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September
2018

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF:
Green Street United Methodist Church

THE GRAPEVINE — SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION

Green Street Open House!

Saturday, September 8 - 10am to 1pm

We will be opening our doors to the community and welcoming families to tour Green Street and explore our history, ministries, spiritual practices and Sunday School offerings!

Fun for the whole family!

Games - Kid's Crafts – Tours – Meditation
Mandala Coloring - Yoga Demonstrations – Food
Prayer Beads - and much more!

This is a great outreach opportunity! Invite your friends and neighbors to see what Green Street is all about! We have lots of activities and demonstrations planned. There will be many ways for everyone to be involved. Ask Lilla Atwater or Pastor Kristin how you can help make this a great event!!!

Fall Worship

Fall Worship Begins Sunday, September 9

Worship at 8am and 10:30am and Sunday School at 9am

Church Office Hours: 9/10 - Monday – Friday 8am to 2pm

Pastor's Office hours by appointment

VISIT US ONLINE: greenstreetumc.net



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FROM THE PASTOR:

A Message of Angels!

Have you felt anxious or afraid recently as you watch current events unfold? Have you sensed fear or anxiety in others: friends, family, neighbors or coworkers? Do you see fear alive and taking shape in our world?

In the Bible, when angels appear, they begin with the words, "Do not be afraid." The word angel comes from the Greek word, 'angelos,' which means messenger - implying that God's first message to humanity is always, "Do not be afraid." Angels bring hopeful, sometimes surprising, news. They remind their listeners that God is aware of them; they have not been forgotten. God is ever present and we are cherished. Therefore, do not be afraid.

Imagine receiving such a messenger and such a message today! Imagine an angel appearing to speak God's words directly to you: "I love you. I am with you. Do not be afraid." Imagine if it were not just us, but everyone, who received this angelic message of love, hope and courage. Could it change the world?

The word angel - messenger of good news and hope - is at the center of the word evangelism (ev-angel-ism). The call to evangelism is nothing less than a call to be God's angels in the world! To evangelize means to transform people's fear into hope. Evangelism means giving people courage in a difficult and unsettled world, because God is aware of us, God is with us, and God loves us. What if we embraced the invitation to be angels in the world? What if we embodied God's message, "Do not be afraid. You are loved"? Imagine the ways that sharing God's message of love, hope and courage could change our world!

Pastor Kristin



2 - Nancy Miner
12 - Bea Bragg
15 - Talya Avery
17 - Kristin White
18 - Sandra Barringer
19 - Joan Berry

22 - Rob Shore
25 - Kathryn Raymond
25 - John Bridge
26 - James Douvielle
28 - Alex Roberts
28 - Andy Roberts



September 2

Greeters: Cheryl and Don Leighton

September 9

Greeters: Randy and Sandy Grady

September 16

Greeters: Nancy and Kathy Merrick

September 23

Greeters: Patty Rogers and Sonny Richards

September 30

Greeter: Tina Noble





I am a little intimidated writing this article for our newsletter. Ardyce and Lynn both wrote such wonderful pieces for the two previous months, and now it's my turn. Each person in the Covenant Group will write an article in turn with the idea of sharing what this group is and what it means to us. We want to be transparent and available to the church.

Psalm 46:10 starts with words "Be still and know that I am God," these words have been favorites of mine for many years. Do these words challenge you as they do me? Are you overly busy? Rushed? Stressed by a hectic schedule? Or, maybe you are depressed, lonely, concerned for the future, or in a rut? We each have different circumstances and are tested in different ways. God is faithful – He is always present. And He wants a deepening relationship with each of us. Do we allow room in our lives for developing that relationship? Are we "still" and available to God?

Planning time to be quiet every day is a discipline that encourages growing closer to God. In our group we encourage each other and are accountable to each other in maintaining practices of personal, daily prayer; daily scripture reading; and a daily time of silence. We seek to be generous. Some struggle to find opportunities to practice generosity, others find many opportunities. Some find fasting a joyful experience, others approach it timidly. We all are blessed with having a prayer partner to connect with weekly.

The Covenant Group is such a blessing to me. I cherish the closer friendships formed. I have found greater discipline. I have benefitted from the structure we developed as a group. I have not followed these practices perfectly, but the good days encourage me to continue. Stillness balances my busy life.

