



Elijah Kellogg Church Newsletter

December 2013

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HARPSWELL

IN THIS ISSUE

Soundings

By Rev. John Carson

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus..."

The days of Advent are upon us, days of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. With the church around the world we pray, "Come, thou long expected Jesus," and prepare ourselves to welcome Him who is for us the Christ, the Messiah, God's Anointed.

Christmas starts with Advent, which means "coming." In the coming Sundays, and on Christmas Eve, we celebrate the Good News of God's coming to be with us in the one called Jesus, who brings with Him God's gifts of Hope and Love, Joy and Peace.

For Christians, the Hebrew prophets promised these gifts, and pointed to Christ, long before Jesus was born. And for Christians, Jesus is the embodiment and fulfillment of God's promises to humankind -- even before the world was born.

This understanding of who Jesus was, and is, is found most strongly in the

Gospel according to Matthew. In Matthew "it is written"... that Jesus is the One whom prophets promised God would send to live, to die and lead the world to Peace.

I hope that you will join us in our "keeping Christmas" here at Kellogg Church, and that you'll bring your friends and neighbors. We'll look together at the promises of God, spoken through the prophets, and found, fulfilled and revealed in Jesus.

And then, I hope that you will join us in our "giving Christmas away" -- the hope and love, the joy and peace that we have found together, and in Christ -- to a world in need of God's Good News.

Grace and Peace.

John



Typhoon Haiyan Aid

On November 8th, a devastating natural disaster occurred in the Philippines. Thousands are without homes and hundreds of thousands are in need. Rev. Carson has spent time in the area and asks for your help in supporting two missions that will provide aid and needed resources to the area. For more information, please go to Page 5 of this newsletter.



Christmas Fair Success

The Christmas by the Sea Fair 2013 was a huge success! Kudos to all who helped and all who contributed. To see more details please view the articles in this newsletter please visit Pages 2 & 4. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success!

EKC Christmas Fair a Success

by Linda Clement & Ruth Smith

As Co-Chairs of the holiday fair, we would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions of time and energy expended to make the annual fair so successful. The day was wonderful! The fun and fellowship shared by all involved, and the happiness evidenced by those in attendance, were perhaps the most rewarding aspects of the day.

To date, the proceeds total \$14, 3000.84.

Thank you, one and all!

Linda Clement & Ruth Smith

Report from each table:

Baked Goods.....\$926.00

Dried Flowers.....\$740.75

Treasures.....\$2,176.19

Country Store.....\$1,033.60

Crafts.....\$2,005.50

Men's.....\$1,127.00

Luncheon.....\$1,557.70

Doll House Raffle.....\$2,365.00

Silent Auction.....\$2,922.00

Less Expenses.....\$522.90

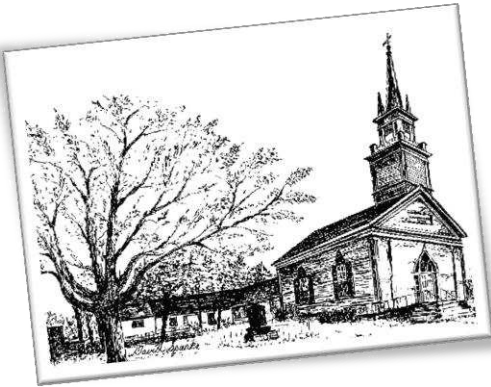
Total Fair Receipts.....\$14,330.84

Pictured below - Dollhouse Raffle winner Mary Chandler & her family.



Moderator's Challenge

Submitted by Dave Luce



At the Roll Call Meeting in 2012, Moderator Ned Pierce issued a challenge to the church to end 2012 with a surplus in the Operating Account. As you know, we did end up with a \$4,000 surplus. Each month I will provide the month-end figures of 2013 for comparison with the month-end figures of 2012. With everyone's help, we can accomplish our goal again this year.

	Nov 2012	Nov 2013
Income	\$134,627	\$144,208
Expense	\$156,065	\$153, 236
Surplus/Deficit	(\$21,438)	(\$9,028)

- A visit from Harpswell neck fire & rescue
- Miss Marnie playing guitar at the Orr's island library
- Miss Robin reads books at the Curtis memorial library in Brunswick
- Hiking Harpswell at David's way



HCNS Fun & Holiday Event

by Myrna Koonce, Director

The nursery school counts its many blessings this time of year, and high on the list is the support of so many people at Elijah Kellogg.

We are grateful that we were able to use the Fellowship Hall for two special events: our Fall Family Fun Night on November 9 and our AHA First Aid and CPR training on November 11. 58 people came to the Family Fun Night, ranging in age from tiny babies to grandparents.

Community connections and parent involvement continue to be cornerstones of our program.

