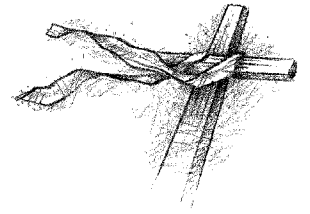




The

Antenna



News of the Bridgton Christian and Missionary Alliance Church
March, 2009



Women of the Word (W.O.W.) Event

March 20-22, 2009

Marriott, South Portland

See details on flyer inside or
call Brenda Lamb at 647-2641 or
Linda Pendexter at 583-4395.

AWANA

March 17 - *Everyone Wear Green*

April 25 - *AWANA Grand Prix*
1:00 p.m.

Any child from 1st grade through 12th and AWANA leaders are welcome to participate. Rick Hagerstrom will be our MC and the Supreme Court Jesters will present the Gospel Message in an entertaining and thoughtful way. The car kits cost \$5.00 each. Please see Debbie Dean for more information.



Daylight Savings Time Ends March 8

Remember to set your clocks an hour ahead on Saturday night, March 7th!

From the Director of Discipleship....

What Does it Mean to Be a Disciple of Christ?

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Matthew 28:18-20

Disciple Making Ministries is the C&MA's title for Christian Education. It is an appropriate name, far more descriptive of what we do, and what we are about. We are to be making disciples of Jesus Christ. The question we must ask ourselves periodically as a reminder is what exactly is a disciple? If we are to be a disciple, it is imperative that we know what a disciple is. The Random House College Dictionary defines a disciple as a noun as, "any professed follower of Christ in His lifetime. A pupil or adherent of another; follower." As a verb disciple is defined as, "to teach, train." The Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education edited by Michael J. Anthony says of discipling that it is an "Investment of concentrated time, energy, and attention in a relatively small number of students by a spiritual formation leader to facilitate Christ-like qualities. Disciple making as a New Testament notion is at the heart of the Great Commission of Jesus, expressed in his final words from the Gospel of Matthew: "Go, therefore, and make disciples." This command certainly implies conversion. But based on the ministry of Jesus, it was intended to move beyond initial salvation and produce holy character, vital service in the world, and involvement in Christian community." (pg. 209)

We also have several definitions and explanations of what a disciple is from our main source of instruction, the Bible. In Matthew 10:32-39 we learn from Jesus, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." We can also read the Gospel of Luke to find a similar explanation from our Lord.

**THEREFORE
GO
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations.**

MATTHEW 28:19



Continued on next page....

In these explanations of what a disciple is, we learn that there is a cost to being a disciple of Christ. It isn't an easy road to walk if we truly want to be followers of Christ. In the Matthew passage quoted above we learn from Jesus that he didn't come to bring peace, but to stir things up. Why would we expect it to be any different today? Jesus teaches us even more about the cost in Luke 14:25-35, "Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." When we choose to truly be disciples of Jesus, we really must weigh the cost. We cannot go into this relationship blindly believing that all will be easy and wonderful for us. Jesus also tells us that as His disciples our lives on earth will become more difficult as time moves on. We hear from Him again in Luke 21: 12-17, "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life."

Yes there is a cost, but you will notice at the end of the previous quote in Luke 21 there is a great reward for those who choose to be a disciple of Christ. We will gain eternal life for standing firm against all that is out in the world ready to hurt us. There is no greater gift. In John 8: 31-32 we read, "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The things of this earth do not have control over us when we are Jesus' disciples. We know that things of the earth are fleeting, and therefore cannot influence our future as strongly. A well rounded life as defined by the world's standards has us being accepted by others, even looked up to by others. Jesus tells us clearly, however, that if we are truly His followers and living our lives for Him we will be ridiculed and rejected by the world. We have one another to lean on, to help us along the way, just like the first disciples of Jesus. Jesus told us to stay together because we would need one another, but also because we can be a testimony to His love by ours. In John 13:34-35 we read, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Try as you might you will not get this kind of love and support from non followers of Christ. They may love you, but they will never fully understand or relate to you.

As disciples' of Christ we have a connection to our Creator in a way others do not. We are intimately tied to Christ because of His love for us and ours for Him. As a result of this connection we can have a positive influence on this world by living for Him. Jesus tells us in John 15:5-8, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If any one does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away with others; such branches are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."



In Service to Our King,

Debbie Dean

A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a fourth grader at a public elementary school. However, when the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shooed him outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said, • **'Don't feel bad fella'...they won't let ME in either'**.

Prayer Requests From Our Congregation

Prayer requests are taken from the Sunday bulletin. Additional requests (and updates) are always welcome.

It is the policy of the Bridgton Alliance Church not to publish congregation prayer requests in unsecured areas of the internet. Members of the church who would like a copy of the prayer list may contact the church office. Thank you!



Please remember to pray for Peter and Laura Marshall of Uruguay. The following is their prayer letter from the Alliance website:

Peter and Laura Marshall Missionary to Uruguay Service Begin: 07/01/1988

Dear Family and Friends,

We are Peter and Laura Marshall, Nicole, Rachel, Sara and Nathan....serving with the CMA here in Rivera Uruguay...