Romans 8:38-39 assures us that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. God is always faithful. I want to grow more and more faithful, doing my part to deepen my relationship with Him.

Tricia Webb

Task Force Updates

Finance Task Force: *Jim Jacobsen, Connie Packard, Sue Pattershall, Ardyce Robbin, Tammy Roberts, Kristin White* The Finance TF gathered job descriptions and procedural steps from the Counters, Treasurers, and Finance Secretary, for editing and updating. Sue and Connie are working on condensing and clarifying budget lines. A smaller team also developed a credit card policy, which was approved by the Board this spring. Next Steps: September vote on completed policy.

Fundraising Task Force: *Lynn Kennard, Chris Thornton, Kristin White, Terri Williamson* The Fundraising TF brainstormed ideas for Green Street fundraisers and outreach opportunities. Upcoming plans include a T-shirt sale (ongoing), restaurant night (October), hot chocolate booth (December downtown tree lighting), soup sale (January), and Super Bowl party (February). Next Steps: Enlisting help from Board and congregation.

Social Media Task Force: *Jim Jacobsen, Darby Rock, Kristin White*

The Social Media TF researched and developed a new website for Green Street. The TF also focused on better utilizing our public Facebook page. Next Steps: Create a Social Media ministry team; Green Street Twitter and Instagram accounts.



Simplified Board Highlights

The Simplified Board met Tuesday, August 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Johnnie Beane read Genesis 1:30-31 about the creation of the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky followed by a selection about John Woolman from Elaine Heath's book *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*. Woolman was a Quaker living in Colonial times who advocated the well-being of the earth and all living things through exercising the love of God for all creation, believing that "the Gospel, when truly lived, is enough."

This month's packet materials included the following information:

- The Spiritual Life Center has hired Beth Estock as a ministry coach; a marketing team will be interviewing members of the congregation and community to discover ways we may respond to spiritual needs.
 - Spiritual Life Center Mission Statement: To nurture contemplative practices of body, mind, and spirit in the congregation and community
- VANCO online giving is being used by a few members and we hope to have a demonstration of how easy it is to use in September or October.
- The Trustee's financial report prompted a discussion of possibly using the Hal Roberts fund to contract with a taxi service to provide rides to Green Street for church activities.
- The Vision Task Force has met and is discussing discipleship using Laurie Beth Jones' book *The Path* as a resource.
- The Fundraising task force just completed the T-shirt fundraiser, and the Angel Food Supper fundraiser concludes at the end of August with approximately \$500 raised so far.
- The Adult Sunday School ministry team met and agreed on a fall worship series to include Biblical Laws, Simplicity & Generosity, and Silence & Solitude. **Anyone is welcome to attend the next planning meeting on November 28 at 11:30 a.m.**

The Board approved requests to use Bridge Fund monies for an onsite visit from Beth Estock, the Spiritual Life Center coach, and for educational resources for the Adult Sunday School class. We reviewed the "to do" list compiled by the Building and Grounds task force and will plan a work day to remove clutter from the stage and storage area. The Board reviewed the draft of the Building Use Policy, made a few amendments, and will review the final draft in October. A few minor changes were made to the Archives and Records Retention Policy and we will complete our review in September. At the invitation of the District Superintendent, Green Street will apply for the Perry Rich fund which provides three years of financial assistance for churches in temporary difficulty.

An Ice Cream Social will be held Saturday, September 1 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for the congregation and Board to take stock of our transition to the Simplified Board model of leadership.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 25, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. – **note the date change**. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Ardyce Robbin

You're invited to an Ice Cream Social hosted by the Green Street Church Board.
Saturday, September 1st at 6 pm in fellowship hall

Enjoy an ice cream sundae, hear updates from the Board about the first year of the simplified model, ask questions, and share vision ideas for the church. All are welcome!

Come early for Guided Meditation at 5:30.

Spiritual Life Center



Spiritual Life Center

The August *Grapevine* contained information about the development of the Spiritual Life Center, including “next steps.” We can now share that several of those are happening.

