



# BRANCHES



John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches."

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Vol. 3, Issue 2

**Phippsburg Congregational Church (UCC), Phippsburg, ME**

May 2010

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."*

Rev. Mark D. Wilson, Pastor and Teacher

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## *A Message from Our Pastor*

My name is Mark Wilson, and this is my story. I believe that we all possess spiritual and physical wells, or reservoirs, or reserves. Our daily lives draw down those reserves, and it is up to us, through our self-care and sabbath taking, to keep those reserves replenished. Our physical selves we nurture through exercise and diet and recreation and rest. Our spiritual selves we re-create through prayer, study, worship, fellowship, and rest. Note: both of these include rest. I believe that God to us in Christ is a well of Spirit that we can draw on - siphon, even - into our own reserves to keep them full. "Those who drink," Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, "of water from a well will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The last few years, however, I've been noticing that what I had been giving out wasn't being replenished by what I was taking in, no matter how deep I drew from the well of Christ, no matter how much I exercised (and, despite my appearance, I actually do exercise each day), no matter how hard I prayed. My life was becoming out of balance; my well was nearly dry. We so value work and doing and being busy in our American/Yankee culture, that it was really, really hard to admit I was wearing out. As hard as it was to admit that, it was even harder to ask for the time to draw from the wells of sabbath; of rest. Eventually, though, it got to the point where I realized I needed to have that time, or not only were you going to lose me, but I was going to lose me, too. And so I am grateful to you for giving me this time to draw from the wells of Spirit. We will both benefit from this time apart. I am leaving on sabbatical after worship Sunday, May 23. I will return Monday, August 23. Rev. Dr. Hal Tucker will supply the pulpit during this time, with the exception of August 8, when Beth Hood will again lead worship.

Here is what I would have you do while I'm resting: rest yourselves! If your Committee or Group doesn't have to meet over the summer, why not take a break? There will be plenty going on (Heritage Days, Youth Sunday, Lobster on the Lawn, Brightwater Sunday, Summer Membership Meeting . . .) Remember, rest includes keeping the sabbath, and that means worship. Worship moves to 9 a.m. starting June 6, giving our early risers a break from 10 a.m. and those who seize the day the time to do that as well. Keep worshipping together, while I am away, for this is the primary way by which our spiritual reserves are recharged. Remember the sabbath. "Do not neglect to meet together," as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews urged, "as is the habit of some, but encourage one another even more as you see the day of the Lord coming near."

## **POTLUCK SUPPER**

COME CELEBRATE May 21 just because you can!! A potluck supper is being held on May 21 at Linden Tree Meeting House for the church family. Bring your favorite casserole or salad. Dessert and beverages will be provided by the committee. Come just for the fun of being together, good food and excellent conversation. For further info contact Patty Percy at 443-4421.

## *Spotlight on....HAL TUCKER*



Rev. Harold Tucker will be filling in for Mark while he is on sabbatical from May 23 through August 22. Here's some information Hal had to offer about himself!

I was born in Millville, New Jersey and at the age of two moved to Taunton, Massachusetts where my father and grandfather had bought a department store that was the family business until I entered college. The oldest of three children, I have a younger brother and sister. My parents moved to Florida the same week I left home to attend Bowdoin College.

Starting in the eighth grade I attended the Providence Country Day School in East Providence, Rhode Island. I loved Country Day. I lettered in three sports, played in the band, and participated in drama. I left for Bowdoin planning to be a teacher and a coach in a school like Country Day. Some where along the way, under the influence of some very special clergy and, I believe, the Holy Spirit, I decided to enter the ministry. While still at Bowdoin I was hired to preach each Sunday by the Christian Service Committee of Phippsburg which served the Small Point Community Church (now Baptist), the Popham Chapel, and the Phippsburg Congregational Church. I entered Bangor Seminary the fall after graduating from Bowdoin. During my seminary years I served the Durham, Maine, Friends Meeting,

I was ordained to the Christian ministry in June of 1961 at the Kellogg Congregational Church in Harpswell. Over the next twenty-five years I served two churches in Florida and two in Indiana. Immanuel UCC in Indianapolis was the largest church I ever served and was my longest pastorate. My second Indiana church was a "new church start" in the town of Greenwood. Starting a church from scratch was the most exciting ministry I ever undertook.

While in Indiana I earned my Doctor of Ministry degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. I taught religion for eleven years as an adjunct faculty member at Indiana Central University and for five years at Christian Theological Seminary. I produced a weekly television program for the Indianapolis Church Federation.

I returned to Maine in 1985 to serve as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Wiscasset. In 1994 I began nine years as Pastor of the Broad Bay Congregational UCC in Waldoboro where we moved this young church from a Grange Hall to its own building. I retired for a year in 2003, but missing pastoral work I accepted a call in 2004 to the Winslow Congregational Church. I retired again at the end of 2008 and Tina and I started attending Phippsburg Congregational. We joined as covenant members a year ago this month.

