

Reeds Mill Church

“The church’s object shall be to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God.” *Declared in 1892*

June 2016

Greetings Friends of Reeds Mill Church ~

At our annual meeting on June 12, those present voted to continue holding Sunday services in July and August at 2:00 PM beginning July 3. Here are the speakers for those Sundays:

| <u>July</u> | <u>August</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| 3 – David Smith | 7 – Mike Senecal |
| 10 – Susan Tierney | 14 – Ben Witherill |
| 17 – Doug Dunlap | 21 – Andrew Neal |
| 24 – Ken Hinkley | 28 – John Gensel <i>Old Home Sunday</i> |
| 31 – Carl Beu | (Potluck at noon, service at 1:00) |

We are grateful for ALL those who faithfully lead the worship services. Some on the schedule have been helping out for years while others not so long. Each always brings a blessing to the congregation and hopefully have enjoyed a blessing by being there. How lucky we are to hear the voice of so many whose love of God brought them into service, either as ministers or lay people. Thank you!!!! Pat Matulaitis, Paula Kane, Sue Borko, and Linda Taylor will take turns accompanying our singing on the organ. Thank you, too!!!

2015 found many people helping out at Reeds Mill Church. On July 11 Claudia Boucher, Paul and Marie Bubier, Mike Malesky, and Ginni Robie stained the new ADA ramp. Many hands made less work per person. Plus it was a nice time of just being together.

On July 19 our speaker, Mike Senecal, brought the singing group Greater Purpose. We joined them in singing familiar hymns such as Will the Circle Be Unbroken, I’ll Fly Away, and How Great Thou Art. And we were treated to their original songs, “Far from Eden” and “Here I Am Again”. It was such a treat to have this Christian group join us. We encourage speakers to feel free to bring along special music, drama or anything else that would contribute in a special way to the service.

On August 17, Richard and Hollie Rames graciously took a look at our ailing organs. Experienced with this type of organ but without the right tools (they only summer in the area), they were able to do some tweaking on both organs, but couldn’t quite get them both to work as they should. In September Michael Field and Camilla Cai tried their hand at repairing the newer organ (1916!) and determined it was a stuck C# and even figured out which stops would keep the squeal at bay as long as that C# wasn’t played. But they were determined to make it right and hired Gordon Large from Hallowell who was able to permanently (at least for the moment☺) take that squeal away. The organ behaved itself for the Thanksgiving and Candlelight services. We are very grateful for the interest and assistance! Attention will now be focused on the “old” organ (1892).

Also in August, gravel from the new pit in Madrid was delivered and laid down on the church’s driveway at no cost to the church. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Another gift last year was a 1/2 cord of wood delivered by Larry Knight. He read in a news article about the church’s annual meeting that people were encouraged to bring a log or two to the meeting. He took it upon himself to personally deliver the wood. Thank you Larry!

Finally, it was a wonderful surprise to read the essay written by Colby College professor Michael Burke in the December issue of Down East Magazine. It was a very sweet essay about the previous year’s Candlelight service. If you didn’t see it, you can read it on the church website (reedsmillchurch.org). As it turns out, Mr. Burke saw a different article in the paper about the church which prompted his interest in attending.

Also good news from last year, the “bugs in the belfry” issue seems to be under control. We’ll keep our eye on that!

In 2013 a memorial garden was established at the front of the church. The perennials seem to be holding their own. There is plenty of room for some annuals, though. Feel free to bring an annual plant with you when you come to service. We'll make sure it gets into the garden and is well taken care of.

In the past we've had some 'celebrity' speakers including Kate Braestrup and Peter Panagore. Is there someone who, when you hear them or read their words, you would like to have come to Reeds Mill Church? Call or email and we will see what we can do about contacting them. Our schedule is full this year but maybe with a year's notice we can invite that person to lead us in worship.

Old Home Sunday will be August 28th this year. This is a special time of celebrating the church, its history and its people. Potluck picnic at noon; bring your place settings and a dish to share. Also, bring your remembrances of times spent at Reeds Mill Church. If this will be your first Old Home Sunday, consider it a memory for next year's service! The service is at 1:00 led by The Reverend Johnny Gensel from the Dixfield Congregational Church.

*Another special service is our annual **Hymn Sing on Sunday, September 11 at 7:00 PM**. Bring a flashlight and your best singing voice for an hour of praising God with music. There will also be the traditional **Thanksgiving service at 10:00 AM (November 24)**. Finally, the **Christmas Candlelight Service will be held Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 PM** – another time to join your singing voice with others as we enjoy the carols of the season. **And BTW**, the Sunday before Christmas in 2017 will be Christmas Eve. Will you come to the 3:00 service if it's that day or would you prefer to come the Sunday before that one? Please let us know – it will help so much with the planning.*

The Reeds Mill Ladies Sewing Circle generously supports the church with the sale of their quilts and other handmade items. In the past year they sold seven (7!) handmade quilts. They also made AND delivered 20 lap robes to Veterans in nursing homes in Farmington and to Togus, most delivered on Veteran's Day, and donated 46 comfort pillows to the Martha B. Webber Breast Care Center at Franklin Memorial Hospital. It has always been a hard working group of women who have donated their time and have a wonderful time doing so! Are you interested in joining? ALL ARE WELCOME! Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month at 10:00 AM. A lovely time to socialize as well as work for the glory of God. If you would like to join or want to order a quilt, call Marie Bubier at 207-639-4666.

*It is difficult to adequately thank everyone who assists in maintaining Reeds Mill Church, which includes our trustees Pete Plog, Carl Beu, Claudia Boucher, Mike Malesky and Nicole Wakefield. That also includes YOU! The church recognizes the significance of memorial gifts, love gifts, and what goes into the basket each service. ALL of these sources keep Reeds Mill Church going. And although it is good to have the financial needs of the church met, the gathering of worshipers joining together to sing His praises and hear His word, to pray for one another and enjoy the fellowship – these together are **most** important. Hopefully you will be able to attend a service or two this summer! As you may know, if the church ever ceases to operate as a church, the building and land it sits on will be absorbed by whoever owns the land to the east of the church. Our goal is to keep the church going and going and going. With this kind of help, how can we fail???*

Visit our web site at www.reedsmillchurch.org to learn more about the church. Weddings, baptisms, celebration of life and memorial services, retreat bible study time and special services are all welcome. Reeds Mill Church does not charge for its use; however, donations are gratefully accepted!

If you have received this through the U S Postal Service and have an email address, we would appreciate having it; please send it to vrobie@live.com. Church information is all you will receive via email.



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