



THE PEW REVIEW

2nd Baptist Church

Calais, ME 04619

December 2010

RUN THROUGH THE RAIN

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Wal-Mart. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushed over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of Wal-Mart.

We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running and splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trace we were all caught in 'Mom let's run through the rain,' she said.

"What?" Mom asked.

"Let's run through the rain!" she repeated.

"No, Honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom re-

plied.

The young child waited about another minute and repeated "Mom, let's run through the rain."

"We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said.



"No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm.

This morning? When did I

say we could run through the rain and not get wet?

"Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'if God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes.

Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for

being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But, this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

"Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well, maybe we just needed a washing," Mom said.

Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked! But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

And, yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed a washing.

Circumstances or people take away your material possessions, they can take away you money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.

Don't forget to run in the rain.



Christmas is forever, not for just a day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to be put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.

The good you do for others is good you do yourself.



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS



THIS 'N THAT

Thanksgiving at the Church was a wonderful day filled with hard work, friends, and laughter. Janet Lovely headed up the dinner and did a great job. Over 160 dinners were served; some chose to eat here, some had dinners delivered to their homes.

For you who are out of town, you should come see our Christmas tree and the decorated sanctuary. Thank you to all who took part with the trimmings.

Pastor Matt, Rachel, and Josiah enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with his parents in

Nice to see Lara & Alena Marshall home for the long weekend. Almost time for a semester break, ladies.

Jim & Sally traveled to DoverFoxcroft for dinner. It was wonderful to be with the family, although we had four missing. Dinner was "elegant," as Issie would say.

Jacob Coburn has been home visiting with his parents and Gram Issie.

Wendy Putnam was in S.Carolina recently to see her son Tony graduate from Marine boot camp. Congrats, Tony, and good luck.

Merry Christmas from Pastor Matt, Rachel, and Josiah!

This Christmas will be special for us in a number of ways. It's our first Christmas with Josiah (he narrowly missed it last year), and so we're looking forward to watching his delights as he tries to tear ornaments off the tree, eat wrapping

Sorry to report that Tom Doherty has again been a hospital patient. He is now recuperating at home.

Have you noticed the renovations going on downstairs in the first classroom? Kelly is preparing for a pre-school program. Good luck, Kelly.

The Trustees have taken the desk and computer out of the library to make more room. It does look so much better.

Brothers and Sisters for Missions have



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mas when we're not looking, and all the other things that one-year-old boys are wont to try. And although we'll have a few vacation days here and there to be with our extended families, this will be the first year that we have a little celebration of our won on Christmas day, so it's a good chance to start some family traditions. It's also nice for me (Matt) to be back in Maine for the Christmas season, and to see a healthy dose of snow during Advent. (Having grown up in Maine, December just doesn't feel "Christmassy" to me when it's sixty-five degrees and sunny, which would happen every so often in Colorado.) And this is also a special Christmas for us because it's our first one with all of you, our new church family. Christmas

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adopted a family for Christmas. We are thankful that our finances allow us to do this.

Keep Dalton Hanley in your prayers. Dalton sings with the group, "Golden Harmony" and was in a very bad accident about two weeks ago. It is still not known if he will survive his injuries.

Remember during this season of love those less fortunate. There are many families in our area that need support. If you know of anyone, don't be afraid to ask what you can do.....Thank you.

is, more than anything else, a story about Christ, and so its celebration begins and ends with the activities of the local church family. It is our great joy to walk with all of you through this special season in the life of our church, when we pause and remember if Jesus Christ. But Christmas isn't just about remembering—it's also about look ahead, treasuring the hope and expectation that God will be at work among us. Just as God worked in miraculous ways two thousand ways ago, he is still at work in our midst. Advent is traditionally thought of as the time of waiting before Christmas, as season hopeful expectancy on the brink of something beautiful. And so we too, this Christmas, wait together with all of you, knowing that God desires to bring about something extraordinary in the life and mission of our church.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 2 Ashley Marden
- Dec. 3 Betty Nix
Shirley Ray Coburn
- Dec. 10 Sharon Goding
- Dec. 12 Cindy Richendollar
- Dec. 13 Makayla Hodson
- Dec. 14 Mary McLellan
- Dec. 17 Karen Thomas
- Dec. 18 MayBelle Clark
- Dec. 20 Jeff Doten
Beth Doten
- Dec. 22 Carole Smith
Paul Waycott
- Dec. 24 Debbie Doherty
- Dec. 25 Linda Pagels-Wentworth
Pastor Chris Stevens
- Dec. 28 Nathan Marshall
Cooper Marden
- Dec. 29 Josiah Burden



NEW ADDRESSES

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There was a hound dog laying in the yard. An old man in overalls was sitting on the porch.

"Excuse me, sir, but does your dog bite?" the tourist asked.

The old man replied, "Nope."

So the tourist stepped out of his car. The dog ran over snarling and growling and bit him on his arms and legs. As the dog was dragging him away the tourist was flailing around in the dust and yelled, "I thought you said that your dog didn't bite!"

Congratulations to Adam & Tonia Griffin on the birth of a baby girl on December 1. Ami Marie weighed in at 7 lb. 8 oz. and 20 inches long. A sister for Katie and another granddaughter for Lewis and Debbie Little.

The Church Mouse

I was thinking the other day of all the things I do. I came to the conclusion that writing this newsletter was one of the favorites. Saying that, I began to wonder what I would write about this month. I asked Maxi if she would like to write a line or two, but she flatly refused me. My next attempt was Pastor Matt. He said he would and you will find his "meditation" in another part of this newsletter.

Now it wasn't as easy as one may think to have the pastor write "a line of two." I first had to give him instructions; nothing too long (he can get carried away,) nothing too theological (he can get really deep with his jottings.) I wanted something simple and heartfelt from Rachel and him. Now as of yet I haven't had a chance to read his entire column. Did he take heed to what I requested?



Some people ask me, "what's it like to work in a church and work for a man of God, such as Pastor Matt?" I tell them it's great...he stays in his office and I stay in mine. No, that's not quite true. I am very blessed to have this position in the church. Not only do I get to spend time with "Matt," I get to work with each and everyone of you in one way or another. Just by having you read my silliness each month keeps me in touch with you.

To change the subject completely—it's Christmas time. Do you have your shopping done yet? Not me. I really don't enjoy going into the stores and fighting the lines. I am thankful this year for online shopping and free shipping. I find myself procrastinating over what to get for whom and the days go

by and nothing gets ordered. I always take note on the computer screen. It will tell me the last day I can order and still get it by Christmas.

Well, I guess this is it for this month. I need to get my ordering done, purchase bags so I don't need to wrap, and get the white tissue paper to make it look fancy.

You have a Merry Christmas. Remember—Jesus is the reason for the season. It's not all gifts and food. We have so much more to be thankful for, each day of our lives.