While many of you on this Thanksgiving day are preparing Turkey dinners and special family times together, we wanted to share with you several of the blessings of this past month for which we are THANKFUL for.... We are THANKFUL for safe travel back to the field and for the Lord's help in adjusting to a new city and ministry. In July of this year returned to Uruguay after a one year HA in Ohio. This time we returned to a new city and ministry-Rivera where 5 of our 8 Alliance Churches here in the country are located. We are presently working in the "mother" church along side of a national Pastor and his wife. We are THANKFUL for your prayer support as we have looked for housing and adjusted to a new city, culture and ministry.

Our main ministry focus this year in Rivera will be to help the Uruguay National Church decide in which city they will start a new church next year. We are THANKFUL for the missions team that the National church has formed in order to investigate the different cities. It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to work together with the National church in this area. The team made up of 2 Uruguayan pastors and Peter have traveled around the country in these past few months visiting primarily 3 different cities, getting to know the cities, interviewing Pastors and praying for God to guide them in their decision. We are THANKFUL for your prayer support as the team travels in these days for one last final look at the 3 cities. In the first week of December, the National church will make their final decision. We are THANKFUL for our children and for adjustment they have all been able to make in these last couple of months. The month of August found all of our children traveling back to school... Our oldest daughter Nicole returned to Geneva College in Beaver Falls PA for her Junior year. Rachel returned to Wheaton College in Chicago for her Sophomore year. We are THANKFUL for all the help and support that many of you gave to help them return to college and get settled after we had left for the field.

At the end of the month, Sara and Nathan returned to the Alliance Academy in Quito Ecuador. Sara is now a Senior playing soccer and filling out college applications. Nathan a junior has done really well playing defense for the schools soccer team. Both have enjoyed returning to the dorm and getting reacquainted with their dorm brothers and sisters. We are THANKFUL for the dorm and the new dorm parents that have helped Sara and Nathan get settled and readjusted to the school.

We end this letter THANKFUL for the prayer support , encouragement and financial support that has made our ministry here in Uruguay possible.

Blessings,
Peter, Laura Marshall and family (from cmalliance.org)



MOPS Schedule

Mothers of Preschoolers

Upcoming Schedule

Our MOPS group continues to meet the second Wednesday of every month (snow date is fourth Wednesday) for breakfast and a special program. We start at 9:00am and finish up at 11:30am.

The group also meets for Bible Study the first and third Wednesdays, from 9:00am to 10:30am (no breakfast on Bible Study days.)

The group seeks to develop friendships and provide support for moms with preschool children.

Upcoming Activities:

- March 4 NO Bible Study
- March 11 Organization and Craft Project
- March 18 Bible Study
- April 1 Bible Study
- April 8 Veggies 101 and Planting
- April 15 Bible Study

— Debbie Dean

Change of E-mail Address for Antenna Information

Information for the newsletter may be emailed to Jamie Basile at jamiemasile@myfairpoint.net (this is a new email address—please add it to your email contacts or my monthly reminders may not be accepted by your server! Info can also be put in Jamie’s box “M03” at church.

The deadline for the April, 2009 edition is Tuesday, March 24.

2009 Deaconess Update

Deaconesses for 2009 at Bridgton Alliance Church are:

Linda Pendexter - Head Deaconess, Karen Boon, Robin Edwards, Maria Hurley, Lillie Knight, Florence Maddocks, and Chris Vaillancourt.

If you know of someone in our church that needs a meal because of sickness or injury, please let Linda Pendexter, Robin Edwards or the church office know of your need. Thank you!



Alliance Youth Fellowship Guest Speaker

Rick Hagerstrom will be the guest speaker at Youth Group next week, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. He will be speaking on opportunities at summer camp. This will be interesting so be sure to be there!

Looking Ahead to Easter Sunday, April 12th...

Rev. Paul Veit will present “A Walk with Christ to the Cross and the Empty Tomb”



Lenten Soup Lunches are held every Wednesday of Lent at St. Joseph’s Church, beginning at noon. On Wednesday March 18th, Bridgton Alliance church will be providing the soup for the luncheon. All are welcome!

April 5th at Bridgton Alliance— Chosen People and Edie Piper

Sunday, April 5th promises to be an exciting day. In the morning service, Randall and Luda Ford with Chosen People will speak on the Messiah and the Passover. That evening at 6:00 p.m. Edie Piper will be in concert at the church. We will have soup and sandwiches that evening in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars for this special day!



Bridgton Alliance Church

368 Harrison Road, Bridgton, ME 04009
647-2027—www.bridgtonalliancechurch.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service, Bible Discovery Zone and Nursery Care—9:00 a.m.

Staff

Pastor Ed Boon—pastor@bridgtonalliancechurch.org
Debbie Dean, Director of Discipleship—discipleship@bridgtonalliancechurch.org
Pat Burgess, Office Administrator—info@bridgtonalliancechurch.org