

Christ is Born



FBC December Newsletter

Sundays

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Morning Worship

6:15 - 8:00 pm Youth Group

(For the school year)

Tuesdays

9:00 am Bible Study,

We are studying Job

Everyone welcome

Thursdays

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 3rd

8:00 am



Birthdays

December 4 - Lois Walker

1038 Dexter Rd., St. Albans, ME 04971

December 8 - Catherine Hardy

85 Main St., Dexter, ME 04930

December 17 - Larry Charles

3367 Finola Ave. SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 18 - Charles Akes

64 Railroad Ave., Dexter, ME 04930

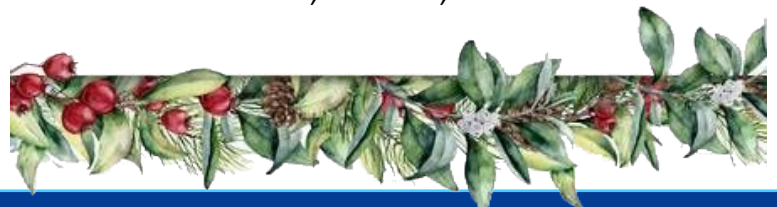
Anniversaries

December 1 - Catherine & George Hardy

85 Main St., Dexter, ME 04930

December 28 - Amanda & Andrew Bermudez

7 Free St., Dexter, ME 04930





We pray that it is with joy and fond memories that you welcome December, 2022. The church looks festive outside and inside and we have inviting opportunities for celebration and for honoring the birth of our Savior. Please join in as you can! And opportunities abound for helping others at this time of year. Be a part of making the season merry for others!

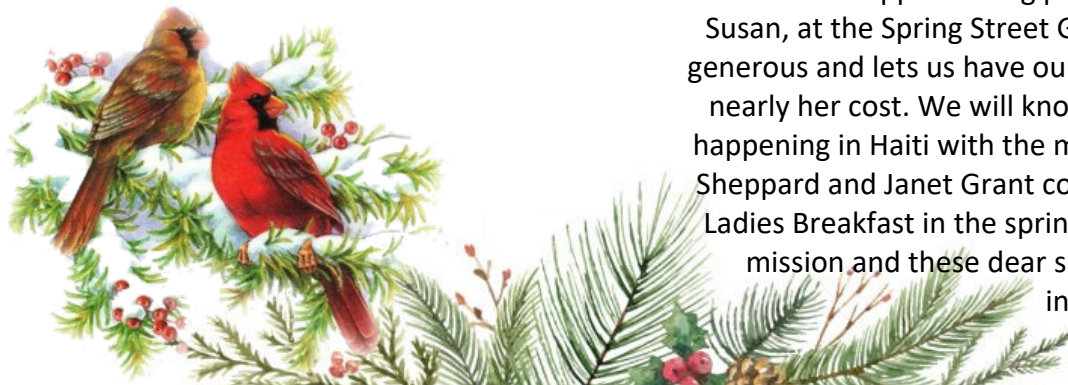
UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year our church family party will be held on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, following the morning worship. The timing is a first for us! Plan to stay, sign up for bringing your favorite dish. Join in the gift exchange (\$5 limit) or choose not to. Come for the fellowship and fun. Ethel Fern donated her piano for the Fellowship Hall so we expect there will be holiday music to enjoy.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA

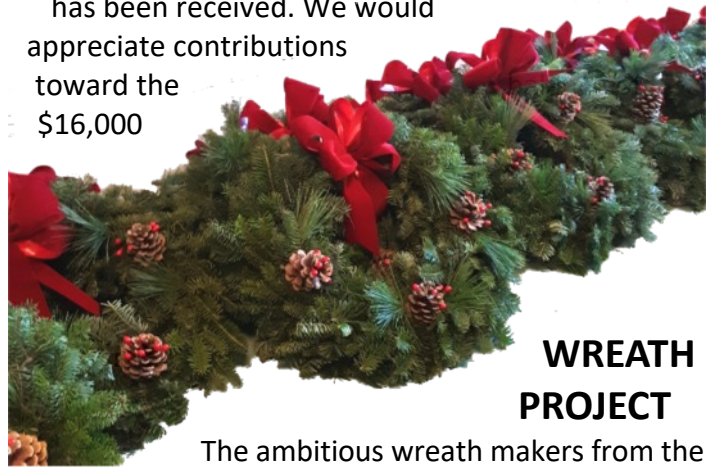
With 45 singers this year, we are expanding the performance to include Friday, December 16 at 7:00 PM. We will sing on Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18 at 3:00 PM. Plan to come early for a good seat! MANY new people have joined us, adding 3 new towns to our list for the Greater Dexter Community Choir. We will sing Pepper Choplin's amazing work, NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE. We have so enjoyed preparing for it and we trust your Christmas celebration will be richer for joining with us.



