

From Your Pastor:

The Cheeseburger Story

I recently included the following story written by a reader of *Guideposts* magazine in a sermon; at the request of a member of our church family, I share it again here:

It was a sweltering day. August here in Georgia can get pretty unbearable. It was 100 degrees and really sticky. I turned up the air conditioner in my car full blast, ready to head home from my errands. That's when I saw the dog. He lay on top of a lumpy Army-green duffel bag right on the sidewalk outside Applebee's restaurant. No shade. Sleeping, or at least I hoped he was. I pulled in and parked; then I hurried over to the dog. I bent down. "Hi, fella. You thirsty?"

I love dogs and they like me. But this one—he opened one eye, then shut it and turned his head away from me. Deliberately. His tail didn't budge. By the way he was guarding the duffel bag, I figured he was waiting for his owner, who was no doubt sitting inside the restaurant in air-conditioned comfort - I suspected with great indignation.

I stormed into Applebee's, ready to do battle. Right away, I spotted the owner. He sat alone at the counter, a tall glass of iced tea in front of him. "Is that your dog?" I demanded. "Yes, ma'am, he is." "He's in the sun and has no water. I imagine he's hungry, too." I must have raised my voice because some people stared at me. "Dogs like me, but he wouldn't even open both eyes when I spoke to him."

The man broke into a slow, easy grin. He slid off the stool. "That's because he hasn't been properly introduced to you. Come on. I'll do the honors." *Introduced?* I followed him outside. He squatted down next to the dog, who sat up and fastened his eyes onto his owner. His tail came alive. "Ma'am, I don't know your name." "Marion." I bent close to them.

"Marion, I'd like you to meet Cheeseburger. Cheeseburger, this nice lady is Marion." The dog looked right into my eyes and offered a paw. "Hi, Cheese-burger," I said. He licked my hand and his tail shifted into high gear. "And I'm Johnny," the man said. "How far do you live from here?" I asked. "Not far," he said. "Back in those woods across the street. We have a good tent." "But couldn't you go to a shelter?" "They won't take Cheeseburger, and I don't go anywhere without him," he said. "I take really good care of him."

"And who takes care of you?" The words flew out of my mouth before I could stop them, and I knew they sounded sharper than I intended. Johnny didn't seem

Continued on Page 6

Inside this
issue:

Sunday
School
Updates

Outreach

Christmas
Fair

Discovering
the Possi-
bilities

Christmas
Baskets

Lay Leader

And MUCH
more!

ANNUAL MUSIC SUNDAY

LUMC's ANNUAL MUSIC SUNDAY
November 18, 9:30 am
Join us as we give thanks to God with
song and "sing our way through"
our service of worship

*I will give thanks to
you, LORD, with all
my heart; I will tell
of all your wonderful
deeds.*

Psalm 9:1

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Sunday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m.
at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Please join together to welcome our friends and neighbors from LACO
sponsored churches. Food and monetary donations will benefit LACO.

LOOKING AHEAD TO EARLY DECEMBER

Please add these dates to your December calendar to be sure and save them:

Saturday, Dec 1 Advent decorating with a pot luck supper to follow
beginning at 4:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 2 First Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion
Bishop's Day on the District at Green Street
UMC in Augusta, 3:00 – 5:00 pm with a potluck
supper to follow

