



ROAD WORK

-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER-

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

November 23, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 5



This Week:

Sunday:

~Breakfast—9:30 AM
~Worship & Sunday
School—10 AM
~Thanksgiving
Meeting—11:30

Monday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM

Tuesday:

~Prayer Service—6 PM

Wednesday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM

Thursday:

~Thanksgiving—11 AM

Saturday:

~Gab 'n Grow—1 PM

Sunday:

~Breakfast—9:30 AM
~Worship & Sunday
School—10 AM

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps.

They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much that they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain."

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (CEV)

Economic Bailout and God's Investment Plan

From David S. Bell, former UMC Director of Stewardship

No matter how it is framed, the historic economic bailout is most likely not one of America's finest moments. By using extreme language coding, the response to the financial crisis has shifted from a *bailout* to a *rescue bill* to a *taxpayer investment plan*. How did we get in such an apparent financial crisis?

Corporate, political, and individual greed is a debilitating, perhaps evil, side of our consumption-driven culture. Greed not only implies excessive desire and consumption, it also includes the acrimonious manipulation of markets, institutions, and individuals. More importantly, greed breaks down the ability for people to embrace deeply committed, spiritual lives.

Greed is toxic to Christian values. Being focused on "getting it all" violates the first commandment and elevates money as a god in our lives. God instructs believers to be industrious and to make a living. At the same time, God instructs people that stockpiling money is not a central goal. Hoarding money will destroy our eternal lives.

However, money itself is not evil. Money is a tool that is to be used responsibly by God's stewards. Christian stewardship is essentially the management

of all of God's resources to accomplish God's will. Paul reminds us to acknowledge that money, like all our possessions, belongs to God in the first place. We are entrusted to earn, give, save, and spend it in a manner that brings God glory and honor.

Stewardship begins with an attitude of gratitude. At the Last Supper, Jesus first gave thanks as an act of gratitude before commencing the sacred meal. Gratitude serves as a source of strength. Gratitude grounds our perspective in one of abundance, not scarcity. It shifts our focus away from greed. When gratitude to God becomes our focal point, we are freed from the constraints of rivalry and jealousy.

Enormous debt as an expected outcome of daily living or corporate existence is largely driven by greed. It is a contagion that seems to have had an impact on all levels of our society, including colossal financial institutions and major corporations. The reawakening of human values needed to combat this cultural disposition is only possible through a different kind of life-saving bill. It is a rescue plan that encourages individuals to be knowledgeable about their consumer tendencies and their relationship with God. This bailout is a call to all church leaders to elevate the priority for effective year-round stewardship best practices. Finally, it is an *investment plan* in the knowledge of God's amazing grace.

Stewardship Sunday—Nov. 23

Your opportunity to respond to God's presence in your life comes officially once a year at OOB UMC. That Sunday, known as Stewardship Sunday, is typically celebrated in late November around the time of Thanksgiving—a natural time of year to celebrate all that God gives us every day.

This year is no different. We will take time to reflect upon God's goodness and respond

with Passionate Stewardship on November 23. Take a moment to reflect and prepare yourself for an honest response to God's unbelievable grace.





OLD ORCHARD BEACH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Along the road less traveled...

P.O. Box K
Washington & Fountain Avenues
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Phone: 207-934-5553
email: info@oobumchurch.org

Michael J. Gray, *Pastor*
Merv Sedlar, *Organist*
Members of the Congregation, *Ministers*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.OOBUMCHURCH.ORG

Components of a Wesleyan Stewardship

From Bishop Kenneth L. Carder

1. Christian stewardship begins with a gifting God who owns everything and who is present in the world as grace.
2. Christian stewardship is our vocation to share in God's mission of compassion, generosity, and justice.
3. Christian stewardship is an expression of love for God and neighbor, a necessary component of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and integral to the church's preaching and teaching.
4. Community with, compassion for, and commitment to the vulnerable and those who live in economic poverty are constitutive of discipleship and stewardship in the Wesleyan tradition; and economic justice is measured by what happens to the under-resourced and the most vulnerable.
5. Stewardship includes generous personal sharing and the development and support of institutions, structures, public policies, and strategies that provide for the holistic needs of one's family, the under-resourced, and the global community.
6. Stewardship includes vocational choices that contribute to life and the health and wellbeing of the human family and God's creation.
7. Christian stewardship requires simplified living by choosing necessities for everyone over excesses for the few.
8. Leaders who model stewardship in the Wesleyan tradition in personal practices and institutional involvement are critical to the Wesleyan movement.
9. Economy is a spiritual issue and all economic systems, policies, and practices must be critiqued in the light of the Bible's understanding of creation as a gift to be nurtured and shared rather than a commodity to be exploited.
10. Christian stewardship is empowered by God's grace in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who binds us in covenant with one another in anticipation of God's coming reign of compassion, justice, generosity, and joy.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 23—*After Worship*—Church Meeting to plan for Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Delivery.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance Programs for the Salvation Army—Dates for those applying for assistance this holiday season have been announced. Christmas applications will be taken:

December 1, 2, 3—9 AM to Noon

December 1 & 2—1 to 3 PM

Thursday, November 27—*4th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Delivery*—Delivery begins at 11AM and dinner will be served at noon.

November 30—1st Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of LOVE.

December 7—2nd Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of JOY.

December 7—Celebration by the Sea—This annual event sponsored by the OOB Chamber of Commerce is a community celebration complete with music, food, and a tree lighting ceremony. More detail to come.

December 14—3rd Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of HOPE.

December 21—4th Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of PEACE.

Friday, December 19 at 7:30 PM—*The Love Came Down at Christmastime Tour*—See Jars of Clay, Leeland, Sixpence None the Richer, and Sara Groves at The Colisee in Lewiston.

Wednesday, December 24 at 7PM—*Christmas Eve Service*—Join us for a special time of worship and warmth as we look celebrate the birth of our Lord.

January 2009—*Citizen Police Academy*—The OOB PD is accepting applications now for the second installment of this popular program.