



# The Webster Word

February 2009



Vol. 7, Issue 2



## Upcoming Events

Sun, February 1

11:00 AM – Communion Sunday

Sun, February 8

11:00 AM – Scout Sunday Service

Mon, February 9

7:00 PM – Webster Board Meeting

Wed, February 11

7:00 PM – SCCW – Highland School (see p. 3)

Sat, February 21

6-8 PM – Mardi Gras Karaoke Party

Sun, February 22

11:00 AM – Guest Pastor, Rev. Jim Bell, Sermon on the Sacraments

Sat, February 28

6:00 PM – Quarter Auction Benefit, Social Hall

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## Pastor's Message

Dear Partners in Ministry,

*Interim time, part 1:* The risen Christ ascended into heaven, leaving the disciples behind—now what? Well, their first impulse was to stand around helplessly looking up to where he had gone (Acts 1:11), but a couple of guys (angels?) reminded them what Jesus had earlier. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. So that is what they did. They went back to Jerusalem and gathered in prayer. They listened for God's call. When the Holy Spirit came among them, they began to proclaim the Gospel in powerful ways. (Acts 2:1-20)

Pastor Lonna retired—now what? Now Pastor Lonna was not Jesus and the transition from one pastor to the next is certainly not the same thing as the transition from the leadership of Jesus to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, the latter is a useful model for all transitions. Before heading off in too many different directions, it is helpful to pause and see where God might lead. So that is what I will be helping you to do. We will explore Webster's history, discerning the church's identity and identifying concerns that need to be addressed and hurts that need healing. Then we will be asking where the church is heading and what kind of pastor is needed to help it get there. The Spirit works through all of us together, and so all of us, all of our thoughts and hopes and dreams, need to be heard. It will be exciting to see where God will lead you next.

*Interim time, part 2:* Dr. Robert Sobel, Associate Professor of History at Hofstra University, says that the British created a civil service job in 1803 calling for a man to stand on the cliffs of Dover with a spyglass. He was supposed to ring a bell if he saw Napoleon coming. The job was abolished in 1945. Napoleon died in 1821. The interim is a good time for a congregation to take a look at how it operates. Does the way you do things still make sense? Are you organized in effective ways? Do you need to try new approaches? It will be my job to ask those questions. You will decide. It is also a good time to for each of you personally take stock of how you participate in the life of the church. Are you doing too much? Should you be doing more? Is God asking you to continue to do what you have been doing? Is God calling you to a new way of serving? It will be my job to ask those questions. You will decide.

The first help I will need from you is to find a time when I can make an initial pastoral visit with you. There will be a sign up sheet at the church or you can call me at 443-553-9172 to schedule our visit.

God's peace,  
Pastor Jim

PS: At this point, my wife Patty would be reminding me to say hello before leaping into work stuff. Hi. I live on the Chesapeake Bay with my wife Patty and two cats, Murphy and Ellie. We bought our cottage, thinking we would move there in retirement. We loved the view and playing in the water so much we could not wait. I left my position in Allentown on the Bishop's staff to doing interim work and Patty, a landscape architect, moved her practice to Maryland. It meant moving from a big old 3000' Victorian double to a 1200' cottage. Down sizing has been a very freeing experience. We are enjoying rehabbing the house and property. I will not run out of projects for a long time.

<h2>Message from the Moderator – Christian Leadership</h2>
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It is clear to me that one of the qualities present in strong congregations is their gift for living and sharing together as a team, as a leader and as a congregation. These three are a seamless unity; they are virtually inseparable qualities. But if we really care about the vitality, history and future of Webster Church, how do we make sure these qualities will be present for us and work for the greater good of the Body of Christ.

First, we must assure we have the ability to live and share as a team. That means we must

- Have the capacity to see the whole, not the parts
- Understand the diversity of our gifts
- Appreciate the gifts of a pastoral leader

We need to understand the value and importance of working together. The real spirit of a small, strong congregation is that everybody participates in the whole. There is no effort to divide people into parts.

As for understanding the diversity of our gifts we have only to go to the Bible. The biblical principle is that there is a diversity of gifts, not a hierarchy of gifts. No gifts are better than other gifts. No gifts are more favored by God than other gifts. Just as God loves all His children, God loves all gifts.

Also, in small, strong congregations there is deep appreciation for the gifts of a pastoral leader. Frequently, people say, “We’re looking for a minister who will come and love us and whom we can come to love.” When asked what they mean, they say they are looking for –

- A good shepherd in both sad and happy times
- A helpful preacher whose sermons help them make some sense of life and gives them hope
- A wise, caring leader who is part of the leadership team who helps the congregation advance its mission
- And lastly, they are looking for someone to be a pastor in the community

Let us look to the capacity to lead and what we as leaders need to do. And if we truly want to lead we need to

- Have the capacity for imagination and creativity
- Show the gift of encouragement and coaching
- Appreciate the steps of loving, listening, learning and leading

We have more leaders than we think we have at Webster and they have only to be developed, sought-out, encouraged and well matched to the work. We know we have modest resources and we never have enough money. But I am convinced God is always supplying us with new leaders and new resources to match our mission.