ADVENT STUDY

You are invited to join our four-week Monday evening study entitled *The Gift of New Hope, Scriptures for the Church Seasons*. We will reflect together on the Scriptures we will hear in worship the coming Sunday and share our thoughts as we grow in our knowledge and faith. The group will meet on November 26 and December 3, 10, and 17. Please let Pastor Elizabeth know by November 11 if you wish to have a book ordered. The cost is \$ 6.79 (or \$ 8.49 for the large print option) and can be placed in the offering plate in an envelope marked "adult study book."

~~~~~  
Yes, please order me an Advent study book.

Regular size \_\_\_\_\_ Large Print \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS FAIR NEWS

Our Christmas Fair and Silent Auction are right around the corner!! The dates of the fair and auction are November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm and November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-2pm. Because the committee decided to start selling Friday night, ALL items including any baked goods, need to be at the church no later than 3pm on Friday. If you have any crafts that you are donating please price them yourself, as you know how much time they took to complete and the cost of materials you used. Help will be needed decorating wreaths, setting up, working both days, and packing up after the event. I pray that you'll be thinking of how you can help with this event. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Trudy Duval

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Mark your calendars for this fun event that will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:30. This year we will be accepting new kids socks that will be blessed in church the next day and given to Lisbon Community School and LACO. More new next month!!

## MECHUWANA HARVEST SUPPER

**Please join us for a Harvest Supper with all the fixings at Mechuwana!**

You are also invited to come earlier to see the new buildings or take a walk around camp.

If you haven't seen the new Alumni building with lots of Mechuwana history inside, be sure to come in time to take a look. It's right next to the Gus Building, and an easy walk from the Dining Commons.

**Sunday, November 4, 2018**  
**Come any time from 4:30-6:00 p.m.**  
**\$7.00 for adults**  
**\$4.00 for children ages 5-11**  
**Free for children ages 4 and younger**



### *LUMC Mission Statement:*

“The Lisbon United Methodist Church welcomes, nurtures, and serves all people with the love of Christ.”

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES

At the last Ad Council meeting it was decided to make some changes to the Sunday School program. Because of low attendance children will not be going downstairs to class anymore. Instead they will be staying upstairs and encouraged to take a more active roll in our service. In the next few weeks a list of volunteer opportunities will be sent home to Sunday School families to let them know of the ways the children can participate. Children are also encouraged to volunteer with the many activities that happen at the church such as the monthly been suppers, Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Fair. We will also be planning a fun activity every six weeks or so. The first activity for October was canceled because only one child had signed up. We're hoping to have a better response for our December activity!

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We are now gearing up for our holiday projects. Below is the food list of items needed for the Christmas Baskets. We will once again donate 21 boxes of food to our local school system. The 3 schools will each pick 7 families to receive the baskets to keep it anonymous. I would again remind everyone that turkeys and other items will be on sale before Thanksgiving. I recommend that you watch for these sales. **Please remember not to leave your food in the dining room until after the November bean supper.** We will also be filling fruit baskets for our church family shut ins. **We could use some medium sized baskets for this project.** We are also collecting for Toys for Tots. Boxes are in the Narthex and in the dining room. Please do not wrap the toys.

|             |                          |                      |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|             | Turkeys                  | Canned corn          |
| Thank you,  | Canned peas              | Canned green beans   |
| Connie Earl | Canned pears             | Gravy                |
| Chairperson | Boxed stuffing           | Cranberry sauce      |
|             | Canned peaches           | Instant pie fillings |
|             | Graham cracker pie crust | Pickles              |
|             | Hard candy               |                      |

## EVENING CIRCLE

Evening Circle will have their November meeting at the home of Margaret Logan, Summer St., on November 6th, at 6:30 PM.

Carolyn Jones, President

## AFTERNOON CIRCLE

### NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we have decided to change our monthly eat out to TUESDAY, November 27th. We will be going to Uncle Moe's Restaurant in Sabattus. All those wishing to go, please give me a call by November 26, so reservations can be made. We will meet at the church at 11:30 and travel to the restaurant together. All are welcome.

Carolyn Jones  
353-8691

## DISCOVERING THE POSSIBILITIES UPDATE

Members of our church family met with the Rev. Rick McKinley in late September to review the recommendations of our *DISCOVERING THE POSSIBILITIES* experience of earlier this year. He helped us to fine-tune some of the recommendations and gave us suggestions as to how to proceed.

