bakers.



Pat Sanders is grateful for the people who showed such generosity by contributing needed items for the Women's Shelter. A special thank you to Pat and Georgie Woodford for organizing and delivering the donations.

From Pat Pray: We partnered with Carrabec Community School in North Anson to provide an outfit and a toy to our areas' youth. We took part for the first time in the Angel Tree Program through RSU 74. We successfully filled gift tags for 14 children. We hope to add more tags next year. Thank you to all who participated.



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Thanksgiving Potluck

Souls and bodies of WMBC were abundantly fed.



Mortgage Update

During the 2022 Mortgage Payoff Campaign we collected \$36,620 in donations. At our recent business meeting an additional \$10,000 was approved by the membership to be paid towards the mortgage. We ended the year with a mortgage balance of \$31,022.07.

Psalm 36:5 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Womens Retreat - "God Is Enough"



The retreat was hosted by Kennebec Valley Baptist Church in Waterville and was led by Cynthia Heald. She started the day with the session, "Becoming a Woman Whose God is Enough." Cynthia cited many examples of God not being enough for familiar people in the Bible. God was not enough for Eve. She wanted the fruit from the tree that God had forbidden. Also, God was not enough for David and Solomon. We have inherited the same inclination. Cynthia spoke of needs versus wants. What we want is not always what we need. Paul wanted the thorn removed but God told him no. He needed the thorn to be humble.

The second session was "Hindrances to Letting God Be Enough" highlighting idols such as perfectionism, money, possession, health, etc. Idols can include desire for power and position, material things, controlling others, taking offense when we think God does not give us what we think we deserve. Idols are anything that takes your focus from God.

The third session was, "Letting God Choose for You". The message was loud and clear. Pray and wait. Be content. When someone asks you to do something, always check with God first.



The last session was "Pitching Your Tent". Cynthia recommended reading a section from the Old Testament, Psalms and the New Testament every day. She suggested carrying a bag wherever you go with three items: a journal, a devotional and a Bible. The journal is to record your walk, a devotional and a Bible are to strengthen and support your walk. This "tent" will be beneficial when you find yourself waiting throughout your days.

In conclusion, we had wonderful fellowship with all the women. I learned that it was alright to "pitch my own tent" to get in touch with God and to know what he has in store for me in my walk - because God is enough.

—Debbie Horne

Acknowledging our Faithful Shepherd



WMBC celebrated Pastor Appreciation month by reaching out to Pastor and Betsy with words of encouragement, cards and gifts. There was a surprise gift left on the Pastor's desk each Sunday in October from the donations received by the congregation. The month culminated with a special presentation with a poem written and read by Dot Lambert and a final cash gift. The elders and deacons also gave Pastor a gift certificate to the Diadema Golf Club. Thank you all for showing your love and appreciation to our Pastor Tom and Betsy.



Men's Retreat—"Reload" Conference

On October 28th & 29th, myself and 5 other men from WMBC went to the Bethel Inn for a men's conference put on by Central Church in Augusta. The topic of the weekend was "Protect This House" (home-self-church). On Friday night they talked about protecting our families. As men, we have been charged with protecting the spiritual wellbeing of our wives and our children. We need to be mindful of what we are allowing to enter our homes, whether it be through TV, internet, or our own actions. On Saturday morning we spoke about protecting ourselves. As men we need to protect our hearts from distractions or sin. That not only affects us but also our families. Saturday afternoon we spoke about protecting God's house. We need to be ready for the battle that Satan brings as he continues to attack the church. Let us all continue to be ready for the battle that is here. It takes all of us!



—Jean Boucher

Acts 7:38 ...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.



Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

- Sundays @ 6:30pm—Youth Group
- Mondays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors
- @ 6:30pm—Men’s Bible Study
- Tuesday @ 9:00am—Ladies Sewing Class
- Wednesdays @ 9:00am—Ladies Bible Study
- @ 3:00pm—Adult Bible Study (Freeman Twp)
- Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors
- Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

Christmas Eve “Eve” Celebration

WMBC opened its doors to the community for a Christmas Hymn Sing on December 23rd. There were approximately 50 people in attendance despite the inclement weather. The 18-voice choir led by Brenna Cockerham filled the sanctuary with beautiful songs. Interspersed among the hymns was the Christmas story narrated by Pastor Tom. Afterwards there was a time of refreshments and fellowship. We are so thankful to Brenna and the choir for leading us in song and for all of their hours of practice to make it such a great event.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.



We are looking for contributions & ideas for future newsletters. If you have ideas to share, please contact the Newsletter production team of Crystal Fitch, Pat Pray, Chris Gallup or Carol Thomas or email: newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org

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What’s Happening @ WMBC

January

- 1st—New Years Day
- 1st—Lord’s Supper
- 3rd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30
- 7th—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 10th—Women’s Fellowship @ 1pm
- 10th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30
- 13th—Family Game Night @ 6:30
- 24th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 24th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 28th—Bridging the Gap

February

- 4th—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 5th—Lord’s Supper
- 7th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 10th— Family Game Night @ 6:30pm
- 11th—Cabin Fever Reliever
- 14th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 14th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 25th— Bridging the Gap
- 28th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

March

- 4th—Men’s Breakfast @ 8am
- 5th—Lord’s Supper
- 5th—Bonfire and Grill on the Hill
- 7th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 10th— Family Game Night @ 6:30
- 14th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 14th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 25th—Bridging the Gap
- 28th—Women’s Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 31st—Bridging the Gap

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.