

## wierwille words

*“Sometimes we learn from history, but most of the time we just pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and go right on as we had before.” -- Winston Churchill*

It's tuff to be new! New Years is welcomed (annually!) with great noise and revelry as we turn the corner and flip the page in a-n-t-i-c-i-p-a-t-i-o-n and hope that the coming year will be – *NEW*. But each year carries the certainty of another bump-in-the-road -- of the dread and limitations inherent in aging. We carry our old habits and conventional behaviors into the New Year. 2009 may be a new year but we're still the same ol' people that we were back in 2008! New is not easy!

In our faith journeys we believe deep down that after an encounter with Jesus our lives can be re-New-ed, turned around, turned upside down and done over. People accustomed to walking down the ol' familiar road one way, living their lives one way, can experience New-ness, New birth, reNewal. One of the claims of the gospel is that *God makes all things new! There is nothing or no one beyond reach – even us! God's creativity knows no bounds!* We can start over and by God's grace we can have a truly New Year! In his writing, Will Willimon believes that each of us, at some time or another, long to be made new, and that God is indeed a *God of New Beginning*.

Our challenge each New Year is to look toward how best we can be ready and accessible to God's calling to be sources of light, and hope, and justice for all. Our New Year's resolutions, our dreams and aspirations, our longings are before us and need voice and courage to set the course of our 2009 journey. Stepping forward boldly and with God's abiding grace we eagerly anticipate the New Year! Notwithstanding the inherent challenges and obvious limitations, the dismal report of our local, national, global economic and geo-political environment, the mistakes and disappointments made in the past year(s), we have God's grace to turn toward. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, says the Lord.”*

May God bless each of us as we step forward into the New Year! Faithfully, RW

**January 2009**

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**Minister: Rev. Richard Wierwille**

**Worship Service: Sunday 10 AM**

**Church School: 10:00-11:15**

**Email: [wlcc@valley.net](mailto:wlcc@valley.net)**

**Web Site: [www.westlebcc.org](http://www.westlebcc.org)**

**Phone: 603-298-8096**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-3:30**

**Wednesday 9:00-12:00**

**Pastor's Office: Tues, Wed, Thurs a.m. or by appt.**

## GRANDPA AN' THE BABY

## **BIRTHDAYS** **January 2009**

2 Mayola Beard  
3 Carol Campbell  
4 Ashley Licence  
9 Virginia O'Keefe  
10 William Gilbert  
11 Melanie Henry  
14 Ed Mitchell  
15 Russell Collins  
16 Jim Pyer  
17 George Josler  
22 Emily Bickford  
22 Erica Bickford  
23 Lane Maynard  
24 Amanda Bui  
26 Jonathon Aldrich  
26 Frank Maynard III  
27 Lin Wierwille  
29 Dick Wierwille  
30 Audrey Elder  
30 Susan Montmagny  
30 Laura Rose  
30 Allan Campbell

## **SENDING GRATEFUL THANKS** **TO ALL**

We want to thank all of the WLCC family for the many prayers, letters, phone calls and visits during the past year due to Dick's poor health and during the sickness and/or passing of relatives and close friends. Dick has brought us communion at least 3 times and that is so refreshing and thoughtful. Thank you each and everyone and Happy New Year. We really miss being with you in all activities of our church. Dick and Betty Abbott

**Liz sez,**

As the New year begins we think of the old year passing and the new being born. Really each day of every year is a special gift of God to enjoy for any and all ages.

Our new baby's jus' like Grandpa.  
He's got no teeth in his mouth.  
His eyes go crossed sometimes  
an' he looks both north and south.

Both of them have fuzzy heads  
an' both are a little bit bald.

Once they ain't got their own ways,  
both of 'em bellowed and called.

Both Grandpa an' the baby  
jus' can't never stand up tall,  
an' everybody waits on 'em  
the minute that they beck and call.

I jus' found out one more thing  
when I stole a real sneaky glance.

Both grandpa and the new baby  
wear diapers fer underpants.

Make this New Year a beginning when  
you rise each morning with the old  
hymn ringing in your ears, "This Is  
The Day That The Lord Has Made".

Let us be glad in this year that all  
ages are children of God.

Sez Liz

2 Cor. 9.7 "God loves a cheerful giver."

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is still hoping to collect some brief thank you's to forward to Matt Van Wagner in appreciation for his time with us.

After the holiday season, when so much of our attention has been focused on giving, let us remain mindful of God's abundant gifts to us, and may our gratitude be expressed in equally abundant giving in return.

