

Reeds Mill Church

"The Church in the Wildwood"

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Greetings from Reeds Mill Church!

June 2023

Here's the annual update of what's been going on at *"The Church in the Wildwood"*. Many words, but that's because there's lots going on!

2022

The Trustees voted on and adopted bylaws (aka standard operating procedure) for the church. There were undoubtedly bylaws when the church was built and, in fact, we know there were bylaws for the youth organization associated with the church at that time. However, none have ever been found specifically for the church. Bylaws are the legal guidelines an organization follows. Once they are established, they provide answers to all the questions that arise regarding the operation of the organization. These bylaws establish officers and their roles. The bylaws are posted on our website if you'd like to see what they say. If you read them you may notice there are a few open officer positions.....Worship Coordinator, Head Trustee, and Sexton. These positions are currently being filled by those who already hold other offices with the church. Please contact the church if you are interested in helping out with any of these roles. The trustees also approved a suggested job description list designed to make clear what all the officers of the church are responsible for doing. You may be surprised at what has to happen to keep the church going!

A mission statement was also adopted: *"To maintain the structure currently known as Reeds Mill Church in order to provide a house of Christian worship in Madrid Township, Maine for all who seek or have chosen Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."* It is truly our goal to keep The Church in the Wildwood going and going and going.

On July 10, Malcolm and Joanne Webber, long time lovers of Reeds Mill Church, were able to attend a service for the first time in many years. This was made possible with the help of their granddaughter's family. Christina, along with husband Paul and their children, were visiting from Ohio. They'd attended the church before and were glad to make sure the Webbers were able to worship here again. It was truly a blessing to see them and worship with them.

OLD HOME SUNDAY – It was a beautiful late summer day with about 20 people enjoying a potluck picnic. We had a celebratory cake made to recognize 130 years of this church in the wildwood. We had a special visit from Sarah Voter who was present at the first service in the building, Dec. 2, 1892 (played by Ginni Robie who now owns the house Sarah moved to in 1888). "Sarah" shared about the years leading up to construction and the years since. After, others also shared some memories of what the church has meant to them and their families. Marie Bubier, who couldn't be there, had a memory passed along: being in Sunday school taught by Rev. Nellie Lane at the Village Schoolhouse, and how Rev. Lane would drive the children to the church for the service, seating them in the front row and reminding them to be very quiet. And of course our worship leader, Laura Church, delivered a message very connected to our Old Home Sunday celebration, which can be heard at <http://www.reedsmillchurch.org/service-recordings.php> and scrolling down to August 28, 2022.

September was busy! We added 3 September services onto the schedule and were able to find worship leaders for those extra services. However, attendance dropped slightly in September, but we feel it is well worth providing this place of worship a little longer in the year. (Services this year will go through September 17.) We often did not have an organist, but happy to sing a Capella. Please let us know if you or someone you know would be willing to play for us this year, even once or twice. The annual Hymn Sing was Sept 11. We were very fortunate to have Robert Ludwig, organist extraordinaire, help us carry the tunes of beloved hymns. He also taught a Spanish Hymn. And The Sandy River Ramblers Concert September 25 was amazing! We enjoyed singing some hymns as well as listening to the classic "Boots from L. L. Bean" and "Slow Down, You'll Hit a Moose" They are scheduled for September 24th, 2:00. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Joy Williams and Chris Sill were joined
What a lovely couple! Chris had a dream



together in holy matrimony on November 5.
about the church he wanted to be married in.

Shortly after, he was looking on line for churches in Rangeley and the website included a picture of Reeds Mill Church. It was the church in his dream! Seconds later he was on the phone arranging to see the church and booked it. Best wishes to Joy and Chris!

Our Thanksgiving service was a particularly blessed and appropriate time to gather for worship. Our voices rang out with hymns of praise and thanksgiving despite the lack of an organist. (Did I mention we need an organist?)

On December 18, despite 20" of new snow and power outages throughout Franklin County, over 40 people found their way to the Christmas Candlelight Service. Fortunately, we don't need electricity to have a candlelight service! The theme of the service was JOY. Everyone had the opportunity to write down a joy in their life on precut letters. The letters were hung on our tree which became JOY-FULL! It was amazing how many joys we have especially these days. We were particularly joyful to have Phyllis Blackstone from Brunswick, who leads worship one Sunday each summer, play the organ for us. Thank you Phyllis!

2023

For the first time in the known recorded history of the church we held an Easter Service. We are certain as far back as the 1970s there were no Easter services. The sanctuary was bedecked with lilies, forsythia, and daffodils and the service led us through Easter week, from Palm Sunday through the Resurrection, mostly through the eyes of an imagined 9 year old boy, Aaron, who was witness to the events of that week. 27 people showed up at 2:00 on Easter afternoon to hear the stories, participate in Communion and sing the hymns associated with that time. I believe all who attended were blessed. And thank you to Jeff Wing for donating his time and energy to removing a winter's worth of ice and snow from the end of the ADA ramp.

