



# ROAD WORK

-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER-

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**December 28, 2008**

**Volume 1, Issue 10**

## Fired Up to Help Those in Need

*From the Portland Press Herald—Dec. 20, 2008—By Deirdre Fleming*

### This Week:

#### Sunday:

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

#### Monday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM

#### Tuesday:

~Prayer Service—6 PM

#### Wednesday:

~Food Pantry—9 AM

#### Saturday:

~Gab 'n Grow—1 PM

#### Sunday:

~Epiphany Feast—10 AM

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

"GOD, your God, will outdo himself in making things go well for you: you'll have babies, get calves, grow crops, and enjoy an all-around good life. Yes, God will start enjoying you again, making things go well for you just as he enjoyed doing it for your ancestors."

*Deuteronomy 30:9  
(The Message)*

Although Hanukkah will be "low-key" this year at Temple Beth El in Portland, Rabbi Carolyn Braun hopes it will launch another celebration into high gear.

The "Keep the Oil Burning" fundraising campaign will begin in earnest with the start of Hanukkah on Sunday evening.

It is a concerted effort by the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine to raise money for people who would otherwise go hungry and cold this winter.

The campaign, created by Temple Beth El Executive Director Liz Rose-Cohen and Karli Jaffe of Jewish Family Services, began two weeks ago, but donations will be sought more actively with the beginning of the Jewish holiday.

"We thought, 'What can we do in the here and now, if we get a call for help right now?'" said Jaffe, assistant director for Jewish Family Services. "We thought of attaching a fundraiser to Hanukkah.

"The whole idea of when the

Romans destroyed the temple and only left enough oil to burn for one night and it lasted for eight nights – that is the miracle of Hanukkah. Wouldn't it be great if we could help families keep the oil burning? It's a good time of year to help. Winter has started in Maine."

"Keep the Oil Burning" is part of an emergency fund named in honor of Rita Willis, who spent more than 30 years serving Jewish Family Services and who died this past fall.

Because of the dire economy this winter, a greater effort and a more focused program were needed, Rose-Cohen said.

Jaffe will work with people who ask for assistance to help them develop a budget that will get them through the winter and the economic downturn.

"It feels like this time, to me, it's pretty clear we need more than the usual resources," Rose-Cohen said. "In my experience, and what I'm realizing as we're getting more calls, people don't ask if they are not in need.

"Therefore, if there is a need,

and if we are a caring community, we'll find a way to respond."

The idea for the stepped-up effort to raise funds this winter and distribute them in a systematic way to the most needy was born during an interfaith meeting Jaffe attended in the summer. At the meeting, it was predicted Maine's needy would face a tougher than usual winter, with heating costs rising and the economy weakening.

While the state offers some services, Jaffe said such resources can take a week or more to reach someone in need.

She and Rose-Cohen wanted to find a way to reach them sooner.

"This (economic) time we're in requires each of us more as individuals, and I think as religious communities, to be more systematic in how we are collecting from those who have (money) to give, and to distribute to those in need," Rose-Cohen said.





**OLD ORCHARD BEACH  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Along the road less traveled...*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.OOBUMCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.OOBUMCHURCH.ORG)

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## Upcoming Events

**December 28**—Christmas Sunday.

**January 4, 2009**—Epiphany Sunday.

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

**Monday, January 12—*Stimulating Maine's Economy***—Hosted by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, this Tax & Budget Conference will bring together many of Maine's key economic leaders to discuss topics such as Health Care, Education, and Tax Policy. Conference held at the Augusta Civic Center, 8:15-3:30, \$75. FMI—[www.mecep.org](http://www.mecep.org)

**January 25, 2009—*Pulpit Exchange***—Pastor Mike will be going to Goodwins Mills. Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson will be in OOB.

## 2009 ~ The Year of the Steward

The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Sometimes the work of a pastor is similar to Chicken Little. I think that God will ask us every once in a while to be somewhat alarmist, even when it seems like there is absolutely no reason to be. God uses it to shake us from our settledness and to try to set ourselves on more positive paths.

But sometimes, the sky really does fall.

In our case, it was the ceiling in the kitchen. Before that, it was a pipe in the Food Pantry. We've also had trees fall, thermostats break, furnaces act up, copiers stop working, and any number of other events that would make Chicken Little run around with a sore throat from all the screaming.

But, I have hope that God is using all of these things to carefully and gently move us in a positive direction.

### What to do

There is a lot of work to be done—and not just on physical plant of the building. We are also in need of growth in the leadership of the Church as well as spiritual growth for all members and non-members alike. We need to look at the resources that we have and ask

God what we should do with them and then act accordingly. In other words, we need to become good stewards of ALL that God has given to us.

### First Steps

The transformation that God is creating is a process that will take time, effort, and sacrifice. The first steps of that process involve preparation. That's why I am officially naming 2009 at the "Year of the Steward".

Over the next 12 months, I am asking that we concentrate on creating a 3-, 5-, and 10-year plan that will look to the future while recognizing where we are and where we have been. It will need to be realistic in its goals, but also something worthy of God's attention and blessing.

### What Next

Over the next few weeks, I will be trying to outline a few ideas that God has given me, but this process is not about me. This is about God's calling on your lives as seen through the community of Old Orchard Beach. Talk it up! Share! Listen! And be on the look out for small chickens with loud voices.

## Epiphany Feast—January 4—Again!

Our annual Epiphany Feast is coming tight up and I have been asked to remind people of the "rules":

- We will be eating—come hungry
- We will be celebrating—come with joy
- We will be exchanging gifts—bring one gift to be given to anyone of any age, preferably homemade

This is a time of celebration and thanksgiving when we can look at all that God has given to us with a humble heart and start off the new year right.

### What exactly is Epiphany?

Epiphany is the last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas and, as such, falls on January 6. We celebrate Epiphany in the Church on the Sunday closest to January 6.

Epiphany has different meanings in different faith traditions. Here in the West, we typically mark the arrival of the Magi from the East to visit the child Jesus. In scripture, the arrival of the Magi could have happened as long as two years after the birth of Jesus Christ and most certainly did not happen

while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem.

The earliest records of Epiphany are from the Eastern Church where Epiphany is known as the Feast of Theophany (Greek word for "divine manifestation"). Epiphany is a Feast Day in both the Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic churches as well as many other Protestant denominations.

There are many traditions, customs, and rituals held on that day, including the chalking of the door posts with the initials of the three Wise Men. Other traditions include the Blessing of Waters, a strict fast day known as Paramony, and various other fasts, feasts, and blessings.

### In Closing

Please plan to come and enjoy our annual Epiphany Feast on January 4. Don't feel that you have to bring a gift—the gift of everyone's presence will be more than enough. But if you do wish to bring a gift, please try to bring something homemade. If you absolutely must purchase something, spend as little as possible. It is not the gift that is important; it's the act of giving.