

# The Harbinger

February 2008

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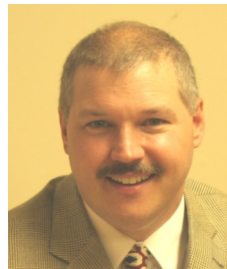
## MEMORY VERSE



## OF THE MONTH!

He has showed you, O man,  
what is good. And what does  
the Lord require of you? To act  
justly and to love mercy and to  
walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



## The SWHCC 2008 Memory Verse

Perhaps some of you don't even realize it, but the South-west Harbor Congregational Church has a memory verse for the year 2008! It is Hebrews 12:1-3

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

"Why? Why do we have a memory verse this year?" is the question that I have been asked. A good question indeed. Well, there are several reasons the first of which is that it is always good to be hiding God's word in your heart! We are informed in Ps 119:11 that by doing so it keeps us from our most egregious offense we can commit against God; sinning against him. In today's culture, that might not mean much, but to a Christian it should mean a whole lot!

Another reason that we have a congregational memory verse is to have a commonality when it comes to Scripture. We all do different types of devotions. Some might be in the New Testament, some might be in the Old. Some might be studying eschatology (the end times), while some genealogy (the lineages in the Bible). Some might be studying the prophets while others are in the histories, Gospels or Pentateuch. It is always good to be in Scripture. Joshua was commanded by the Lord to "not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night."(1:8) That command is for us too! However, there is another Scripture that states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." This tells us that it is even better to be in the same Scripture! That way we can discuss it, how it has effected us, how it has helped, challenges and edified us. So let's take advantage of this commonality and sharpen each other's iron this year through this verse.

A final reason that we have a congregational memory verse this year in contrast to other years is that we need the encouragement that Hebrews 12:1-3 gives us. 2007 was a difficult year for many of us. There were discouragements. There were disappointments. There was a general spirit of discontentedness throughout the congregation. I, as your shepherd, feel that a certain amount of spiritual warfare was going on (Eph 6:12). The best way to combat the darts of the evil one is with the Word of God. So that's what we are going to do this year!

So make a commitment to hide Hebrews 12:1-3 in your heart. Make a commitment to memorize these three verses. Make a commitment to make the effort. To help, inside this issue is a refrigerator magnet with our memory verse on it. Take it and stick it on your frig and covenant with us to fill your mind with the Word of God!

**Pastor Blake Brown**



at least one day of service work planned during the trip.

I need to have my paperwork, proof of passport, travel plans and money into Compassion by March 3, 2008. I would like to humbly ask you to consider helping me fund this trip. I have invested \$1,000.00 of my own money saved from my summer jobs, but still fall short of what I need. The remaining unfunded cost is \$2,200.00 by March 3, 2008.



I have never been outside the U.S., hardly outside New England. Even though I am nervous about the plane flight by myself I am excited to see Rosa and to see another country.

I am grateful for your financial consideration. If you wish to help, please send checks to SWHCC (Southwest Harbor Congregational Church) with Josh's Trip in the memo, that way your gift will be tax deductible. The deadline for receipt of checks to the church is **February 24<sup>th</sup>** so that I will have time to process and send the funds. I am attaching a copy of the itinerary I have been provided with so far as well as a list of the craft items I am to bring.

Thank you,

Joshua Williams

### JOSH'S ITINERARY

#### Itinerary **Saturday, June 14**

Late afternoon departure from Miami  
Dinner and orientation

#### **Sunday, June 15**

Attend worship service with our brothers and sisters at a partner church.  
Travel to one of Nicaragua's many volcanoes to see the crater.

#### **Monday, June 16**

Visit the Country Office for devotions and Q & A. Lunch with the Country Office staff.  
Visit a child development center to enjoy a presentation from the children and interact with students and staff, joining them for lunch at the center.

#### **Tuesday, June 17**

Special invitation to the area church to learn about the aid given to communities on the Atlantic coast.  
Afternoon visit to the child development center for a time of teaching crafts and enjoying sports activities with the children.

#### **Wednesday, June 18**

Enjoy a day with your sponsor child. Sponsor/ Sponsor Child Fun Day will be the **ONE** day during this tour that you will be able to visit with your sponsored child. Many children travel from distant parts of the country to enjoy this day with you. Although the time is short, the cherished memories will stay with you forever.

#### **Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20**

Serve at a local child development centers by working with staff and addressing one or two of the centers' many needs. Sponsors often have commented on how they desire to have more hands-on experience at the centers. This is why we have incorporated this mission element into the tour itinerary.