Our activities in the past month have included:

- Walking down to David's way and then mapping the route using classroom materials.
- Mapping the way to the Cattle Pound by counting steps and recognizing landmarks.
- A visit from Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue's firefighters with their fire truck, which the children explored.
- Delivering cookies to Pastor John, Miss Cindy, and many fair volunteers on Halloween.
- Visits to Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick for a tour, story time and borrowing; and to the Orr's Island Library for story time with volunteer Marnie McFarland.
- Celebration of the Thai holiday Loi Krathong—making boats and floating them with lights and notes with good wishes.
- A parent talk, "Who Rules the Roost?", by Dr. Kevin Graham, psychologist and husband of our first head teacher Kathy Graham.

Looking ahead, we'd like to invite the congregation to our

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

11 am

Thursday, December 19th

The children will present a brief show and we will then enjoy a potluck together.
Hope to see you there!



Operation Christmas Child

A special thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox full of gifts and to those who donated money for shipping. This year we sent 27 shoe boxes and just over \$7 per gift to Samaritan's purse.

Thank you.
Ruth Smith



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUTH AT KELLOGG (YAK)

High School Yak is successfully underway, with a fine group that has been meeting every Wednesday from 5-7 since September. Each week tablecloths are spread, a candle is lit, and this mature group sits down to share a meal, while talking about their week, current affairs, and other timely topics. The fellowship among the youth has been heart-warming to behold.

Now we must ask for some help...if anyone is willing to donate a casserole, a pot of soup, pizza, a box of spaghetti, cookies, drinks, fruit, crackers and cheese, bread, a salad, or any other food item, please let Kim Merriam know at (207) 841-3145 or kim.merriam@yahoo.com. We plan for about 10 youth.

Please sign-up today. The sheet is located on the Missions Table in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much!!

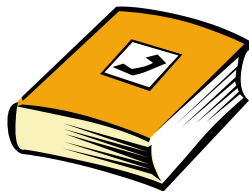
On-line Church Directory & More

by Allen Tucker

At the November 12th brown bag lunch, the men and women present recommended enthusiastically that every member's contact information from the church directory be made available on the Web site <http://elijahkelloggchurch.org> for all other church members to view and **use securely**.

It is important to emphasize that this information will be available only to church members, and not to the general public. If for some reason you do not want your contact information to be available in this way, please call Cindy at the church office (833-6026) or email by November 27th.

If we do not hear from you by the 27th, you will receive an e-mail on how to access and keep your contact information up to date on the web site and fill out vital fields (**such as website distribution method**), etc. If you do not have an e-mail account, please stop by the office for a sheet on how to access the directory from a computer.



www.elijahkelloggchurch.org



Photos from the Fair



Please support - One Great Hour of Sharing - Typhoon Haiyan Relief

by Rev. John Carson

On November 8th, a devastating typhoon struck the rural and fishing communities of the Philippines. Thirteen million people have been affected by the storm: 3 million people have been displaced; 500,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed and more than 4,000 people have lost their lives.

Please consider donating to two support missions already in place and serving these communities through the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Carson spent many months in these areas supporting the NACC, CMFEI and reviewing their mission projects.

Mission One—NACC

NACC is on the frontline of Philippine emergency and ministry relief, livelihood assistance and a childhood sponsorship program through their Caring Community. \$245 annually provides education and basic needs for one child. The program aims to help families in areas being reached by its church-planting ministry. In addition, the Caring Community supports pre-schools and kindergartens.

The mission is headquartered in Quezon City, outside of Manila. They oversee the work of more than 30 churches located throughout the Philippines.

REV. CARSON IN THE PHILIPPINES



Friends of CMFEI



Rev. Carson with Pastor Jun, NACC



Pre-school children of Apage Bible Church, NACC

The mission's goals are four-fold: (1) to support local pastors in their ministry to NACC churches; (2) to share the love and compassion of Christ through spiritual nurture and material assistance; (3) to plant Congregational Churches in surrounding villages and suburbs; and, (4) to help educate children and train them for future leadership in NACC churches.

Mission Two—CMFEI

For over 60 years, The Christian Mission in the Far East has ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of people in 24 provinces in the Philippines. The mission is headquartered in Manila and oversees 196 churches of varying size. Primary functions of the mission include evangelism, discipling, church planting, and training of pastors and church workers.

The mission operates Bible Schools that prepare men and women for teaching, work in mission fields, youth ministries, evangelism work, and pastoral ministry. Many of the graduates now serve the CMFE in various ways and have taken key leadership positions within the mission.

An orphanage, called Gethsemane Children's Home, is located in Edenton, Mindanao. The children there have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ and live productive lives with house parents. Most of the children have been referred for long-term care (until they finish college). The mission is also well known for providing pre and elementary schools that educate the less fortunate in remote areas where no access to education would otherwise be available.

Poinsettias and more...

Our Church will be decorated with a grand array of poinsettias and wreaths for the Christmas season. If you wish to have a plant(s) or wreaths donated to decorate the Church, please complete the form and place in the Flower Committee mailbox or hand to a Flower Committee member. The cost for each plant will be \$12.00. Wreaths, which will remain up for the holiday season will be \$10.00. Checks payable to "The Flower Committee" should be received by Wednesday morning, December 11th. You can pick up your plant or wreath in the sanctuary after the Christmas services.

