



# Cape Neddick Tide

*What's Coming and Going at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church  
December, 2015*

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

The shepherds were there, various animals were there, Joseph was there, and of course Mary was there....in the stable that glorious night long ago. But King Herod wasn't there; neither were the religious leaders of that day nor, as far as we know, the innkeeper. They were among the missing. As a result, they missed out on the birth of the Savior of the world.

You would think that after hundreds of years of celebrating the birth of Jesus that fewer and fewer individuals would today miss out at Christmas. Yet that doesn't seem to be the case. People all over the world will spiritually be among the missing this Christmas season. This is not to say that many won't be involved in the celebration itself by decorating, buying, and baking. But each of them will still miss out IF his or her heart is not focused on the wonder and the implications of Christ's birth.

Will you be among the missing this Christmas season?? I sure hope not!! I

pray that you will resist the pressures of the world and instead turn your eyes faithfully to that unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 9:15). That is certainly my prayer for me. May God help each of us experience the true gift of the season!!

Speaking of that gift, during Advent we will fill in the blank of this Scriptural sentence: '**and his name shall be called \_\_\_\_\_.**' On December 6 we will look at his name **Emmanuel**; on the 13<sup>th</sup> his names **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**; and then on Christmas Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, we will look at his name **Jesus**. What a gift we have to celebrate!!

One other note----Gloria and I had a wonderful time at the **Pastor Appreciation Luncheon** on November 1. We felt affirmed and encouraged. Our thanks to the Diaconate and Hospitality Committee for putting the luncheon together!!

## POINSETTIAS



If you wish to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary on Christmas Sunday in memory of a loved one, please sign the paper at the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like us to purchase the flower just put a check mark next to your name. Deadline if you wish us to order is December 13. Any questions, contact Eleanor Todd at 363-2823 or Crystal Butler at 363-7036.

## RMMO

The annual *Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering* of the American Baptist Churches will be taken this month. This offering not only monetarily helps retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses, it also reminds these men and women who served so faithfully that they are remembered with gratitude. Our goal as a church is \$800. Please use the special

envelopes that will be provided.

## ADOPT A FAMILY

Last year for Christmas we adopted for the first time a local family through the Alpha Pregnancy Center in Sanford. We are doing so again. This family consists of a single mom and three children. Here are some gift ideas for the children.

**Girl, Age 4:** snow boots (size 1), clothing (size 5T), socks (size 1), playdough, dolls, microphone toy (loves to sing), and number/letter flashcards.

**Boy, age 18 months:** snow boots (toddler, size 9), winter coat (size 3T), clothing (size 2T), socks (size 8), dump trucks/cars (age appropriate, big), washable finger paint, and age appropriate legos (large size).

**Boy, age 6 months:** snowsuit (12 months), clothing (12 months), socks (size 18-24 months), age appropriate interactive toys, and foam puzzle floor mat.

At the back of the sanctuary is a list of these items. If you would like to purchase an item, please put a check next to it. Gifts need to be at church (under the Christmas tree) by Sunday, December 20. Please do NOT wrap the presents. THANKS for participating in this ministry.  
*The Diaconate*

## CHRISTMAS BOOKS

In the church library are a number of good books about Christmas. Here are three

that you will find this month on the corner table in the sanctuary---***The Nativity Collection: Six Stories that Share the Smiles, the Heart, and the Hope of Christmas; All about Christmas: The Customs, legends, and traditions of Christmas;*** and ***A Touch of Christmas.*** Just take and return.

## YORK ASSOCIATION ABW

On Saturday, Nov 7, our church hosted the York County ABW Association Fall Basket meeting. It's called the basket meeting because in years past, women brought their lunches in pretty decorated baskets! No baskets now, but the fellowship was just as strong as ever.

Special guests were **Dave and Wandah Clark**, formerly of Ogunquit Baptist. Dave shared the uplifting story of his trip to Hungary last year. His spirit was strengthened by visiting his Hungarian brothers and sisters in Christ as they cheerfully serve Jesus despite poverty, discrimination, and other challenges. Wandah led us in praying for employment opportunities for women in depressed areas of the world as well as for projects that help lift people out of circumstances that keep them oppressed. *SueNorton*

## TEXT AND TESTIMONY

2015 is nearing an end. How has God blessed you this year?? Have you seen some answers to prayer or particular evidences of the Lord's care?? Has he guided

you, strengthened you, or helped you in a particular way?? Maybe He has opened an unexpected door or has enabled you to get through an unexpected challenge???