With the pandemic behind us we hope you'll feel comfortable attending services. We'll start the summer off on July 2, 2:00 PM. Here's the list of worship leaders which include a few new folks:

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
2 - Steve Mitchell	6 - Thom Rock	3 - Tony Bachelder
9 - Nancy Ludwig	13 - Phyllis Blackstone	10 - Russ Karvonen
16 - Lorrie Aiken	20 - Ben Witherill	17 - Tom Saviello
23 - Doug Dunlap	27 - Laura Church -Old Home Sunday	
30 - John Lockaby	(Potluck Noon, Worship 1:00)	

AND OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

*The annual Hymn Sing will be September 10, 7:00 PM (bring a flashlight).

*Sandy River Ramblers - September 24, 2:00 PM

*So far, no one has signed up to lead the Thanksgiving service, November 23, 10:00 AM. Contact Ginni at vrobie@live.com or call 207-639-2713 if you have any thoughts about that....

*Christmas Candlelight Service - December 17, 3:00 P

ETC....

Ladies Sewing Circle

The circle meets the first and third Thursdays of each month, currently at Marie Bubier's home in Phillips. The Circle continues to support the church with the sale of quilts and other sewn items. If you would like to join or want to order a quilt, call Circle President Terri Plog, 207-639-3276. And BTW...many thanks to the Sewing Circle for taking a couple of hours each spring to clean the church – windows are washed, floors are swept, wooden surfaces wiped down. Let us know if you'd like to help spruce up the church next June.

We know there are lots of ways to worship.....do you have something special you'd like to bring to our service? Musical talent? Liturgical drama? Christian puppet show??? Let's talk!

A Question of Membership.... Back in the day, if someone wanted to become a member of the church, there was a probationary period when "applicants" would be assessed by a church committee to see if they were appropriate for membership and, if deemed so, would have been required to attend classes. (This same committee had the power to

take membership away.) At the completion of the classes they stood in front of the congregation, declaring acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. There would have been a promise to support the American Free Baptist Church as well as Reeds Mill Church itself. As part of a conference, the church would have been required to pay an apportionment to the conference based on the number of members. If the church did not have “enough members”, the conference could choose to close the church. Membership at Reeds Mill Church dwindled over time, and services became fewer. Folks who wanted to pledge their support to the church signed a book, declaring themselves members. The church became a non-denominational Christian church over 20 years ago, no longer a part of a conference. In view of this fact, the title of someone who attends services regularly and/or contributes to the church financially or in some other way became “Supporter.” Today we have many Supporters. Several don’t even live in Maine, have attended a service only a time or two, or just have a heart for the church. You received this newsletter either because you are a Supporter of the Church or have expressed interest in the church. Either way, thank you. Our expenses last year were over \$3000, which include, but are not limited to, Insurance (nearly half the expenses!), Worship Leaders, Organists, Fuel, Repairs, Legal Fees, Snow Removal, Advertising, and “Office” Supplies. Your offerings and donations enable us to pay all the bills and also put some away, because someday the church will need painting, inside and out, supports underneath will need to be replaced, and a new roof will be needed. Remember our mission? (See first paragraph) Today, and even more so someday, the dollars given to the church will allow that mission to continue. And BTW, we do have folks attending services who are members of other churches but want to support Reeds Mill Church, and we are blessed to have them!

FINALLY...

We are really looking forward to services starting up next month! To see folks we haven’t seen in a while, to meet new folks, and worship in this very special place. You are invited to be a part of services by signing up to be a Scripture Reader and /or provide Altar Flowers. There is a sign-up sheet for both next to the Guest Book.

Special thanks to our Trustees: Pam Searles, Naomi Henderson, Steve Mitchell, Sheryl Mosher, Mike Malesky and Tony Bachelder. They are quick to help in any way they can and are responsible for making sound decisions regarding the church. We have room for one more Trustee. Any interest?

Our website, www.reedsmillchurch.org, has all the info you need. Dates and times of services and events, who is leading worship when, recordings of services, the history of the church, previous newsletters and info about the Sewing Circle is all there. If you have ANY questions please don’t hesitate to email or call.

May you be blessed with good health, safety, and uplifted spirits.

Ginni Robie, Clerk for Reeds Mill Church

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If you have received this through the U S Postal Service and have an email address, we would appreciate sending future newsletters in that way it; please send your email address to vrobie@live.com. Church information is all you will receive via email. Let me know if you’d prefer a hard copy. Let me know if you would prefer to be taken off the mailing list.