

THE PEW REVIEW



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2014

CHRISTMAS - A TIME OF JOY

Give us understanding

And teach us to be kind

So we may judge all people

With our heart and not our mind

And nay the "spirit of Christmas"

Remain throughout the year

To warm our hearts with kindness

And fill our days with cheer.



(Helen Steiner Rice)



GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH

In his book, "Intense Moments with the Savior," Ken Gire draws attention to the gifts that the wisemen presented to Jesus. We know the wisemen arrived much later to see Jesus, approximately two years after He was born, because Herod slaughtered all the children that were born in Bethlehem from two years old and under. (Matthew 2:16, 17)

After the wisemen left Joseph and Mary, that night the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, "Get up...take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." (Matthew 2:13)

Ken Gire imagines Joseph bolting upright in bed, heart pounding, and shakes Mary awake and tells her his dream.

Mary throws off the covers and gets Jesus and they gather up what little food and personal belongings they have. Joseph realizes they have no money to go to Egypt and then he realizes that God had gone before them. He gathers up the gifts that the wisemen had given them and realizes God had provided what they need in a marvelous way.

(Ken Gire)





THE CHURCH MOUSE (by Maudie)

How do you like my new hat? I just love it....got it at a craft fair downeast, don't ask me where, I don't remember.

Maxi and I have attended every fair in the county these past few weeks.

Do you know how much fudge one can consume before Christmas? Well, never do I. I do know that my favorite jeans no longer snap over my belly button; what does that tell you? Maxi thought that was funny until she tried on her winter sweater.....didn't fit either. We both love that homemade fudge. Yummy; delicious! My favorite is Rocky Road with the marshmallows and nuts. I can nibble one of those pieces down in 5 minutes flat and look for more. My belly aches sometimes from eating that stuff.

So did everyone have a good Thanksgiving? Again, another place that we eat too much. Give me mashed potatoes and gravy and I am set for the week. Maxi makes the best gravy so I always ask her to do mine, too. Such a good friend, don't know what I would do without her. It's good to have friends but it's even better to have friends that can cook.

I understand some folks have been knitting mittens. I overheard Heidi talking about this. She didn't know I was behind the curtains. Well, anyway, she's going to put some on the table. Any kids or adults that need a pair can pick them up. Just leave it to Heidi. She's always doing good stuff.

I don't know of another thing that's going on in my little world that would interest you, so "good-bye" for this month. Smile...people will wonder what you're up to. Oh, have a Blessed Christmas !!!!!

DIACONATE

The Diaconate Board has changed their meeting time from the 2nd Wednesday of each month to the 2 Sunday of each month, directly after morning worship.

At a recent meeting they determined the number of Thanksgiving baskets to be given.

Today they will do more Advent planning.

Hospitality & Service Team

This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All meetings begin with a pot luck dinner because we are Baptist.

This month we voted to give a gift of \$20 to the Heifer Group. This will purchase a flock of chickens for families in Zambia. We also gave money to the school on Palmer Street to help with their Christmas program.

All shoeboxes were checked and put in Sally's car for delivery to Baileyville. From there they go to Maryland for world-wide distribution. We had a total of 110 boxes. Thank you, everyone!!!! Yipee!!!!



Church 2014
Christmas



Our beautiful
Miss Lydia...

KETCHUP

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle.

During her struggle the phone rang, so she asked her 4 year old to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mummy."



Then she added, " Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Our men can
"really" sing...
Really!!!!



**IF YOU JUDGE PEOPLE YOU
HAVE NO TIME TO LOVE
THEM.**

Love

A reminder for THE TEAM...
We will meet on Dec. 9 at 6pm
for a Christmas Pizza Party.
Desserts will be furnished for
you. No need to bring a dish to
share...we are treating our-
selves for
the season.



Christmas on the Baptistry



THIS 'N THAT

Cecil Moreside has returned home after a lengthy stay at the hospital. Hope to hear he's feeling better.

Doug & Mary McLellan recently enjoyed a visit with their daughter Laurie and family in Casco.

I had a great telephone chat with MayBelle Clark awhile ago. She wants everyone to know she is thinking of you and she is doing fairly well. She fell and broke her wrist which has given her some problems. Other than that she was in good spirits.

Edmund Cassidy, MayBelle's son-in-law in now cancer free after surgeries and treatments.

Irene Gallway underwent eye surgery in Portland a few weeks ago. She is doing well; answered prayers.

Elaine Trainor had a new adventure recently. She volunteered to take the Uth Group to STRIVE which is held in Bangor each year. The kids had a wonderful time and were truly blessed. Elaine? She also was blessed by the event but says she is now too old to be sleeping on a floor.