One of those recommendations was that we participate in a coaching program. We were disappointed to learn that the *Growing with Hope* group was not going to occur this year because of lack of registrations. Following this news, our task was to find ourselves a coach. Rick himself is a coach and graciously agreed to help LUMC. His requirement is that we have a core group to relate to him and then to work with the congregation on the plans we make. The same core group who had volunteered to participate in *Growing with Hope* will be our coaching group: Martha Palmer, Sue White, Trudy Duval, Dean Logan, and the pastor.

We will continue to share updates through the newsletter and in worship. Please keep this important work in prayer as we seek to develop and live out LUMC's vision within our community.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating a birthday in November!

(if you know someone to be added to our list please let Erica Soiett know)



- |     |                   |     |                   |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 1-  | George Morgan, Jr |     |                   |
| 5-  | Sean Moore        | 19- | Benjamin Millson  |
| 7-  | Cynthia Bonsey    | 20- | Jackson White     |
|     | Dean Logan        | 23- | Jodi Booth        |
| 12- | Bob Booth         |     | Harvey White, III |
| 15- | Trudy Duval       | 29- | Clyde Cavender    |
|     | Phyllis Sterling  |     |                   |

## OLD DINING ROOM, NEW NAME!

You may have noticed a new sign in the dining room pointing the way to the Hunnewell Community Room. You may be wondering where the Hunnewell Community Room is. It is the old dining room. The Ad Council felt it was fitting to rename the room as a tribute to Vida Hunnewell who loved and supported the church.



**FROM YOUR PASTOR, Cont.**

to mind.

“Here’s the way it works,” he said gently. “Every morning me and Cheeseburger step out of our tent and look up at the sky. And I say, ‘Lord, we belong to you. We trust you. Take care of us another day. Thank you.’ And then at night when we lie down to sleep, I look out at the stars and say, ‘We still trust you, God.’” He smiled again—that slow, easy grin. I smiled back.

“Maybe I’ll see you and Cheeseburger again sometime,” I said. “Me and Cheeseburger come here or head over to McDonald’s most mornings.” Johnny explained, “Then we walk down toward the post office. I’m a painter by trade, hoping to find some work.”

I fished around in my purse and found a twenty. “Could I give you this?” I asked hesitantly, not certain how to go about it. He didn’t reach for the bill, just kept looking at me with that contented expression. “You don’t have to. We’re doing pretty good.” “I’d like to.” I told him, “Very much.” “Then I thank you, Marion. God bless you.”

I got back in my car and turned on the air conditioner. At the red light, I leaned forward and gazed up into the blue cloudless sky. “Lord, I belong to you. I trust you. Take care of me today. Thank you.”

As you gather with family and friends on Thanksgiving Day, I hope you will pause for a moment and give thanks to the God who takes care of you each and every day, the grace-filled, loving God to whom we each belong.

Verne and I wish you and those you love a blessed Thanksgiving filled with special moments of abundant gratitude.

God’s blessings,  
*Pastor Elizabeth*



## THOUGHTS FROM THE LAY LEADER

We are a church on a journey. As the days go by, we are coming together to formulate our mission and place in the community. Each meeting brings more creative ideas and passions from more and more people touched by this process. God is taking hold of us and taking us to a place in which our church will grow and be a vital place for people to gather.

As a part of our upcoming church conference (that's our annual church meeting where we vote in officers and plan for the coming year) the SPRC committee (that's the sort of HR committee that helps evaluate what our church is doing) is working on answering the question, "What are the most compelling 2-3 things you sense God calling your congregation to accomplish in the next 3-5 Years?" That's a big question! One of the follow up questions is "What needs to be developed in your congregational leadership to accomplish these goals?" Whew! As the SPRC group worked with this, one of the answers is, **Change our mission from "to" the community to "with" the community.** This is the goal I would like to address in this article.

Once again, I turn to the loving work of Henri Nouwen. Today's (!) devotional reading is entitled "To Care". Nouwen's words deal with caring for the elderly, but could be applied to any person needing God's healing. Nouwen says, "As long as we think caring means only being nice and friendly to (old) people, paying them a visit, bringing them a flower, or offering them a ride, we are apt to forget how much more important it is for us to be willing and able to be present to those we care for." We as a church do a lot of that sort of thing. I think we need to develop a culture of full empathy, instead of reaching out to people from a place of entitlement. If we think about just how close we are to a position of poverty, it can bring us closer to being with the people we are meant to serve. A house fire, a catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, a traumatic encounter, and many other devastating things that could come our way, can leave us impoverished financially and spiritually.