#### **Saturday, June 21**

Early morning departure for Miami  
Connecting flights home

Josh will have a box at the back of the church for your crafts/sports donations if you wish to participate this way.

**Paper Crafts:**

1 package construction paper

2 large boxes of crayons

6 glue sticks

6 small children's scissors

1 tablet of drawing paper

Stickers (lots, they love them)

Optional – Photocopied pictures for coloring, yarn or string

**Sports:**

Long jump rope

Balls

Frisbees

Be as generous as you can to this fine young man who sincerely desires to serve the Lord!



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for a few men and women who would like to keep in touch with others in our congregation. This would take the form of visiting, communicating by phone or e-mail, being aware of needs, encouraging and listening to those who are weary or joyful.

Hopefully, we are all doing this already in a loose form, but we would like to be more organized and intentional in our caring for the needs and hearts of our church family. **Please contact Jeanie Gilpin at 244-5389 if this is something that interests you.**

Remember that the **Hour of Prayer** is held the first Thursday of each month for just one hour from **7 to 8 PM.**



**The next prayer meeting will be on February 7.**



## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

January 2008

Matthew 25:35, ***"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. "***

This is a new year, with new hopes and promises ahead. May we be reminded of the great gifts that God has given us, including those members of "the family of God." For each of you, I thank God and for the gifts and talents that He has bestowed upon you and that you are willing to share with the rest of us. It takes many hands to keep any program going and if we remember it is the Lord we are serving, we are more apt to reach outward.

The Hospitality Ministry has had some reassignment of responsibilities for this year and I thought it might be of interest to you to know who will now be heading those activities. **Pat Minier, will be in charge of the Flower Ministry as well as the Paraments.** She has done an excellent job and it would be nice to let her know how much you appreciate having flowers each Sunday, plus all the Holiday plants. **The Elders will be in charge of the Church picnic, Christian Ed., will be in charge of the KBC picnic and Carrie Brown will be in charge of the Greeter's Program.** A big "Thank-you" to you all for lightening our load.

For Dianne Young and Carolyn Ainsworth who serve so faithfully every week, I am grateful. For Lynn Ainsworth who has run many errands and swept the floor many times and who brings Carolyn faithfully, even during storms, goes way beyond thankfulness. The entire congregation has them to thank for their steadfastness and service.



Thank you to Carey Lewis and the men's bible group who set up tables for our dinners, also to the GOMERS for their work in and around the kitchen and for keeping us in such good shape.



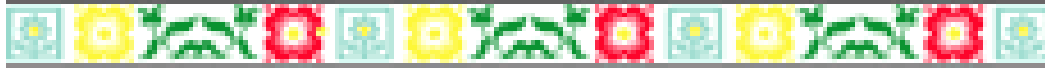
Starting with the January Fellowship night (Pot-luck dinners), we are going to number the tables 1-5. Each table will seat 8 persons. We will have numbers, 1-5 made up (8 of each number). Whatever number you draw, will be the table you sit at. Hopefully, this will get each of us to mix a little better and find new conversation partners. If we have more than 40 people attending, we will of course, increase the numbers.



May we all continue to do God's work and may He remind us as needed, that He still is in charge.

Respectively submitted,

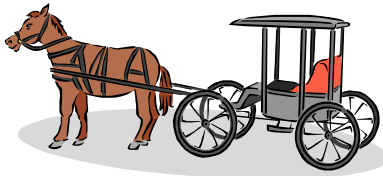
Pat Lewis



## GREETER MINISTRY



Have you ever felt nervous coming to a new place? When you got there, did you struggle with finding a place to settle or wasn't sure how to start a conversation with people who had already been there for awhile? If you remember an experience like this, then you know just what it is like for visitors to our church. One of the ways that we try to make those visitors feel welcome is through the Greeter Ministry. Our greeters are an important part of the worship service as they present a friendly face and help visitors navigate our Sunday Service and programs. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carrie Brown at 244-4300**



**Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.** Galatians 6:10 NIV

The famous preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, loved horses. One day Beecher stopped to admire a horse. "That's a fine looking animal, you have," remarked Beecher. "Is he as good as he looks?" The owner smiled proudly and said, "This horse will work in any place you put him, and will do all that any horse can do without a complaint." Beecher remarked with a smile, "I wish to goodness that he was a member of my church!"

Are you in harness? Are you working with others to improve the ministry of your church? God wants all his children to pull together to support the ministry of the local church without complaint. Be a willing servant; a workhorse; not a mule!

**Serve God and be cheerful.** Motto of Lichfield Cathedral