

13 Green Street, Augusta, Maine 04330
207-622-0843
greenst@myfairpoint.net
www.greenstreetumc.net

January 2019

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF GREEN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GRAPEVINE — JANUARY 2019 EDITION

Thank you!

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. I have truly enjoyed working for the church and its members. Looking forward to a speedy recovery and coming back to work.

Thanks, **George Jones**

Greetings to everyone,

Thank you all my church family for the prayers, good wishes and meals which came to me after my broken hip. In Florida I am waited upon by Barbara and David and improving most days.

With love, **Marjorie Tribou**

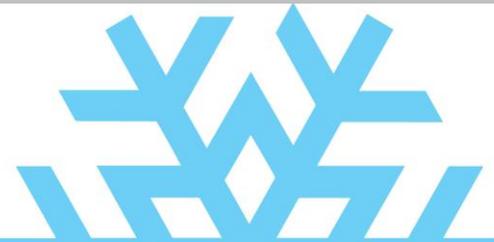
Dear Secret Santa,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts anonymously given to Heather. She enjoyed them and it was a great blessing.

Thank you, **Eileen and Heather Hibbert**



VISIT US ONLINE: www.greenstreetumc.net



INSIDE this issue

Pastor's Page	Pg. 2
Birthdays	Pg. 2
Volunteer Schedule	Pg. 2
Covenant Group	Pg. 3
Day of Fuel	Pg. 3
Simplified Board	Pg. 4
Calendar	Pg. 5



FROM THE PASTOR:

A New Year and A New Creation

On January 1, at the beginning of a new year, we often take stock of our hopes, dreams and resolutions for the upcoming months. We think about inevitable changes that lie ahead and we determine that we want things to be better than in past years. Some future changes lie within our control: we make resolutions about our own behaviors. Some changes depend upon others or upon the circumstances of life: although we want to see peace for our community and our world, this depends on more than just our resolutions.

The Bible tells the story of the apostle Paul who made radical changes in his life. As an ambitious young man, Paul persecuted many people as he rose toward the top of his social sphere. But an encounter with Jesus transformed his life. Paul found new meaning in his relationship with God, changed his behavior and lifestyle, and began living with an entirely new purpose. Paul's experience with Jesus inspired him to write: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."

While Christians celebrate the New Year and all of its possibilities, we also recognize that new beginnings are not marked by a date on the calendar. Instead, new beginnings are marked by relationship with God. When we commit ourselves to this relationship, God offers us new opportunities for love, life, hope and forgiveness. We may find changes taking place within our lives, so that we understand what Paul means about becoming a new creation.

On each day of our lives God offers us the opportunity to redeem our past mistakes, to change our habits and behaviors, to live again for the sake of love and to live with hope for the future. Every day lived with God is full of possibility. Becoming a new creation depends in part upon us, as we make faithful decisions and take responsibility for our actions. But the rest is in God's hands, and God's dreams for our future are even greater than our own.

In Christ,
Pastor Kristin



2 – Rebecca Polzella	13 – Robin Forbes
3 – Charles Atwater	14 – Robert Harris
5 – Lee Ware	18 – Sara Dimmick
6 – Jessica McGuire	21 – Della Kimball
12 – Tina Monroe	24 – Nancy Merrick
12 – Tina Noble	24 – Marjorie Triboe

January 2019



January 6

Greeters: Anne and Della Kimball
Acolytes:
Coffee Hour Host: Sandy Grady
Liturgist: Connie Packard

January 13

Greeters: Patty Rogers and Sonny Richards
Acolytes:
Coffee Hour Host: Tammy Roberts
Liturgist:

January 20

Greeters: Chuck and Evelyn Horstman
Acolytes:
Coffee Hour Host: Patty Rogers and Mary Lewis
Liturgist:

January 27

Greeters: Nancy and Kathy Merrick
Acolytes:
Coffee Hour Host:
Liturgist: Mary Saunders



The Pastor and Staff of Green Street thank all of you for your kindness and generosity with this year's Christmas gift. We feel blessed.

