



First Universalist Church



West Paris, Maine

Worship Service, Sundays, 9 A.M.

September 2008

Vesper Services

We are looking forward to the two Vesper services that the Rev. Richard Beal has instigated this year. Our regular morning services will begin on the first Sunday after Labor Day, Sept. 7. We have enjoyed the summer services at Sumner, but it will be good to get back to our own church again.

We have created a card for visitors to fill out and those should be ready when we start. We will also have a plan to follow up after someone has visited to be sure to make them feel welcomed.

Pot Luck Supper

A pot luck supper with program is planned for Sept. 12, at 6:00 p.m. This is open to the public at no charge, just bring a dish to share. Tineke Ouwinga of Bethel, will be the guest speaker. She will talk about her life in Holland during World War II. All are welcome.

What's Happening?

Sunday, Aug. 24, Vesper Service, West Paris, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 25, Goodwill Fellowship at Nancy Willard's, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 31, Vesper Service at Norway, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 7, First Regular Worship Service.

Friday, Sept. 12, Pot luck supper and program at the church, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18, Board meeting at the church, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 22, Goodwill Fellowship at Peg Perham's, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5, Sara Wright, Lay speaker. 9:00 a.m.

Minister: Richard Beal

Minister Emeritus: Herbert Adams

Wayward Pulpit

We live in an old chaos of the sun,
Or old dependency of day and night,
Or island solitude, unsponsored, free,
Of that wide water, inescapable.
Deer walk upon our mountains, and the [loons
Call all] about us their spontaneous cries;
Sweet berries ripen in the wilderness;
And, in the isolation of the sky,
At evening, casual [flights of swallows] make
Ambiguous undulations as they sink,
Downward to darkness, on extended wings.

~ Wallace Stevens, slightly adapted

Commentary

Joan and I hope you have had a great summer so far. It is not over yet, but as I write this there is already a tinge of autumn coolness in the morning air. Perhaps summer was for you a matter of sun, sweet berries, and swallows. Congratulations if it was. We had some of that. But much of our time was spent cleaning and showing our respective houses, negotiating prices and finances, and packing, packing, and more packing. It all came together in the end, as you probably know by now. We sign to purchase the Crescent Street house tomorrow and start moving in immediately. I'll be entirely out of the Crockett Ridge Road house by the end of the month and we may be entirely settled into 15 Crescent Street by January, 2011.

As soon as we're somewhat settled in we want to have an Open House as a way of thanking you all for your kind thoughts and encouragement during this process. Right now it's good to be so close to the opening of the church year and the chance to fall back into accustomed ways of using time and being in contact with people. We're beginning the church year a bit early, with two informal Vesper (evening) services. The first will take place at the West Paris church on August 24 at 7:00. The second will take place at the Norway church on August 31, also at 7:00. Please dress casually and comfortably.

Joan and I are looking forward to seeing you again and are anticipating a good and productive church year.

See you in church,
Richard

Joys and Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **DeDe Chase** and her family as she recovers from major surgery. We miss her and hope that she recovers from her ordeal very soon.

Several of our members have been enjoying Ferry Beach this summer, particularly **Joyce Lamb** who has been working there as camp nurse.

Board News

The Board of Management met at the church with four members present: Nancy Willard, Chair; Donna Marshall, Treasurer; Marta Clements, Clerk; and Robert Clifford.

Marta did not have a copy of the June/July meeting, but we progressed anyway.

Donna presented the treasurer's report. She also showed a letter from Goodwin's Insurance concerning our inquiry into extra insurance for board members. We need to check more into just who is covering us for what. Apparently we have insurance with both Goodwin's and Wheeler's. Stuart Goodwin is willing to meet with us, and we felt that this would be a good idea.

Donna also has received the information of what our cost will be in the spring for our annual dues: the NNED will be \$391 and the UUA will be \$1288.

Donna also showed us a couple of sample visitor cards that she had created. We picked one and she will make up a few for the beginning of church. We can make more if changes are needed.

Bob presented some information about trees that his friend had given him. He is still trying to get in touch with some from the extension. He is going to hold on to the information.

Marta said she would try to get something to the Sun Journal about the upcoming Vesper service and will also include that our regular services will start the Sunday after Labor Day.

We did make note of the fact that Jim Burke has set up a web site for the church and is working on a new sign.

Marta mentioned that Sara Wright is going to be giving our Oct. 5, service, but only wants to do the sermon part. Nancy said she would handle the rest and would also get in touch with Sara about coming to a service in Sept.

The Sept. board meeting will be on the 18th at 9:30 at the church.

Marta Clements, Clerk

Web Site

Check the new church website out at <http://wpuniversalist.googlepages.com/home> . There is still more work to be done, but the structure is solid. Note that there is a blog annex and a place to upload/download files.

" 'I grow old, I grow old,' the garden says. It is nearly October. The bean leaves grow paler, now lime, no yellow, no leprous, dissolving before my eyes. The pods curl and do not grow, turn limp and blacken. The potato vines wither and the tubers huddle underground in their rough weather-proof jackets, waiting to be dug. The last tomatoes ripen and split on the vine; it takes days for them to turn fully now, and a few of the green ones are beginning to fall off."

~ Robert Finch

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