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Cor. 8

## MITTENS AND GLOVES

The Diaconate planned a Mittens Tree Project for Christmas Season. Mark Pageau donated a lovely Christmas Tree and members and friends of the Church provided the ornaments and mittens for the tree. The mittens will be delivered to a local school or organization to keep hands warm for lots of youngsters. MANY THANKS TO ALL!

## WLCC ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! The Annual Meeting of the West Lebanon Congregational UCC will be held on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

It is important to have a large attendance in order to transact the business of the Church and provide input for a successful year in 2009

## DUO BOREALIS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DOUBLE  
BASSIST,  
EVAN  
PREMO



SOPRANO,  
MARY  
BONHAG

SPECIAL GUEST  
PIANIST/ORGANIST  
WILLIAM ÖGNUNDSON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008 - 4:00 PM  
WEST LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
18 MAPLE STREET, WEST LEBANON, NH  
FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS ACCEPTED

We extend our sincere thanks to Mary Bonhag and Evan Premo for generously sharing their talent in an excellent Christmas Concert. We have had many "rave reviews" shared with us by people who attended the concert on a very snowy day!

## TRUSTEES REPORT

We had a busy and costly December, unfortunately all items needing immediate attention. First off we had some significant damage done to our electrical mast which attaches the electric to the outside of the church during the ice storm which left so many without power. Luckily we were able to keep power but we had lines down in the back parking lot which needed to be taken care of ASAP. Fortunately Tom Morgan and his staff were able to take care of us and get us back up and running. We have also been having a lot of problems with our heating system which we've done small repairs to for some time now. All of you know from chilly services recently that this had to be fixed right off. Wayne, Mark Pageau and Phil Gomez jumped on this and Patriot Fuels has just recently installed a new condensate pump which will have us back up and running with heat.

We're also finalizing the 2009 budget which will be presented at the Annual meeting.

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Missions Committee met and continue to ask for Shaw's receipts to go to the NH Food Bank. 1% of the total receipts is donated by Shaw's to the Food Bank. Please leave your receipts in the bag in the Kilton Room.

Local Area Missions Allocations were set for the 2009 Budget Year. Organizations supported by the Church's Missions include: Andover Newton and Bangor Theological Seminaries, Second Growth, Listen, Haven, Child & Family Services, Acorn, Headrest, Habitat for Humanity, Cover, Wise, Hannah House, Good Neighbor Clinic, 10 Bricks, and the Red Logan Clinic.

An Epiphany Party was held in the Drake Room at WLCC on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Good food, games, activities and fun for all.

A Christmas Pageant titled "The Crippled Lamb" was presented by the Christian Education Dept. on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Sunday Schoolers and Youth Group were assisted by Katie DalPra, Adam DalPra, April Akers, Susan Schwartz, Kim Edmunds and pageant Moms and Dads. Assistance with music was provided by Molly Bonhag, Lin Wierwille and Averill Tinker.

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Jackson Boyd Edmunds was baptized on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. He was born on Feb. 25, 2008 to Kim & Hayward Edmunds and has two big brothers – Sam & Hayes Edmunds.

## **SECURITY SYSTEM**

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around...after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there...The person who sent this suggested that folks carry the car keys outside in the yard in case of a fall. You can activate the car alarm from anywhere in the yard and then someone will know there's a problem.

A hardy group of Carolers from the WLCC went out through the neighborhood on December 21<sup>st</sup> after worship service to sing for the enjoyment of the residents and spread some Christmas Cheer.

After caroling they returned to the warmth of the Church for a pizza lunch!

# January Worship

## Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M. New Year's Communion/Epiphany Celebration

**Scripture**        Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**Message**        *By Another Road: traveling by the Light of Christ*

**Hymns**        NCH 158,160,162,165, PH 143, PH 144, NCH 576, 433, 584

## Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 4-6 P.M All Church Epiphany Party w/ Soup, Bread & Games

Church Family Gathering with fun and food in the Drake Room

## Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>                10:00 A.M. First Sunday of Epiphany Season Worship

**Scripture**        Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11

**Message**        *Venturing Forth: love which loves so that it can let go*

**Hymns**        NCH 597, NCH 168, NCH 467, NCH 351

## Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>                10:00 A.M. Worship/MLK Holiday Wkend/Wk of PrayerUnity

**Scripture**        1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139; John 1:43-51

**Message**        *Personally Speaking: join hands & walk together as sisters & brothers*

**Hymns**        NCH 159, NCH 534, PH 404

## Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>                10:00 A.M. Worship/Food Bin Sunday

**Scripture**        Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

**Message**        *Call Screening: dare we answer God's call to do good news?*

**Hymns**        PH 322, NCH 179, PH 488

## Sunday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 A.M. UCC Women's Week Worship/Holy Communion