Pastor Kristin,

Christine, Darby,

George, Nharra, & Sue



Fresh Expressions
Covenant Group

This past summer when my brother made the trip up from TN for a visit with my family and I, he brought me a gift he had picked up at a stop in Freeport along the way - A sailboat that someone had fashioned out of blue and green colored sea glass.

His gift touched me because it said to me that he knows me. He knows that I like sea glass and that blue and green are my favorite colors and his gesture indeed made me feel known and loved.

And it got me thinking that before these pieces of glass became a sailboat they were part of a bottle or some other glass container that had somehow ended up in the ocean. Repeatedly tossed against rocks and washed up on the sand until polished smooth.

Eventually, somebody found them and had a new purpose and design in mind for them. I can't help but be reminded of how similar our lives are in relationship with God as we go through times that we may feel tossed around in rough seas repeatedly washed up on shore only to be dragged back out into rough water until finally rescued, polished and given new purpose and design as Believers, being made in the image of God.

Green Street's Fresh Expressions Covenant Group offers new and different ways to strengthen connection with God through: Scripture reading, prayer, shared discussion and support. It is a tool that can encourage and polish Faith and serve as a reminder that we – collectively – are known and loved by God.

Robin Forbes.

HELP

Keep the church warm



Give a Day of Fuel

Honor or remember someone special and help the church meet its fuel budget at the same time. A Day of Fuel sponsorship is only \$25.00. Fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate, or send to the office with your check.

In Honor or Memory of: _____

Given by: _____



Simplified Board Highlights

The Simplified Board met Tuesday, December 18, 2018 beginning with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. and continuing with the business meeting which ended at about 8:45 p.m. Sue led us in reflecting back on our first year as a Simplified Board and the challenges inherent in any new process. Overall the transition has been relatively smooth and we took a moment to celebrate God's faithfulness in all times and all situations. Sue expressed gratitude for the work of all Board members and recognized those whose term is ending. Board chairperson for 2019 will be Henry Berry.

Pastor Kristin shared brief comments on the Church Conference and noted that the Spiritual Life Center team will have a retreat in January. The recent Blue Christmas Open Mic night was well-received and a valuable addition to our traditional Blue Christmas service. Kristin also briefed us on the United Methodist Church's Commission on the Way Forward which is working to clarify the church's relationship with LGBTQ pastors and members. Helpful information on the process can be found at: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/the-commission-on-a-way-forward-report-what-you-should-know>

Much of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed 2019 budget. So far pledges are down from 2018, and expenses have gone up slightly, leaving us about \$25,000 short of a balanced budget. This is about the same difference as last year. We voted to use the annuity gift and another bequest for current expenses and also to wait until the first week in January to determine whether or not we have sufficient funds to pay the remainder of our Conference Mission Shares. Approval of the proposed 2019 budget was tabled until January to allow Board members more time to review it and to give incoming members a vote.

Our next meeting will be January 15, 2019 at 6:30 with agenda items due into the church office by December 28, 2018. A Leadership Retreat for Board members will be held February 2 weather permitting, otherwise it will be February 9.





Green Street UMC

January 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5 8:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
6 Epiphany Sunday 5 PM Covenant Group	7 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	8 4:30 PM Pastoral Support and Accountability	9 Noon UMW 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	10	11	12 9am – 2pm Spiritual Life Center Retreat 5:30 PM Guided Meditation
13	14 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	15 9am DCOM 5 PM District Lay Servant Meeting 6:30 PM Simplified Board	16 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	17 1 PM Visitation Meeting at Shasta's	18	19 4:30 PM Angel Food Supper 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
20 Human Relations Day 11:30 AM Missions Ministry Meeting 5 PM Covenant Group	21 Martin Luther King Day 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	22	23 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	24	25	26 5:30 PM Guided Meditation 7:00 PM AA
27	28 2 PM Bible Study 3PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM NA	29	30 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:45 PM Choir Practice	31		

Notes

13 Green Street. Augusta, Maine 04330

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

Sunday Worship at 8am and 10:30am - Sunday School for all ages at 9am – Covenant Group at 5pm

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8am to 2pm



Green Street United Methodist Church
13 Green Street
Augusta, ME 04330

