

Wales Presbyterian Church

November 2010

Welcome

- by Rick Ness CLP



Looking back over the last few months I notice clearly how the weeks and months have a habit of disappearing, and how they seem to disappear faster with each passing year.

The trip to South Africa without question stood out as one of the great experiences of the last year, if not a lifetime. To meet and get to know people whose lives are so different from ours and how people from opposite sides of the world can become important to one another I think offer the true meaning of "globalization".

One of the more profound observations that I made was how the people of South Africa in many ways live out the scriptures in their daily lives. Their faith and devotion to Jesus was truly inspiring, particularly while enduring so much hardship. One occasion sticks out vividly in my mind. During the 10th anniversary celebrations of our partnership, several dozen children, mostly orphans, some HIV+, all quite poor, came forward with bottles of coins they had saved to contribute to the work of our partnership. I was overwhelmed by this real example of the image from the twelfth chapter of the gospel of Mark of the widow placing her two copper coins in the offering at the temple.

Overwhelmed by the contrast between we who give out of our abundance and those who give all that they have.

Back at home in Wales, Sunday school is back in session. We continue to regularly deliver donated bedding and clothes to the Jubilee Center in Lewiston. We have also just completed our mid-week evening Bible study of the book of Ephesians. It was great that not only did folks from our church participate but also Ed Frost from down the street joined us. Thanks to all participants for making it a success.

The hours of daylight are getting progressively shorter and the temperatures are dropping. Many people are feeling the pinch of tough economic times making interpersonal relationships even more difficult. There are many things to worry about that can make being thankful a little more challenging these days. Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching; two holidays that are all about being thankful and showing the spirit of thanksgiving to others. Being thankful during a time of difficulty is one way to help people identify you as Christian. This is not such an easy task; it's not about putting on a happy face when you are miserable inside. Regardless of our faith, we still have sadness and express our stresses. The difference in our lives as Christians is that we have someone to call upon, someone to whom we can lift up our problems. Hopefully we can learn to leave our worry there while we wait for the guidance to direct our actions. Right action directed by faith (patience!) is a powerful force that can spread joy outwardly as well as inwardly.

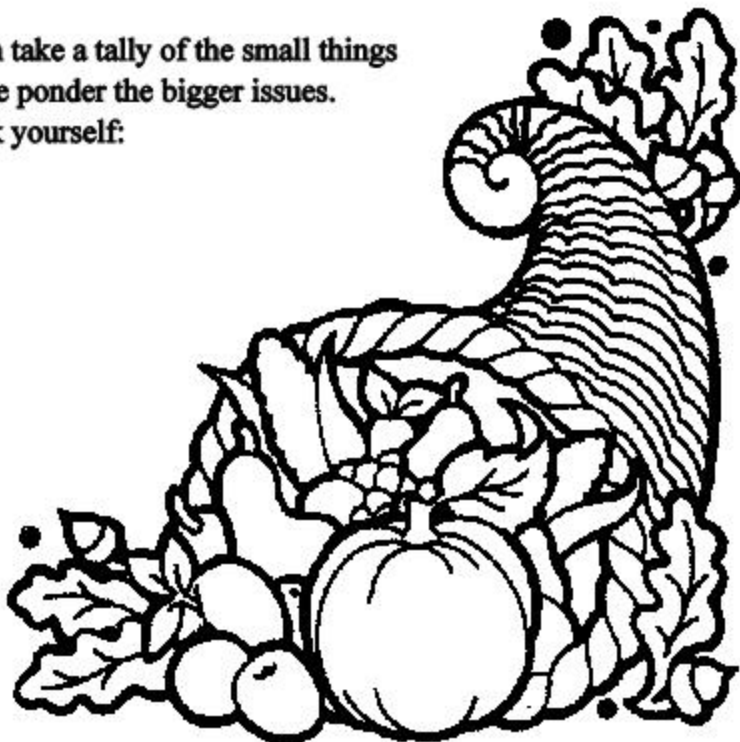
As the holidays approach, I hope each of us can take a tally of the small things for which we can be thankful, particularly as we ponder the bigger issues.