Red: _____

White: _____

Pink: _____



Name: _____

Telephone # _____ email _____

I would like to have _____ plant(s) to beautify the sanctuary.

_____ I will donate _____ wreath(s)

Please list in the Bulletin as follows:

Given by _____

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Flower Committee members:

Linda Clement

Elizabeth Dyer

Linda Gillis

Pat Myer

Faith & Family

by Denise Perry, Christian Education Director

Our Fall Mission – Church World Service Blankets+ is underway through proceeds from our crafts and pie sales. But there are more ways of supporting this mission. November 24th was Blanket Sunday, but the

collection will continue until Christmas.

In addition to the donation envelopes, we have notecards available for only

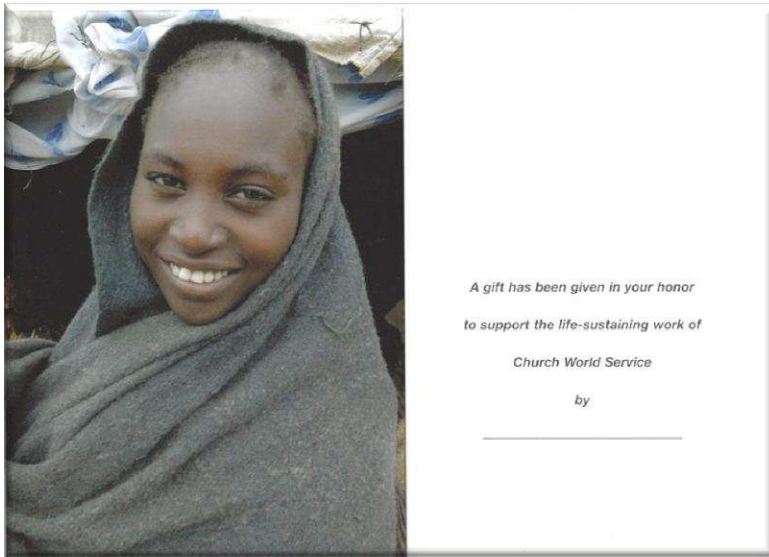
\$5 each (the cost of one blanket) that you can give in honor of someone. It's a gift that gives twice!

To purchase a card (or more) please call, email or stop by the Church Monday-Thursday from 9am - 1pm and speak or see Denise or Cindy.

Find it in your heart to give to this wonderful cause.

To learn more about this program, please visit –

www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/blankets-plus/



Youth Programs

Our Sunday School is growing strong. We have just finished our first season of the Spark Curriculum. I wish to thank wholeheartedly our teachers: Heidi Sanford, Susan Carson and Joe Mattingly for leading our children in faith.

We are now in the season of Advent. Each week in Advent, our children will be lighting the advent candles.

We will finish out the season with a Christmas Eve Pageant on December 24th at 4pm.

We invite you all to take part in this blessed event!

In January we will begin the next season of our curriculum. Heidi will be continuing in her role of Preschool – Kindergarten teacher but she will be joined by Kristie Freeman. Susan will continue to lead Grades 1 & 2. Joe will be stepping down from his teaching role. His gentle manner of working with the children will be missed. Please help us thank Joe for the work and dedication that he has shown our youth. Sharing in the teaching duties will be Carrie Bubier with responsibility of Grades 3, 4, and 5. Please join me in welcoming our new leaders. --We are still in need of an additional teacher for 1-2 Sundays per month.

Youth Choir, now known as the KC-JAM (Kellogg Church – Joy and Music), will be blessing our sanctuary on Music Sunday, December 22nd as they perform the anthem, "Glory in the Highest"

Middle School Youth Group has yet to begin. We are still looking for leadership for this group. If you have any interest in leading this group or helping with this ministry, please contact Denise Perry.

God is at work with our **High School Youth Group**. As well as enjoying fellowship with each other, they are doing good work for others. They continue to collect personal items for the Tedford Shelter. They just filled one box, help them fill another! They also have written touching notes in Christmas cards that were sent to soldiers through the Red Cross.

With Blessings....Denise Perry

Brunswick Lessons & Carols



Brunswick's annual Lessons and Carols Service will take place on

December 15th @ St. John's in Brunswick at 3pm

Come and enjoy readings and songs of the season, featuring a 100 voice choir (with several of our own choir members included) and the wonderful First Parish Bell Ringers.

(An \$8.00 donation is suggested.)



Christmas Eve Services at EKC

4pm	Family Service with Pageant
7:30pm	Lessons & Carols – Candlelight Service
11:30pm	Meditation Service



EKC IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES

Deadline for Annual Reports ---- Wednesday, January 15th

EKC Blood Drive --- Monday, January 20th

2014 Annual Meeting ---- Sunday, January 26th