The current leadership at Webster sees the capacity to be a congregation together over the long haul. We are looking long term to the future to which God invites us. We intend to

- Develop and encourage competent leaders
- Add new people to the leadership team

- And advance a shared understanding of congregational leadership

In our congregation, we find home. We want to include everyone. We want to share power. We want to help each other. We know some members have the gifts of mission, some compassion, some community, some hope, some leadership, and some generosity. And God’s grace blesses us. So let us live and share together as a team, as leaders and as a congregation. We pray Reverend Wolford will seamlessly become a part of our team and bless us with his knowledge, his spiritual guidance and come to love each of us.

In this time of transition, the leaders of this Village church ask you to share your gifts, pray for the health of our congregation and understand our mission and each other. When we can fully dedicate ourselves to advancing God’s mission and knowing what He would have us do.

You have blessed me and the leaders of your congregation with the tasks at hand and we want to share our gifts with you. This is the continuity we bring to Webster as we strive for a strong and healthy congregation.

Ann Helton

## Trustee’s Report

The trustees are again grateful that nothing major has cropped up to challenge us. Plastic diffusers were placed over the clear glass in the office windows on the east side of the basement for better security. Work continues on removing the rusted-out 220 VAC wall heaters in the same area and replacing them with 120 VAC convenience outlets. The east wall in the minister’s office has been repainted to cover up the bare cinder block exposed in the process.

Mice continue to be a problem. Please take out ALL food scraps and put them in the dumpster after each function, including debris left in the sink strainers. Mice can easily get into the trash cans and will feed off anything available. We decided not to put out traps as they could not be checked frequently. Instead, extra poison bait has been placed in out-of-the-way places. Unfortunately, this will result in mice dying here and there. If you notice a bad smell, let us know where and we’ll try to find the body and give it a decent burial. We will add rodents to the list that our pest-control service targets. Please educate children to leave the bait stations alone. Regardless of all eradication efforts, always assume that everything has been contaminated by rodents and other pests and wash and sanitize everything immediately before use. Wash everything again after use and store it in sealed containers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Graham Silsby, Chair, Board of Trustees

## A Note from the Deaconate

As we start off this new year of 2009, it is important that we focus on the needs of our church and more importantly the needs of our congregation. Webster church has always been well known for its care and understanding of the needs of its members. The membership of this church has always been ready at a minutes notice to assist and come to the aid of any member in need. We are now in a situation that many of our members are unsure of their devotion to our church. The drama and chaos that seems to surround us in this time of transition seem ready to bring our church to its knees.

There is one important thing that we all have to understand, Webster church has been here for 85 years. This church raised itself out of total destruction when a fire destroyed it and it was rebuilt and reopened in 1924. As a member of one of the founding families of our church recently said to me, "this church has seen a lot of change in its time and

it will see it again". Change is part of the human experience; it is part of our daily lives. I know many of us don't like change but it happens and you will never be happy if you can not accept it.

We now have a new interim minister who is well versed in change and transition and has seen it take place in many churches during his career. It is important that every member take the time to speak with Rev. Wolford and let him know how you feel and what direction you feel Webster church should be moving.

We must once again become a church where we care for one another, and willing to serve the church and the members of the congregation. As Christ once said we must love one another as we love ourselves. That is the meaning of being of the body of Christ.

Gary Lyttle, Chair of the Deaconate

### SCCW

The SCCW January meeting was held on January at the Lyttle's home. We did our Burning of the Greens Ceremony 14<sup>th</sup> and Elsie-Marie Neiler presented a slide show about "Where do you find peace?". Activities planned for this year include a Joe Corbi fundraiser in February, a March Calendar of Blessings in March, Mother's Day Banquet on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, a Bakeless Bake Sale in July, and our Bazaar & Craft Show on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Put these dates on your calendar.

Our February meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM**, at the Highland School for a tour, meeting and refreshments

**The SCCW Joe Corbi fundraiser** will be during the month of February. We will hand out the brochures for pizza kits, calzones, stuffed pretzels, queso kits, cinnamon rolls, and cookie dough as soon as they arrive. Buy some things to eat now and buy some to freeze for later. Personally, I like the calzones better than the pizza, and they are so easy to fix on a busy evening. This is a good fund raiser for us. Please give us your support.

The **initial orders are due February 18<sup>th</sup>**, but I can take **additional orders until February 25<sup>th</sup>**. **Delivery is Saturday morning of February 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**Make checks payable to SCCW.** Please help us raise funds so we can meet our next pledge to Webster Church.

Doris Lyttle

## Village News

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all of us celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month. An old 60's song - "Where have all the people gone?" was the buzz around the village. Greener pastures! Speaking of which - robins were spotted in the backyard a week before Christmas. They must have been confused. Although, after this arctic blast in January, we are ready for spring weather!

