

# Cross Currents

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church, Bingham, Maine, September 2008



We are pleased to welcome our interim minister, Reverend Chad Poland M. Div., along with his wife, Emily and his two children. They have brought a wonderful healing hand to the hearts of all who worship at the First Congregational Church of Bingham. Come and worship with us and hear God's words of hope and healing.

Someone who was instrumental in jump starting the youth ministry in our church is our "spark plug," the Mayor of Cactus Canyon, Felicia Hinote. Felicia is a senior at Del City High School in Oklahoma City Oklahoma. An honors student, she is considering a career in teaching, and perhaps going into the ministry. She is the daughter of Kirk Hinote.



"Let me hear a Yee Haw!"

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## Church Summer Camp

The Congregational Church camp, Winniauguamauk, (Camp Winnie) was held July 20 – 26 in Brooksville, Maine. Our church campership fund supported 3 children in addition to Felicia Hinote. Other familiar faces from our church were: our present substituting minister Rev. Chad Poland who served as a cabin counselor. His wife, Emily, served as camp nurse. Their two children, also attended.

Felicia Hinote reported to the congregation on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> that despite daily doses of rain, the camp experience was wonderful. The theme for this year's camp was “**Out on a limb**” based on John 15. She noted that her experience had made her consider becoming a youth minister. She certainly showed some incredible leadership qualities with our church’s youth ministry!

### **Vacation Bible School in Cactus Canyon July 28 through August 1, 2008**

Our “spark plug” Felicia Hinote volunteered to direct a children's Vacation Bible School. The theme, the “set,” and the materials “fell into her lap,” so to speak. The Livermore Falls Wayside Baptist Church had spent many weeks building a western cowboy village of seven paper buildings and even paper mache' cactus that stood several feet high.



The connection between our two churches is Deana Lishness Reander, who grew up in our church. Deana and her husband Rob head the youth ministries at the Livermore Falls church. We send a great big thank you to them and to their fellow parishioners. After their crew of workers dismantled their Cactus Canyon village, Deana and Rob delivered it all to our church in two trips. A large group of our volunteers donated time to assemble the seven buildings. A dozen or more women and men pounded, taped, placed props and made murals. One church member bought cowboy/cowgirl hats for all the children attending

Volunteers joined Mayor Felicia to teach songs, games, and scripture verses. They also provided cookies, pizzas, ice cream, brownies and popcorn for refreshments. The children sat in the Cactus Canyon Saloon and drank their “boot beer floats” one evening.



The children gathered around the “campfire” each night as they learned songs, including, “Saddle Up Your Horses.” Ask them and they will sing it with gusto!



Visiting helpers included Rev Chad Poland and his family, Rev Nate Richards of Solon, Rev Mark Tanner and his family of Skowhegan. Twenty eight children registered for VBS, and all had a great time! Thank you and a hearty “Yee Haw” to Felicia and all the volunteers who put in so much time and work to make this a huge success! Please go look at the pictures in our parish house. What a jump start for our youth ministry.

### **Children's Carnival**

On Saturday, August 2, a children's carnival appeared on our parsonage lawn. A bounce house and dunk tank were part of the attraction. Felicia Hinote and Liz Brochu braved the cool weather and sat precariously on the dunk tank platform. Many children and a few adults took turns dunking them in the chilly water tank. Children tumbled around in the bounce house and their giggles filled the air. Both items were donated by our church members. A bake sale netted \$50.00 which our VBS donated towards the purchase of a van for the area's runaway teen shelter in Skowhegan. VBS adult volunteers and children



decorated a float for the Bingham Days Parade. Thirty five children and adults from our VBS rode on the Cactus Canyon Hay wagon. Special thanks to Kirk Hinote who drove his truck and pulled the float and kudos all who participated. We send many thanks to Danny McDonald of The

Forks, who loaned the trailer, to Pam Cool who donated hay from the farm, and to all others who donated items or money.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School rally day was September 9, 2008. Teachers include Carrie Brown, teaching 3 year olds, Tammy Messer, teaching kindergarten and grade 1, Katie Sweet and Carla Small teaching grades 2 and 3, Chelsea Arnold and Joyce Messer teaching grades 4 and 5, Grades 6,7,and 8 teacher is not yet assigned, and Ethel Lishness teaching the adult class. Serving this year as co-superintendents are Ethel Lishness and Kirk Hinote.

**A reminder:** When a minister christens a baby in our church, our congregation is asked if we accept the responsibility to help raise this child in the Christian way of life-- to help

in Christian education. All our members reply "We Do." Giving children the hope of God is a responsibility we all share, not just the few who volunteer to teach. Help in any way you can, thank a teacher, ask what you can do to help, donate your time. Our Sunday School holds the future leaders of our church!