In order to touch those vulnerable spots in other people, we need to acknowledge the fear of them hidden in ourselves. Once we can fully put ourselves "in the other person's shoes", we can begin to be in solidarity with others. Then, we can speak out of common experience, instead of from a place set apart from those who need us. Then, in turn, they may provide something that we need in our souls. We can do God's work together in full discipleship. I know that this concept is not an easy one. I hope that you will prayerfully consider what it means to being a true community sharing God's love with everyone we encounter. We have so much to give. We just need to let it shine.

Don't forget God's words to the prophet Jeremiah:

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer. 29:11

*Resource: "You are the Beloved; Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living". Henri J.M. Nouwen. Convergent. New York. 2017. Ed. Gabrielle Earnshaw.*

# Join us for a little Elf Magic at the Christmas Fair! November 16th & 17th

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday)

9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m. (Saturday)

**Jump start your holiday shopping at our annual Christmas Fair!**

**Lots of Handmade crafts**

**Delicious Baked Goods and Candy**

**Wreaths and Arrangements**

**Bid on some great gifts available at our Silent Auction**

**Take home a beautiful Christmas Cactus or plant, and visit our  
book sale**

**Also, enjoy delicious beef stew or hot dogs for lunch**



# November 2018

| Sun                                                                            | Mon                                                  | Tue                                                                          | Wed                                                                      | Thu                                                                                                       | Fri                                                        | Sat                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                |                                                      |                                                                              |                                                                          | 1-Bible Study @ Pam Wolfe's, 10:30 a.m.<br>SPRC/DS meeting, 6 p.m.<br>Annual church conference, 7:00 p.m. | 2                                                          | 3                                                |
| 4-Daylight savings time<br>All Saints' Day- w/ Holy Communion<br>Worship, 11am | 5-Widow's group lunch, Outreach Committee, 1:30 p.m. | 6-Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.<br>Evening Circle @ Margaret Logan's, 6:30 p.m. | 7-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's , 10:00 a.m.<br>Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. | 8-District Ministry Day @ Mechuwana, 9:30 a.m.                                                            | 9                                                          | 10                                               |
| 11-Veteran's day<br>Nurture Comm. 11:00 a.m.                                   | 12                                                   | 13-LACO Board @ Holy Trinity, 6:30p.m.                                       | 14-Christmas Fair Prep                                                   | 15-Bible study @ Pam Wolfe's 10:00 a.m.<br>Trustees, 6:30 p.m.<br>Christmas Fair Prep                     | 16-Christmas Fair Prep<br>Elf Magic Christmas Fair 5-7p.m. | 17-Elf Magic Christmas Fair, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. |
| 18-Music Sunday<br>LACO Community Service @ St. Matthew's, 6:00 p.m.           | 19                                                   | 20-Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.                                                | 21                                                                       | 22<br>                | 23                                                         | 24-Bean Supper 5:00-600 p.m.                     |
| 25-Christ the King Sunday                                                      | 26                                                   | 27-Afternoon Circle, 11:30<br>Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.                     | 28                                                                       | 29-Bible Study at Pam Wolfe's, 10:00 a.m.                                                                 | 30                                                         |                                                  |

**Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Other times available by appointment**

**Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day**



**Lisbon United  
Methodist Church**

14 School Street  
Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252  
(207)353-4982

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday Worship and Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

*Experienced people are ready to provide nursery  
care for infants.*

*Please speak with a greeter.*

*Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Other times available by appointment*

*Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath day*

*Office Phone Number: 353-4982*

*Parsonage Phone Number: 407-4406*

**Important Contacts:**

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith  
pastor@lisbonumchurch.org

Organist & Choir Director: Debbie Greim  
576-8527 dmusicnote@myfairpoint.net

Lay Leader : Sue White  
sdwhite071154@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Erica Soiett  
212-3713 esoiett@roadrunner.com

Custodian: Shane Soiett  
212-8316 ssoiett@roadrunner.com

Webmaster: Clyde Cavender  
353-5906 ccavender1@roadrunner.com