When it comes to sharing that thankfulness, ask yourself:

How is the best way to accomplish that? Is my thankfulness best demonstrated by going into debt to buy someone an electronic device that will be obsolete in six months? How would a gift to a charity in someone else's name reflect my thankfulness, what my beliefs are, and in whom I put my trust?

I wish you
the Peace of Christ
for all seasons.

Rick Ness,
Commissioned Lay Pastor



CODA Chorus invites you to join them for their annual Christmas concert
at Hope Baptist Church on Route 202 in Manchester
on Sunday, December 5th at 7:00pm.

Included in the program are beautiful sacred works such as
Cesar Franck's Psalm 150 and
lighter pieces like It's a Wonderful Christmas,
as well as traditional carols
and selections from The Messiah.

A free-will offering will be taken.

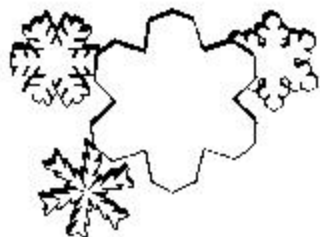
Ed Larson is CODA's music director and
Bridget Convey is the accompanist.
CODA would like to thank Kennebec
Savings Bank for its continued and
generous support as our sponsor.

For more information about the
Christmas concert, please call 622-9659.



Wales Presbyterian Church
668 Pond Road
Wales, ME 04280

375-8853



Visit us on the web:

<http://www.presbyteryne.org/wales/>

Important Dates:

December

24th - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM

Wales Food Pantry (Wales residents)
1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
or by appointment.

Contacts:

Marilyn Greenwood 375-6604
Betty Leighton 375-6618

*My grandson was visiting one day when he asked,
"Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?"
I mentally polished my halo while I asked,
"No, how are we alike?"
"You're both old," he replied.*

If you'd like to receive future newsletters by e-mail and
save paper, ink and postage, send an e-mail to
walespreschurch@aol.com, subject line "Save".

Weekly Happenings:

Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Thursday Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 PM



The Deacon's Corner
by Kelly Beaudoin

I am now ending my third year as a Wales Deacon. The time has really just flown by. We had a fairly quiet summer, but now we are gearing up for the holiday months.

The Deacons continue to do communion on the first Sunday of every month. We continue, with Pastor Rick, to visit the elderly in nursing homes and at their homes. We've sent out several cards to those who have moved away or who may need a pick me up note or a card of thanks.



I am continually impressed by what this group is able to do with such small numbers and limited resources.



We will be delivering 13 Thanksgiving baskets again this year to veterans and community members. We so enjoy reading the cards of how this has made a difference to so many people in our area.

We will also be getting Christmas baskets and poinsettias out to folks in hospitals and who need some holiday cheer this year.



If you are need of some assistance, please contact the Deacons or Pastor Rick.

Thought for the day: The fragrance always remains in the hand that gives the rose.

From the desk of the Clerk of Session...

We have been busy and have accomplished much. Our church books have been examined and approved without exception by the Presbytery of Northern New England. We have been busy doing a lot of the work of the church but have not missed the importance of the true meaning of why we are here. We may be a small church but we do have a big heart, beginning with two young ladies in our congregation. If you had the pleasure of going to our church fair this past Saturday (November 13th) you will know what I mean. We had one young teenage lady that makes her own pottery and sold it to give to the South African fund, as she went there with her father this summer. It is done by a very talented artist, Katie Ness. The other young lady is Casey Austin, who should definitely be a baker in life, as she made five different kinds of cookies to sell on a table (along with contributions from others), everyone commented how delicious they all were.

I would like to extend an invitation: Come to the little church on Route 132!

From the outside we may look worn and old, but inside -
the warmth and caring of the spirit within is heartwarming in a troubled world.

Blessings,

Linda S. Siderio - Clerk of Session, Wales Presbyterian Church



Being Present for Others

by Kelly Beaudoin

Have you ever had one of those moments where you slow your mind down and really take in what someone is saying? Do you know what I'm talking about? Sure, we all listen. We are in hundreds of conversations everyday. But, are you really taking it all in?