**Church Circle will open a New Year Wednesday, September 17 at 2 P.M.**

The first order of business of the September 17 meeting will be election of officers for 2008-2009.

Nominated are the following:

<i>President:</i>	Norma Stevens	<i>Chaplain:</i>	Janet Robinson
<i>Vice President:</i>	Ethel Lishness	<i>Publicity Director:</i>	Joyce McDonald
<i>Secretary:</i>	Nell Parks	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rosalie Walker
<i>Corresponding Secretary:</i>	Betty Walker		



The Circle welcomes new members anytime. Join us at 2 P.M for business meetings the third Wednesday of every month. Any woman of our church or parish is welcome to join us for fellowship. The Circle is pleased to announce the completion of its project to give the church an upstairs kitchen for catering Parish House activities. Many thanks to our hard working Circle members! We appreciate all you do!

**Church Circle Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars**

Come support our Church Yard Sale September 27, 2008, to be held in front of the church and parsonage.

We will run a booth at the annual Bingham Fly-In on September 27 and September 28. We will be selling pies, dynamites, hot dogs, and pastries. Come, eat and pray with us!

**Church Circle Fundraisers Coming up in October and November**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a traditional Harvest Supper on October 11 from 5 to 6:30 P.M. In the Parish House. Help spread the word!

The members will be concentrating on their annual Fall Craft Fair Scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2008

**Friend of the church opens home**

John Owens has offered the church the use of his heated home on Milford Avenue for any visiting ministers or ministerial candidates. Thank you, John, for your generosity. The Prudential Committee has recommended that we close our parsonage indefinitely due to the cost of utilities and heat, and the church has so voted.

**Seminary Student will preach September 21, 2008. Pot luck dinner to follow service**

In July the pastoral search committee asked many members what they believe our church needs in its ministry leadership. We have been hard at work searching for a new minister. Mary Ashe-Hinote announced that Caleb Clark will preach on September 21, 2008.

Caleb graduated from Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland with a B.A. honors degree in Religious Studies. He will graduate from St. Steven's University New Brunswick, in May with a Master of Ministry degree.

After the service, all are invited to a pot luck dinner. Caleb would like to intern in our church for three months with the Rev. Chad Poland as his mentor.

### **Prudential Committee rises to the challenge**

The theft of thousands of dollars by our hired treasurer has felt devastating to us all. It has also demanded an enormous amount of work from our Prudential Committee. Extra hours include the initial investigation, assuming the performing treasurer's duties, and establishing safe guards. These safeguards insure that this will never happen again. The church in August elected member Liz Brochu to perform interim treasurer's duties.

This committee usually oversees the care of church property and business. Projects completed for 2008 include:

New doors installed at the north entrance to the Parish House for better insulation

A hot water tank replaced

A hot water switch installed in the new upstairs kitchen

Programmable thermostats installed to conserve heat

Efficiency light bulbs installed

Security locks updated

The committee has sponsored a "Christmas in September" collection for gifts of paper goods, cleaning supplies, etc. for the church.

An anonymous gift paid for the doors. The committee reported another anonymous gift of \$1000.00 toward the cost of guest ministers

Give a big thanks to this hard working committee. Pray for them. This has been a particularly difficult time. The theft seems insurmountable, but with hard work and prayer we will continue our ministry in the Upper Kennebec Valley area.

### **Make a joyful noise**

Our choir always welcomes new members grade 8 and above. The choir rehearses from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. on Wednesdays. If you enjoy singing your choir is ready to welcome you! Our choir has added joy and pleasure to our worship and has provided a supportive fellowship for its members. We have enjoyed trips together to attend the well known Bill and Gloria Gaither Homecoming Concert, and the Signature Sound Concert. Each year the choir travels to Waterville to sing in the area Choir festival that typically includes 250 singers from Central Maine. It is held at the Waterville Methodist Church. Our choir director is Mary Ashe-Hinote.

## **Optimism**

In order to better understand people's views of the world, a researcher placed two children, one a pessimist and the other an optimist, alone in separate rooms.

The pessimist was placed in a colorful room full of all kinds of imaginative toys...the optimist was put in a room filled with horse manure.

The first child played in the room for a little while but soon came to the door asking to leave because the toys were boring and because they broke too easily.

Likewise, the young optimist soon came to the door...but rather than asking to leave, she asked for a shovel. Of course, the researcher asked the child why she wanted a shovel. She replied, "With all this manure around I know that there must be a pony in here somewhere."



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