Sunday, **December 27**, will be *Text and Testimony Sunday*. You are invited to share a way that you've seen God at work in your life in 2015. Another option is to share a Scripture verse (text) that has been especially meaningful for you recently. Let's together end this year by giving glory to our Lord.

## SOME RANDOM NOTES

\*Thanks to all who gave to the **World Mission Offering**. We went way over our \$850 goal. \$2336.00 was given. What a blessing these gifts will be to the work of our international missionaries.



\***Stewardship Letters** as well as the proposed 2016 budget will soon be sent out and made available at the rear of the sanctuary. Giving to the Lord is both a responsibility and a privilege. Please make your financial commitment a matter of careful thought and prayer.

\*On Dec, 18, at 2:00 the Life Together Bible Study Group will focus on Christmas in a different way. We will watch a **Gaither Homecoming Christmas DVD** which was produced in South Africa. Come and be inspired

\*Challenge item this month for the **Food Pantry** is spices.

\*Thanks to all who provided **bread**s for the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks also to the Sunday School children and youth who made 11 loaves.

\*7:00 PM is the time for the annual **Christmas Eve Service**. Come and prepare for your Christmas Day celebration. The traditional candle-lighting will conclude the service.

## WOMEN OF FAITH

"Women of Faith" has been encouraging women of all ages since 1996. Thousands of women from the Northeast area, including seven in our group, gathered in Hartford, CT, on November 13th and 14th to experience the **Women of Faith 2015 - Loved- The Farewell Tour**.

We all clapped our hands and sang along to the wonderful voices of Sandi Patti and her family, Sheila Walsh, and to the lively contemporary Christian rock sounds of Building 429 that pulsed the arena. It was bittersweet as we listened to the founder of W of F, Stephen Arterburn, and its core group of women share their stories for the last time.

This was the 3rd year that I was fortunate enough to witness the incredible personal testimonies of these women, the encouragement, and words of hope that is so needed to help get you through everyday life. I believe God is speaking through them to remind us

that we are never alone, and that we are loved no matter what. Isn't that what we all need to be reminded of from time to time?

*Pat Mober*

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**Dec. 6** *Emmanuel*  
**Dec. 13** *Four Names*  
**Dec. 20** *Jesus*  
**Dec. 27** Text and Testimony



## C E BOARD

On Sunday **December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-10:00 AM you are invited to help decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree. Some of these ornaments were made the week before. Celebrate the Advent Season with the Sunday School.

## ABW

Our Christmas celebration will be on Wednesday, **December 2**, at the parsonage. We will be singing carols, packaging cookies, and eating lunch together. Come join us and please bring some cookies and a sandwich to share.

*Gloria Nelson*

## LOOKING AHEAD

12/1 10:00 Book Club  
12/1 5:30 Diaconate  
12/3 6:30 Church Health Team  
12/5 7:30 Men's Breakfast  
12/8 5:00 Trustees  
12/9 9:00 ABW  
12/10 10-12 FaithCrafting  
12/10 6:30 BCE  
12/13 12:30 Dinner-Out

12/15 10:00 Book Club  
12/18 2:00 Christmas DVD  
12/20 1:00 Caroling  
12/24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service  
12/27 Food Pantry Sunday

## FAITH CRAFTING TOGETHER GROUP

Faith Crafting Together Group will meet on Thursday, December 10 from 10-12. Come join the group as we have a wonderful time bonding together and sharing our stories as we work on projects. Any questions, please call me at 363-7036 or email [cbutler2@maine.rr.com](mailto:cbutler2@maine.rr.com)  
*Crystal Butler*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Help spread the joy of Jesus' birth through song and



visitation. Join us on Sunday, **December 20<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. as we go Christmas Caroling through the community. Meet at the church at 1:00 pm for an enjoyable time of singing your favorite carols while visiting those in our community. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after caroling.

*The Diaconate*



Our annual holiday luncheon out is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday **December 13<sup>th</sup>** at Warren's Lobster House in Kittery. A room has been reserved for our church family. If you would like to car pool meet at the church parking lot at noon. If you drive to Warren's meet in their lobby at 12:30 p.m. Joanne Maus has made all the arrangements so contact her if you have any questions. Please sign up on the sheet at the rear of the sanctuary or contact Joanne Maus. No

cooking or dishes to wash, just plenty of great food and Christmas cheer for all.

*The Diaconate*

## SHOE BOXES

89 Shoeboxes were sent to Samaritan's Purse's **Operation Christmas Child.** What a wonderful ministry To quote one gentleman who contributes from away each year, *'I believe it is the most satisfying time of the year for giving. The little children need so much. I have been looking forward to this time.'*