Anniversary wishes are sent to my daughter and her husband - Kathy and Don - who will celebrate 20 years of wedded bliss. I am proud to say that combined, they help keep our streets free from crime.

Concerns are sent to my daughter-in-law, Heather. Her grandmother is gravely ill in Virginia. She is over 100 years old.

Continued get well wishes are for Martha Hancock, Bob and Marge Altvater, Evelyn Simkovich, and You-Know-Who - who wishes to remain anonymous. Back to kickboxing yet?

A word of advice for all those over 60: Please consult with your physician about getting a shingles

shot. My trip to the Critical Care Unit of the E.R. on the 30th of December almost cost me the sight of my left eye (I was misdiagnosed with pink eye the day before). Yes, I have shingles all over the left side of my face, left back side of my head, and left side of my neck. With aggressive treatment, I am regaining the sight slowly of my eye. This is a warning! Someone out there may not be so lucky. It usually strikes around the torso. Not always! Once I am fully recuperated, I must get the shot one year after my immune system is built back up, because I can get it again. My mother who is 86 just had the shot and did fine. My sister is getting it. Don't wait! Consult your doctors!

Happy Valentines Day and Happy 2nd birthday, Lily!

### THE 'U' IN JESUS

"Go into the world and tell them it's true  
that I love them all - Just like I love U."

Carol Gallion

## Christian Ed Update

Mark your calendars for our annual Mardi Gras Karaoke Party from 6-8 pm on February 21st in the Social Hall. DJ Gary Lyttle will supply the Karaoke machine and tunes -- we need you to supply voices.

As usual, strings of beads will be awarded each time you sing a song. Please join us, and feel free to invite your friends for a fun evening of music, snacks, and fellowship.

Susan Cohen

## News from Troop 965

Troop 965 held its annual Christmas party at the Arena club again this year. The boys enjoyed swimming in the indoor pool as well as field sports on the indoor turf field. Some boys also brought board games and musical instruments to entertain themselves for the night. There were plenty of snacks and drinks as well as pizza for energy to help the 43 boys and 5 adult leaders who attended stay awake all the night.

Also at the Christmas party, a substantial collection was taken for the family the Troop adopted through the Mason-Dixon organization. It consisted of a large non-perishable food donation as well as gifts, cash, and gift cards. The cash was used to purchase additional gifts, perishable food, and Mars grocery store gift cards.

Lisa Cox  
Committee Member

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## Worship Assistant Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Reader</b>
<b>February 1</b>	Marie Wehland Doris Lyttle	Dave Brown Jeff Meiselwitz	Andy M.	Gwen Stolzenbach
<b>February 8</b>	Scouts	Scouts	Mac P.	Gary Lyttle
<b>February 15</b>	Mary Muir Bruce Ashman	Jim Gorham Tom Kutscher	Natalie G.	Pat Mengel
<b>February 22</b>	Vilma Duffy Genevieve Snodgrass	Jim Duffy Ken Joel	Mark Z.	Susan Cohen

### Clerk's Report

#### Things Happening at Webster Church

- The Annual Meeting was held on January 16, 2009 with a pot luck dinner at 6 and the meeting at 7 PM.
- The constitution amendment was passed. Starting in 2010, the Annual Meeting will be on the second Sunday in January with a pot luck dinner after church and then the meeting.
- Rev. Jim Wolford met those at the Annual Meeting and had a sign up sheet for parishioners to sign up to talk with him in their home or at the church. His first sermon will be Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be another sign up sheet to schedule a future time to talk with him
- The hall calendar for 2009 has been posted in the basement hall. Please check dates when scheduling events.
- We are planning for the Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bag Bingo on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Havre de Grace Community Center. Please help us to post flyers, sell tickets, solicit businesses for donations, etc. Contact Heidi Pensell, Casey Anno, Doris Lyttle, and Bessie Bowman if you can help.
- Next Official Board Meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. All members are welcome.

Doris Lyttle

## The Webster Word

Webster Congregational Christian Church  
Of the United Church of Christ  
4100 Webster Road  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

(410) 939-1884

[www.websterucc.org](http://www.websterucc.org)

Email: [websterucc@comcast.net](mailto:websterucc@comcast.net)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Mailing Address Goes Here

## Prayer for Webster Church

Heavenly Father, Creator of all things great and small. We come here today to ask your blessing on Webster Church in this period of transition. Give this congregation the strength and wisdom to accept and understand that this event and time is part of your plan. All of us have felt your love for our church and for 85 years you have allowed us to serve you and our community. We have seen transition before and we know we will see it again. Let us accept this as an opportunity to improve ourselves and our church.

We ask you blessing on Rev. Jim Wolford as he embarks on this period of transition as our spiritual leader. Give him the strength and wisdom to deal with all the issues that will arise from this time of change for Webster Church. We ask that you care for Pastor Lonna and watch over her on her new journey in life. We ask that you give us guidance in our search for a new minister and send us someone who will lead us on our journey to glorify your name and do your work here in our little country church. We ask these things in your loving sons name our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

Submitted by Gary Lyttle