We have a ministry coach (Beth Estock) who so far has had one meeting with Kristin, Henry, Ardyce, Chris, and Jim and will continue to work with them as plans progress.

We have developed a Mission Statement: ***To nurture contemplative practices of body, mind, and spirit in the congregation and community.***

Individuals named to a “Market Research Team” are doing interviews with representatives of organizations and agencies within the community hoping to discover ways we may be able to help respond to the spiritual needs of their clientele. The purpose of the Spiritual Life Center will not be to address material needs. That is also the church’s business, of course, and is the focus of Green Street’s Mission Ministry Team. The Spiritual Life Center will be open to people of all faiths, those with no religious affiliation, and those who consider themselves “spiritual, but not religious.” It will provide a setting in which people can hear a variety of perspectives and learn from one another.

One team member expresses her hopes this way: “My hope for the Spiritual Life Center is that it becomes a hospitable home for spiritual exploration by a variety of people through a variety of practices. Each of us connects with God in different ways and I’d like to see us affirm and celebrate those differences as we explore our diverse spirituality.”

Things already happening include Saturday evening meditations under the guidance of our pastor and opportunities for people to spend time coloring Mandalas.

The planning team would like to hear from members of the congregation with questions and comments about the Spiritual Life Center. You are invited to respond by sending an email to the pastor, by putting a note in the collection plate on Sunday morning, or by talking with any member of the planning team: Pastor Kristin, Henry Berry, Ardyce Robbin, Chris Thornton, Jim Jacobsen, Lynn Kennard, Connie Packard, Johnnie and Shasta Beane, Susan Cross, and Sally Joy.

Task Force Updates

Archives and Records Task Force: *Connie Packard, Ardyce Robbin, Sally Joy, Donna Alexander, Evelyn Horstman.* For the past two years a small group has been sorting through the dozens of boxes containing the church's historical, administrative, financial and other records with the goal of combining similar documents and creating a document inventory and retrieval system and to create a policy and procedures manual. Next Steps: shredding documents.

Building Use Task Force: *Johnnie Beane, Sally Joy, Connie Packard, Kristin White*

The Building TF inventoried the available space at Green Street and compared our current building use policy with those of other churches. Next Steps: Complete policy.

Monday Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study will restart Monday, September 10th at 3:00 P.M. We will be studying Life Lessons from Philippians, by Max Lucado. New women are always welcome!

At 4:30 P.M. on Mondays for one hour – anyone interested in delving into Jeremiah would be welcome to join us. We will be looking at a study by Melissa Spoelstra – Jeremiah – Daring to Hope in an Unstable World. This is designed as a six-week study but we will progress at a much slower pace. If you are interested let Tricia know. This study will be starting October 1st. For more information see Tricia Webb.

What's Inspiring Pastor Kristin?

Book: *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs
The author describes how he followed all the biblical laws for a year, including challenges and blessings of living a biblical life.

Also TED Talk: *My Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs
https://www.ted.com/talks/a_j_jacobs_year_of_living_biblically

Book: *The Mystic Way of Evangelism* by Elaine Heath
Exploring the contemplative practices of saints and mystics as a way to share God's love in a struggling world.

Free UMC Downloads:
SeeAllThePeople.org.
- Engaging Your Community
- Sharing Our Faith and Reaching Beyond Our Walls
- How to Start Small Groups

Bells and Choir Gathering

Calling those who would like to sing in the choir or ring bells this fall. I would love to meet with you on Wednesday, September 5th at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall for a pot luck dinner. Everyone bring something to share. I will supply dessert.

Following dinner, I would ask bell ringers to set up tables so we might be ready to start rehearsals the following week. Choir members will rehearse for Sunday's service. If all goes as planned, we should be done around 7pm.

The following week we will begin regular rehearsals with bells at 5:30 and choir at 6:45. I hope everyone has had a wonderful, relaxing summer.

River Churches News

A fall study series on Engaging Your Community by Junius Dotson is open to everyone. The materials are free to download at SeeAllThePeople.org, a ministry of the United Methodist Church. Discussions will be held on Saturday mornings, beginning October 13 through November 17. Times and locations to be announced.