Tina and I have a blended family. I have four children, Tracy (Indiana), Kim (Arkansas), Tuck (Portland, ME), and Todd (Seattle). I have eight grandchildren. Tina has two sons, Matthew (Boston) and Chris (Portland). This summer Todd will get married in July and Matthew in August. I will perform both weddings.

Tina and I got married in 1997. She is a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary and has truly been a partner in my church ministries. Her ministry is in the area of domestic abuse, working as a community educator for New Hope for Women in Lincoln, Knox and Waldo counties. We have loved our time at Phippsburg Congregational Church and deeply appreciate Mark's ministry and the new friendships we have made. I consider it an honor to be asked to fill in for Mark while he is on his well deserved sabbatical.

### *Here's the Church, here's the steeple...*

On February 25th, Maine endured a severe rain and wind storm which wreaked havoc with the landscape, knocked out power for several days and damaged the top of our steeple. Winds in excess of 70 mph managed to put a 45 degree bend in the 1-1/4" diameter wrought iron shaft which held the weathervane and top two pieces of the steeple in place. The weathervane slides down over a 12" long shaft and is held there by gravity only. Fortunately, the wind did not bend the 1-1/4" shaft enough for the weathervane to get blown off completely and cause even more damage.

Getting the damaged pieces off the top of the steeple was complicated by the fact that the roads from Rte. 209 to the church had just been posted against heavy loads. Peter Oskeretko, chair of Building and Grounds, made a special request to the Town for the heavy crane to cross the roads to lift down the steeple top. This required a special meeting of the Phippsburg Selectmen to get permission. The next day a crane came to the church and, after adding an extra section to the boom of the crane to make it long enough to reach, our steeplejack, Bob Hanscom was able to successfully remove the weathervane and damaged pieces.

On April 14, after the roads became unposted for heavy vehicles, the crane was able to return and lift the repaired steeple top back to its original position. The repaired steeple tip now has a new 1-1/4" stainless steel shaft and four additional straps lagged into the tapered part of the steeple for extra strength. It was amazing to watch Bob Hanscom, standing in his "basket" hung on the crane cable and the steeple top suspended from the basket, trying to thread the needle by guiding the 1-1/4" shaft into the slightly larger hole in the steeple, while swinging like a plumb bob on the end of the wire crane cable. Skill finally won out and the steeple top and weathervane are securely back in position and connected to the lightning rod wires. Fortunately our insurance covered most of the \$4500 price tag for repairs. The church only had to pay the \$1000.00 deductible.



### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The following are graduating from high school in June. Our best wishes to:

Arthur Cavanagh  
Tara Cavanagh  
Michael Clark  
Alexander Cummings  
Justin Gilliam  
Alyssa Giroux  
Joshua Greenman  
Ellin Hale  
Kelsey Hawkes

Kaitlyn Hershey  
Blaine Hunt  
Jason Kaake  
Shelby Leeman  
Travis Moore  
Luke Moreau  
Dylan Moriarty  
Karen Mullen  
Jami Oliver

Joe Romatowski  
Tyler Russell  
Lianna Soreide  
Charles Spear  
Presley Wallace  
James Wells  
Meagan Wells  
Patrick Wolfe

### ***In memory...***

Our sympathy to the family of Gloria Horridge, who passed away on April 27, 2010.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, May 14 - 7:30 p.m. - Ed Trickett concert

Friday, May 21 - 6 p.m. - Potluck supper

Saturday, May 22 - 5 p.m. - Seasons worship service

Sunday, May 23 - 10 a.m. - Pentecost Sunday/New members welcomed

Pastor's sabbatical begins

Sunday, June 13 - 9 a.m. - Graduate recognition

Sunday, June 20 - 9 a.m. - Youth Sunday

## COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

**Friday, May 14 - 7:30 p.m. - ED TRICKETT**

Ed Trickett has been collecting and interpreting traditional and traditional-based folk songs for over 30 years, and has appeared on over 40 recordings and on Garrison Keillor's **A Prairie Home Companion**. His repertoire includes a wide range of ballads, sea songs, songs of love, and an occasional song of no consequence whatsoever. We are very pleased to present Ed Trickett in a rare New England solo concert. He accompanies himself on 6 and 12 string guitar and hammered dulcimer, an instrument that he helped to popularize. Ed has a beautiful unaffected tenor voice that lulls you into enjoying a marvelous evening of music, as if joining him in his living room. Ed is also well-known to New England audiences from his work as a member of the celebrated trio Bok, Muir and Trickett, with whom he recorded 10 albums and performed for 26 years.

Don Stevens writing in the All Music Guide says of Ed "The songs he has recorded alone, with Anne Mayo Muir and Gordon Bok, and with other artists are some of the most beautiful ever recorded."

\$10 adults/\$6 students & children

*For more information, please call 389-1770*



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**ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED**

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