Nadine Stanhope sciatic nerve problems with her back. Hope you feel better soon, Nadine.

Josh McArthur got his deer the "easy" way. He waited for it to stand in the road and then hit it with his car. No shots were fired, and the car was not damaged. Not saying much for your hunting abilities there, Josh.

It is great to have Misty Gaddis back in church with us. We have missed her and the kids. Misty is now working at Dunkin' Donuts.

Rachel, our beautiful, smiling Rachel, expressed her joy and gratitude for having so much help with meals and kids while Matt was off to Hungary on a mission trip. I, for one, had a great time visiting one evening and had the opportunity to sit and enjoy the little ones. We had a great time eating pizza and reading stories.

Congratulations to Bruce and Sharon Goding. They are our newest members. They received the Right Hand of Fellowship at a recent morning service.



This is the back of my car after loading 110 shoeboxes for Samaritan Purse. Thank you to all who participated in this mission work.



Pastor Matt and Rachel share special music during the Hanging of the Greens.

Sorry to report that Alan Smith had a cancerous lesion removed for his head recently. Praying for good reports.

I recently had a telephone chat with Kay Urquhart. She is doing well and misses each and everyone. She is attending Bible Studies there at her residence. One of her recent pastor's was the son of Roy Pike former pastor of the Calais Methodist Church. It's a small world. Kay would love to hear from you; such a kind lady. I miss her. I do have one of her bread pans that I picked out of her Calais kitchen cabinets while she was packing to move. This was always be special to me because it was a gift to her from one of her son's. How lucky I am.

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Jim & I were alone for the first time, but that's okay because I didn't have to cook. Beth & Ted Sperdakos traveled to Bridgton to share the day with our 95 y.o. aunt. Carole & Alan Smith enjoyed a family gathering on Thanksgiving weekend. All her kids and grandkids were there. A great time was had by all. And our dear Pastor and family were in Pennsylvania to celebrate with Rachel's family. So glad they're back safe and sound.

Grampy Bill's Thanksgiving Dinner

This year's dinner was, again, a huge success. Over 500 meals were served by many volunteers.

Grampy Bill was not able to attend because of illness and hospitalization. He is now recuperating at home.

Under the leadership of his wife, Arlene, all went as planned. Over \$800 was given as a free-will offering. This money was given to Tristen Croman to help with his expenses as he fights cancer.



PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES

Trustees will now meet the 4th Sunday of each month directly after morning worship.

AND The Diaconate will meet on the second Sunday of each month directly after morning church service.



LET'S MEET OUR KIDS

This month I want to introduce you to Alexis Doten. Hmm, she must be a relative. Lexi lives in Baring with her parents, Troy and Joni Doten. This fifth grader at Calais Elementary School is very busy.

She is an honor student who loves math. In secret she says her favorite subject is "gym."

Lexi attends Sunday School here with her best friend, Cassidy Carr. In school she plays the flute in the school band, runs cross country, and is a cheerleader. Kids like Lexi and others to be profiled are our future. Please support our youth.

At home Lexi assists her mom in raising bullmastiffs dogs. A huge dog but very gentle with the kids in the home.

When you see this young lady in church, please say hello.

A BIG THANK YOU

My nephew, Fin Tracy, would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that sent him a card. He was so excited to receive his own personal mail.

According to his mom, he received 11 cards, stickers, and \$6. A great gift for this little man who has fought to be healthy all of his 5 years.

We have moved!!

Patty Gagner

104A Palmer St.