February pulpit swap - the River Church pastors will exchange pulpits on February 3, 10 and 17. The churches include Green Street, Cox Memorial (Hallowell), Highland Ave (Gardiner), Randolph, E. Pittston, and Dresden/Richmond.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

For many years, Green Street has provided a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Augusta community. This not only provides a meal for those who might otherwise go without, it also creates a space for connections and gratitude to unfold. Every year, the church and community come together to make this special event happen. You can make a difference as part of the planning team, helping to see that various aspects of the event are in place leading up to November. If you are interested in working with the planning team this year, contact Pastor Kristin or notify the church office

United Methodist Women

UMW will meet on **Wednesday, September 12 from noon to 2pm in LL rooms 1 & 2.**

Bring a bag lunch.
Beverages and dessert will be provided.
All women welcome.
For more information see Nancy Merrick



Black Bean Quinoa Salad



Ingredients:

3 cups cooked quinoa	¼ cup canola oil, or olive oil
1 15 oz can black beans, rinsed and drained	2 -3 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
1½ cups corn, or 1 15 oz can, rinsed and drained	1 lime, juice and zest
1 cup bell peppers, any color, chopped	1 tsp ground cumin
1 cup mango, diced	½ tsp paprika
½ cup jicama, diced	½ tsp salt
1 4 oz can green chiles	¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
⅓ cup parsley or cilantro, chopped	

Mix quinoa, black beans, corn, peppers, mango, jicama, green chiles, and parsley or cilantro.

For the dressing, you want 4 Tbsp of vinegar and lime juice. Depending on how big and juicy the lime is will determine if you use 2 or 3 Tbsp vinegar.

Combine oil, vinegar, lime juice and zest, cumin, paprika, salt and pepper. Stir to combine. Pour dressing over quinoa mixture. Stir to distribute dressing over salad. If time allows, refrigerate at least 30 minutes before serving for flavors to develop. Yield: 8 cups

Source: <https://www.livebest.info/salads/black-bean-quinoa-salad/>

Sunday School SCHEDULE

As Green Street develops new ministries and vision for the church's future, the Adult Sunday School ministry team is developing a yearlong curriculum to complement and enrich this ministry. The planning team considered several areas unfolding at Green Street:

- The Covenant Group will share spiritual practices for discipleship this fall.
- The Spiritual Life Center moves into the next phase of development, with the mission to nurture contemplative practices of body, mind and spirit in our congregation and community.
- Fall worship series include: Biblical Laws, Simplicity & Generosity, and Silence & Solitude.
- Spring worship series will likely include: The Bible & Human Sexuality, Idolatry, and Be Not Afraid.

The team will request Bridge Funds to help purchase materials for two series, on evangelism and stewardship.

Anyone is welcome to attend the next planning meeting on November 28 at 11:30 am.



Green Street UMC

September 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 6pm Ice Cream Social 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
2	3 9 AM Garden Give-A-Way 5:30 PM Mandala Monday 6:30 PM NA	4	5 5:30 PM Choir and Bells Pot Luck	6	7	8 10 AM Open House 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
9 Fall Schedule 8am Early Worship 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Adult Mission Team	10 9 AM Garden Give-A-Way 12:30 PM Banners Team 3pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	11 9 AM DCOM	12 Noon: UMW 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	13 5:30 PM Vision Task Force Meeting	14	15 8:30 AM Worship Ministry Team 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
16 11:30 AM Missions Ministry Team	17 Adult 9 AM Garden Give-A-Way 3pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	18 Mission	19 Trip 11:30 AM New Horizon Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir	20 this 1 pm Visitation Ministry Team at Shasta's House	21 week	22 Wedding 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
23	24 12:30 PM Banners Team 3pm Women's Bible Study	25 6:30 PM Simplified Board Meeting	26 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Choir	27	28	29 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
30 Missions Sunday 9:30 AM Worship followed by Pot Luck						

Notes

13 Green Street. Augusta, Maine 04330

Phone: 207-622-0843 – email: greenst@myfairpoint.net – website: www.greenstreetumc.net

Sunday Worship at 8am and beginning 9/9 10:30am – Fresh Expressions at 5pm

Church Office Hours: Beginning 9/10 Monday - Friday 8am to 2pm – Pastor's Hours by appointment

Be Transformed

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