WORDS FROM PASTOR ANDREW

Andrew is encouraging us all to join with 8 other churches around New England to take advantage of a 2 year Bible reading. He will have large copies of the schedule for easily following along. This will begin on January 1. If you would like a paper copy of the Advent readings, please speak to Andrew.

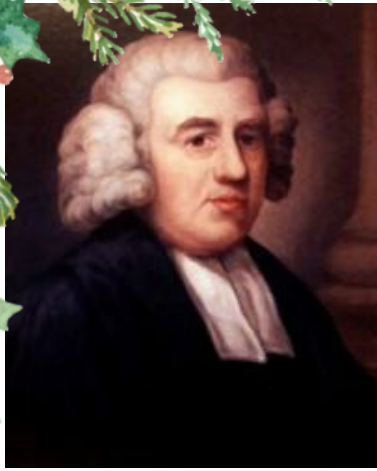
Thanks to Pastor Andrew's careful gathering of estimates, the heat pumps for the Fellowship Hall and for the downstairs, including the youth rooms, the hall way there, etc. will be installed on December 27 through the 29th. An anonymous gift of \$10,000 toward the total cost of \$26,000 has been received. We would appreciate contributions toward the \$16,000



WREATH PROJECT

The ambitious wreath makers from the Tuesday AM Bible study finished a total of 94 lovely wreaths! We are able to send \$1440 for His Light for Haiti! Praise the Lord, truly, for being able to help with the desperate needs in Haiti. This was indeed a labor of love, involving many hours of work.

Without the beautiful evergreen branches contributed by Don Swan and his family we could not do this project. Others in the church helped with super snacks, etc. We even had an anonymous gift of the bill for supplies being paid in full. Our friend, Susan, at the Spring Street Greenhouse is very generous and lets us have our wreath supplies at nearly her cost. We will know more of what is happening in Haiti with the mission when Laurie Sheppard and Janet Grant come to speak at the Ladies Breakfast in the spring. Please keep this mission and these dear suffering people in your prayers.



John Newton

(b. London, England, 1725; d. London, 1807) was born into a Christian home, but his godly mother died when he was seven, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. His licentious and tumultuous sailing life included a flogging for

attempted desertion from the Royal Navy and captivity by a slave trader in West Africa. After his escape he himself became the captain of a slave ship. Several factors contributed to Newton's conversion: a near-drowning in 1748, the piety of his friend Mary Catlett, (whom he married in 1750), and his reading of Thomas à Kempis' Imitation of Christ. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and, in association with William Wilberforce, eventually became an ardent abolitionist. After becoming a tide-surveyor in Liverpool, England, Newton came under the influence of George Whitefield and John and Charles Wesley and began to study for the ministry. He was ordained in the Church of England and served in Olney (1764-1780) and St. Mary Woolnoth, London (1780-1807). His legacy to the Christian church includes his hymns as well as his collaboration with William Cowper in publishing Olney Hymns (1779), to which Newton contributed 280 hymns, including "Amazing Grace."

Another of Newton's famous hymns is: "Glorious things of Thee are spoken." The lyrics were set to music by Franz Joseph Haydn.

The opening line of this hymn quotes Psalm 87:3 "Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God" (ESV). The theme of these stanzas is the universal church, and its story. The text begins with a vision of the new city of God (Hebrews 12:22) in the first two stanzas, and then looks back to the early journey of the Israelites, with references in the third stanza to cloud, fire, and manna (Exodus 13:21, 16:31). We are reminded through this of the long history God has with His people, and of the wonderful future awaiting those who are, through grace, members of God's family.

"Olney Hymns" was published in 1779. In that year Newton became rector of a church in London, and died there December 31, 1807.

*May you have a
blessed and joyous Christmas.
Our Savior, the Light of the world
has come! Glory be to God!*

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Form'd thee for His own abode:
On the Rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint when such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear!
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving, from their banner,
Light by night, and shade by day:
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray.

Bless'd inhabitants of Zion,
Wash'd in the Redeemer's blood!
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.
'Tis His love His people raises
Over self to reign as kings,
And as priests, His solemn praises
Each for a thank-off'ring brings.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show:
Solid joys and lasting treasure,
None but Zion's children know.

The hymn was referenced in the December issue, pg. 27, of the Tabletalk Magazine. This resource can be found on the table at the back of the church.

December Greeters

Dec. 4: Benita & Jerry Rudmin

Dec. 11: Lindy Gokas

Dec. 18: Joanne & Peter Prescott

Dec. 25: Kathy McKusick & Julie Saunders