I bring this up, because the other week, I realized I wasn't really being present for my family. As a busy mom, I'm constantly on the go. Having short conversations with several people to get things done and communicate what I need or understand what they need. But, I wasn't really in the moment listening. My mind was racing ahead thinking of the next thing on my list. Thinking of what hasn't been accomplished. What I needed to make for supper, who needed a ride to practice, this news article that was due, the poinsettia sale, why won't the dog stop barking, and on and on. We all do this.

But, I stopped. I pushed it all out of mind and really listened to the person in front of me. I was in the moment, giving my full attention. And guess what, my list was still there but I was at peace. I felt really good just listening. Also, my daughter really felt good. She really thanked me for listening and hugged me. I didn't say much in return either, just a few words.

How many times are we present for each other? You see someone at the grocery store, you say "Hello" and then say, "How are you doing?" Did you even listen to the reply? What did they say? "Good, Great, Alright, or Fabulous!" Or, did you jump to the next line?

As the holidays approach, try to give the gift of being in the moment. It may be the best gift you give to someone this year. In Romans 12:10 -13, the Bible says "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need." Do this for your family, your friends, your neighbors and the next person you meet.

SENSING CHRISTMAS

The tinsel, the glitter, the bright shining lights,
Candles in window panes brighten the nights

The smells, oh, so nice, of a big family feast
With turkey and stuffing and pie (not the least!)

There's prickly, sharp holly and sticky pine bough,
A fire's warmth; welcome when cold from the snow,

Some carols sung loudly, some secrets told low,
The sound of unwrapping, some fast and some slow.

The sweetness of candy, a peppermint cane,
Salt popcorn, and choc'late (a pound or two gain.)

This season your senses will be over used
You may feel you're senseless, but you're not excused.

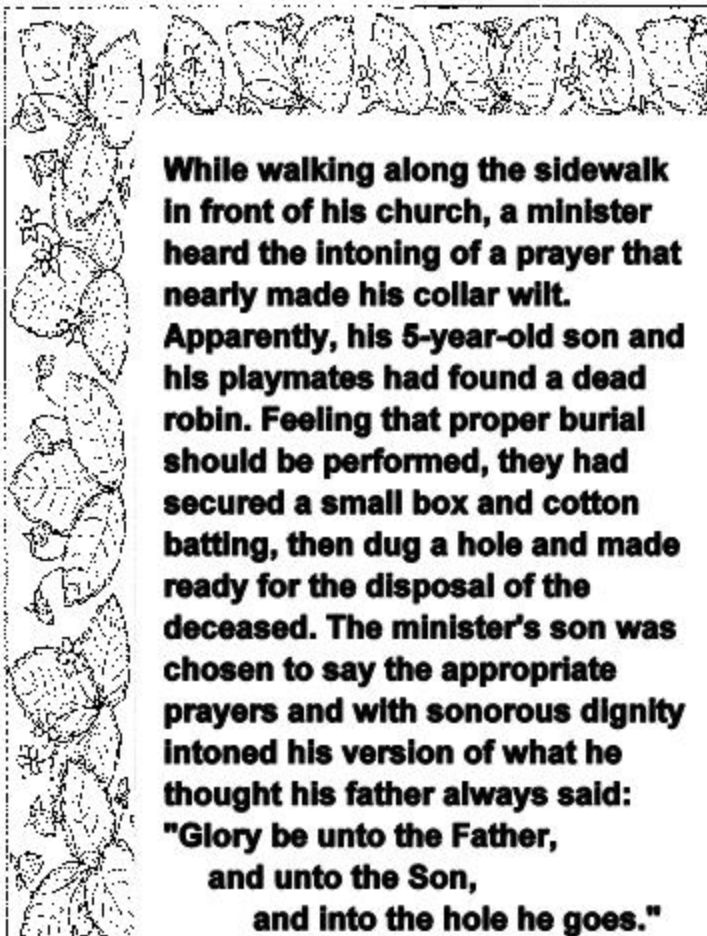
You need to remember and be sure to sense
The reason for Christmas (which isn't presents.)

Our God came to join us, that night long ago
To lay in a manger, from glory brought low.

So filter your sensing, (turn off your cell phone),
And letting God's Spirit put you in the zone

To see, smell, touch, hear, taste the things around you
This holiday season with Jesus in view.

- paciii



While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes."