



The Hammond Streeter

The Newsletter of the
Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC, Bangor, ME

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Allen Doty, Ph.D.

Pastoral Assistant: Rev. J. Gregory Bridges-Music,

An Open and Affirming Community

November 26, 2018

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Phone: 207-942-4381

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd: A MUSICAL SUNDAY!
10:00 AM: BLACK BEAR MEN'S CHORUS



Sunday, December 2nd, will truly be a musical one! The Black Bear Men's Chorus from the University of Maine, under the direction of Danny Williams, makes a return visit in morning worship. Through the years, the BBMC has had a tradition of singing at Hammond Street during the first in Sunday December. 2017 marks the eighteenth anniversary of the Chorus. On Sunday, the Black Bear Men's Chorus will be bringing a mixture of sacred and secular pieces. The group, which includes over 65 singers, also has had a number of Hammond Streeters in the past as members. Participating at Hammond Street on Sunday will be seven Hammond Streeters: Larry Blethen, André Chassé, Terry Churchill, Ben DiSalvatore, Mark Doty, George Fricke and Larry Pile.

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One of the most popular aspects of coming to HSCC for the Chorus members is sampling our spread at Fellowship Hour! The men love our warm welcome and our food!

Following the reception, The BBMC will dash over to The Collins Center for The Annual Yuletide Concert at 3:00 PM.

Don't miss this special worship experience on the first Sunday of Advent!!

THIS SUNDAY AT HAMMOND STREET CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 2, 2018

PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Mark Allen Doty
SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:35-36
SERMON: "DO YOU SEE WHAT I HEAR?"

*9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
10:00 AM : Sanctuary Worship
11:30 AM : Fellowship Hour*

PLEASE REMEMBER

Bangor Rehab & Nursing:
Dot Simmons

Hammond Streeters at Home:
Barbara Brown, Sandy Farver,
Bob Young, Del Reidt, Thom Ronayne,
Rev. Dave Follansbee, Connie Kilcomins

PASTORS PERSPECTIVE

“Watching and Waiting”

Dear Friends,

We have come now to the edge of Advent and the first Sunday of the new church year. Advent has been called “a time of “watching and waiting.” Here is a reflection about the very nature of the season:

It is winter. It is deep night....Somebody is journeying home to you. The roads are icy, and the radio has been full of accident reports. You've been waiting for a long time. There comes a point where you can't bear just to sit there any longer; you go and stand at the window to watch for the light of cars. Every once in a while one appears out of the dark, and with your eyes, more than your eyes, you follow it up the long hill, around the bend, waiting to hear it slow down as it nears your house, waiting to see the little direction signal flicker a turn into your drive. But one after another, the cars all pass by and continue up the hill out of sight with stretches of silence in between them so long and empty that it's hard to believe in even the possibility of another car breaking that silence again—a silence too deep for any sound ever to well up out of it, a dark too thick for any light to pierce.

An hour later becomes an hour and a half, to two hours late. You try to find something to take your mind off it—a book to read, the dishwasher to empty, a prayer to pray—but there's just too much more of you involved by now than just your mind, and you can feel your face grow gray with waiting. Will the telephone ring like a fire alarm? Or will there be only more darkness, more silence? Or will your prayer finally be answered? So deep is your hoping that at moment hope itself drives back the night a little. And in your mind, if nowhere else, in the darkness of your waiting, what you hope to happen all but does happen. You all but hear a car slow down as if to turn. Can it conceivably be? Silence fills your ears, darkness fills your eyes and more than your eyes. Is it only inside yourself that somewhere you hear a door opening? The sound of footsteps in the hall? From some distant part of the house, some deep and distant part of who you are, the one voice out all the voices in the world you wait for calls out your name. Does it? Will it? Will the one you hope for ever come out of the hopelessness of such a night? (Frederick Buechner, A Room Called Remember).

In a real sense, that is what our Advent hope is about, and now we are watching and waiting for it to become real, to burst upon us.

Join us and the Black Bear Men's Chorus on Sunday as we begin to count down the days to the arrival of our “long-expected Jesus”!

Blessings,

Mark Allen Doty, Senior Pastor

TOGETHER PLACE OPEN HOUSE & STORIES OF MAINE EXHIBIT UNVEILING:

Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 5:00 PM. Special Guest New York Times best-selling author, Bangor High School graduate, Christina Baker Kline. Suggested donation \$20, more if you can afford it, less if you can't, (nothing if that's what you can afford) RSVP to: mariemmh@gmail.com or call 207-941-2907.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Order forms for poinsettias are on the back table in the sanctuary and are included with this Hammond Streeter. Please fill them out and get them returned to the church office or in the offering plate before December 14th.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

YET? We have an easy alternative to the stress of Christmas shopping GIFT CARDS! You may also email Joni your order at jonid@roadrunner.com. First order will be placed on **November 19th** that will be ready during coffee hour on **November 25th** Second order will be placed on **December 10th** that will be ready during coffee hour on **December 16th**.

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY BEREAVEMENT SERVICE:

At Northern Light Home Care & Hospice we understand how difficult the holiday season can be for those who have lost a loved one. Please join us for a non-denominational service created to bring people together who are experiencing grief and loss. **Thursday, December 6, 2018 at HSCC at 7:00 PM.** Refreshments to follow. **RSVP to Joel Wiggin at 207-973-8269 by December 3rd.**

WANT TO JOIN HSCC? Those interested in becoming members of Hammond Street Church are invited to meet with the Diaconate on Sunday, December 9th, at 3:00 PM in the Church Parlor. We will gather for refreshments and sharing stories of our spiritual journeys. New Member packets will be distributed and discussed. Pastor Mark will also explain what to expect when new member candidates join the church on Christmas Sunday, December 23rd. The Sacrament of Baptism will also be performed on the 9th for anyone who has not been baptized. If you would like to unite with this congregation, please speak with Pastor Mark.



BOOTHBAY HARBOR'S BOTANICAL GARDENS BUS TRIP:

Please make payment for your trip if you have not done so. Thank you. The bus leaves HSCC at 1 pm on December 8th and is expected to return around 9pm. We will not be stopping for supper. There is a restaurant at the gardens or feel free to bring a bag lunch and drinks with you on the bus.

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS COFFEE/TEA !!!

Once again our own Robin Aston, who loves everything Victorian, has invited the Coffee Group and any interested folks to her lovely home for a Christmas Coffee. **Time to gather is 10am on Saturday, December 15th.**

Robin's home is just up the street from our church at 15 Ohio St. and is absolutely delightful . She will open all rooms upstairs and down for our visual treat and special Christmas decorations. I can't wait to go back and see things I missed at the last coffee.

Pastor Mark will do a special Christmas presentation, always a highlight of the season, and there will be delicious goodies to warm our tummies.

If you need a ride or more information call Eda Morrison at 989-7786 or Berta Burbank at 947-6017.

All are welcome !

ECUMENICAL FOOD CUPBOARD: Is in need of some items. If you can help donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated.

Canned vegetables, pasta, soup, tuna, canned chicken. Thank you.

WINTER WEAR NEEDED!

The cold winds are blowing, and it's time to search our closets and drawers for warm winter sweaters, sweatshirts, or coats. **Outreach** is collecting clean, gently used warm winter outerwear to offer clients at our monthly **Free Bean Luncheons**. These can be any sizes from children to adults. Please deposit in the large bin at the back of the church or give to any Outreach member!



The Hammond Streeter
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P.O. Box 1106, Bangor ME 04402-1106 -

Phone: 207-942-4381

Website: www.hammondstreetchurch.org

Email: HSCC@midmaine.com

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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P.O. Box 1106
Bangor, ME 04402-1106**

Hey Fellow Hammond Streeters – If the Stewardship campaign and the holidays haven't emptied your wallet I have another option for you. How about a small contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation? I'm sure you're all familiar with this great organization, they grant wishes of a lifetime to children with a critical illnesses. You can learn more about Make-A-Wish here: <http://maine.wish.org/>

Maybe you've also heard about the Millinocket Marathon? Here's a Maine town struggling to reinvent itself after the devastating loss of it's major employers as the forest products industry experienced a major downsizing. So what's the connection between these two organizations? On December 8th I'll be running in the Millinocket Marathon in support of both. A friend and I will be running the half marathon as a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish foundation. Here's a unique incentive. In recognition of all those who worked in the North Maine Woods over the last 150 years to support these mills, we'll be running in full logging gear. Chainsaw resistant pants, hard hat, hearing & eye protection, high-visibility and a first aid kit. Our main goal is to raise enough money to provide a wish for one worthy Maine child - \$7,000. In fact, we're willing to carry a chainsaw for the 13.1 miles if you can help us out. To make a donation or learn more follow this link: site.wish.org/goto/mikerun

Thanks for your support - Andy



DECEMBER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2: Advent Wreath Lighting. Black Bear Men's Chorus in morning worship.

DECEMBER 9: New Member Tea in the Parlor, 3:00 PM. Diaconate meet with new member candidates.

December 14: Poinsettia order forms due

December 15: Victorian Christmas Coffee/Tea at Dr. Robin Aston's, 15 Ohio Street at 10 AM. All are welcome. Pastor Mark will entertain with a Christmas Story.

December 16: Carols in The Round, Mt. View Chamber Singers, 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

December 21: The Homeless memorial Service, 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

December 23: Christmas Sunday—New members joining! Poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM - Lessons, Carols and Inspiration!