Calais, ME 04619

952-9137

Misty Gaddis

185 Union St

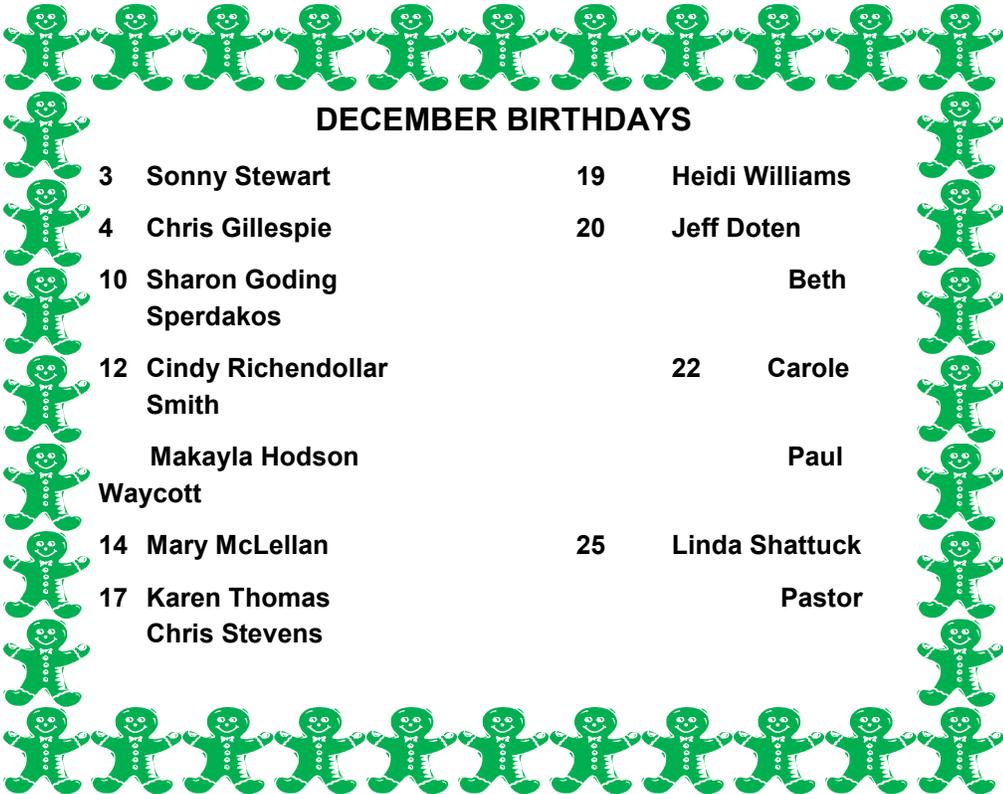
Calais, ME 04619

OK UTH GROUP
LISTEN UP.....
TONIGHT at 4pm—Dec 7
MOVIE and PIZZA
“God’s Not Dead”
In the youth room

HELP WANTED
 Beginning in January more help is needed in the Nursery during worship time. See Debbie Little to sign-up. This is the perfect job for  **YOU**

Prayer is like wireless access to God with no roaming fees

| DECEMBER PEOPLE | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Date | Greeters | Nursery | Junior Church |
| Dec. 7 | Lewis & Debbie | Josh & Tess | Kelly Hodson |
| Dec. 14 | Sandra W & Shelly B | Kathy L & Sharon W | Steve McFadden |
| Dec. 21 | George S & Pam P | Elaine T & Kianna P | Tammy Ginn |
| Dec. 28 | Jim & Sally | Tonia G & Misty G | Ruby Johnson |



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------|
| 3 | Sonny Stewart | 19 | Heidi Williams |
| 4 | Chris Gillespie | 20 | Jeff Doten |
| 10 | Sharon Goding Sperdakos | | Beth |
| 12 | Cindy Richendollar Smith | 22 | Carole |
| | Makayla Hodson Waycott | | Paul |
| 14 | Mary McLellan | 25 | Linda Shattuck |
| 17 | Karen Thomas Chris Stevens | | Pastor |

Did I miss your name...I am sorry. Please tell me again so you can be added to my lists.

Today's To-Do
 Say something nice to your pastor's wife. She has a hard job for which she is not paid.



A POEM ON THE NATIVITY

Lord, let your day be holy:

Let it be a means and a pledge of peace.

Make our prayer in words also in prayer in deeds:

On this night of the Humble One, let us not be haughty,

On this day of forgiveness let us not bear grudges.

On this day when God came into the presence of sinners,

Let not the righteous man exalt himself in his mind over the sinner.

On this day when the Rich One was made poor for our sakes,

Let the rich man make the poor man a sharer at his table.

On this day a gift came to us without our asking,

So let us give freely to those who ask of us.

The of Nature was transformed today contrary to his nature,

So it is not too difficult for us to overthrow our evil will.

Today the eternal God imprinted himself on humanity,

So that we might become the righteousness of God.

(Based on Ephrem the Syrian's Hymns #1 and #4)

Submitted by Pastor Matt

Things you don't want to give your husband for Christmas

- ◇ **The Anne of Green Gables Collector's Edition**
- ◇ **Any knick-knack**
- ◇ **Tickets to the ballet**
- ◇ **Yet another tie**
- ◇ **A Body Shop soap basket**
- ◇ **Teddy Bear pajamas**
- ◇ **A vacuum cleaner**
- ◇ **A pair of fuzzy bunny slippers**
- ◇ **A nose/ear hair trimmer (OK, well maybe)**



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