

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

The Portland Spiritualist Church
December 2016



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Distribution "Open Position

From the Desk

You may remember last month I rambled on about the holiday season and all that went with it. Today I'd like to let you know about what we as a Church are doing for this time of year.

The Portland Spiritualist Church is collecting donations as our Community Outreach program for the holiday season.

Rather than collecting groceries or clothes that might not be used, we'll be using your donated funds to purchase gift cards to be distributed to those who may need a little helping hand. We will be purchasing cards that will be of practical use: Hannaford, Shaw's, Walmart or Target Cards are easily available and can be put to good and immediate use. You'd be surprised how when everybody puts a little effort in, such a large result can be brought about. If you want to purchase your own gift card and bring it in, that would be a wonderful and generous gesture.

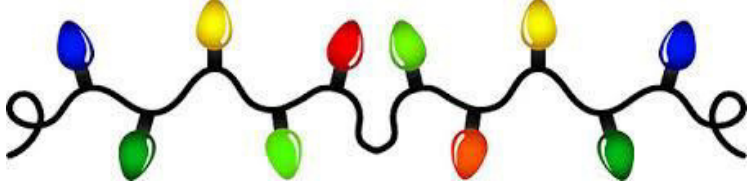
Any amount that you can donate will be gladly received and appreciated. We have a donation jar in the sanctuary for your donations. If you're unable to come to church but would still like to donate, please contact me or Rev. Beth Carter (207) 797-2039 and we'll make arrangements to pick up your donation. You can also mail your donations to the Church mail box.

Portland Spiritualist Church
PO Box 6551
Portland, ME 04103

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*Merry
Christmas*



Sunday Speakers and Mediums

Sunday Speakers Services 6:30 PM

December 4th

Rev. Graham Connolly NST
Augusta Spiritualist Church

December 11th

To Be Announced
See Facebook or Web-site

December 18th

Holiday Pot Luck Supper
Set up @ 4:30PM – Social Time 5:00
Supper 5:30

December 25th

No Service
Merry Christmas to all our friends
and family!

The next Board Meeting will be.
January 9 at 4:30 PM

Legends

CM - Certified Medium
MPI- Morris Pratt Institute Student
REV- Reverent
NST- National Spiritualist Teacher
CH- Commissioned Healer
LM- Licentiate Minister
M- Missionary

Friday Development Classes

Friday Classes 7:30 PM

Friday classes are by donation.
Donation \$5.00 of is suggested,
but not required.

December 2nd

Mediumship Development
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

December 9th

Meditation and Mediumship
Lance Cyr

December 16th “Message Circle”
with Rev. Beth Carter CM, CH
& Mike Carter.

December 23rd

Gallery Readings
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

December 30th

Séance
Rev. Beth Carter CH, CM
& Mike Carter

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Also, remember that on Sunday, December 18th, the Church will be having a **Holiday Pot Luck Supper**.

All members and congregants are invited to attend and you're also invited to bring a dish or a dessert. We don't have access to a stove, so hot dishes should be in a crock pot. Salads and breads are always welcome too. The set up will begin at 4:30 PM. At 5:00 we will have some social time and then begin the meal at 5:30. This is a wonderful time for everyone to just get together and socialize. How many times do we come to church and never get time to talk to the folks you've been seeing throughout the year. Now is the time!

I grew up as a Methodist so it's second nature to expect to bring extras home after the event. You should plan on this too. Who knows: You may get a couple of extra meals out of it.

On behalf of Rev. Beth Carter and myself, we'd like to extend the best of wishes to everyone out there. Whether you attend services or not, the fact that you are interested and exploring all the things that the Infinite wishes to offer fills us with pride and joy.

May you all have loving, happy events and may all that you need comes to you in the New Year.

See you in Church
Mike Carter President
Portland Spiritualist Church



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Christmas Magic

Poem by Marjorie Foster Fleming

*Dear, look to the Christmas angel
atop your Christmas tree.*

*Then all your wishes will come true,
When she smiles down on you.*

*Listen to the bells of Christmas
ringing throughout the land*

*The church, the school, and sleigh bells, too,
sounds of love...old...yet...new.*

*In the middle of falling snow and sparkling
crystal rain*

*when winds blow cold against the frosted window
pane*

*there's a pleasant warmth felt everywhere in the
merry Christmas glow*

*Since all your Christmas blessings dwell
as spirits in your heart;*

become as Santa full of mirth.

Spread peace and joy on earth.

In this Holiday Season - Thanksgiving to New Year's I am thankful for:

I am thankful for a wonderful, patient, understanding husband
For I am difficult to live with.

I am thankful that my grandson and friends survived a recent car accident, not their fault
For there was his alertness regarding a impending danger & for side door air bags.

I am thankful for my home
Even though it is more difficult now for me to get down low to clean or climb for the high areas.

I am thankful for my vegetable garden and rain barrels
That I may eat well this next year.

I am thankful for the wonderful board, members and congregants of the Portland Spiritualist Church,
For they are inventive, great students, generous, especially with goodies for Sundays, and are forward looking.

I am thankful for a place for us all to meet
Despite all the sets of stairs.

I am thankful for the challenges that the Infinite presents to this humble person who dislikes change.
But despite my "heel-digging in" I do slowly come around in part after much deliberation.

I am thankful that I have an inquisitive mind
For I research all matters for my answers.

I am thankful for my gifts from Infinite Intelligence for they have given me purpose in life.

I am thankful for all of you – officers, board members, members, congregants, instructors, occasional visitors –
For where would we all be without you!

Find your own Joy in each portion of this coming season whether it be to enjoy the luxury of a favorite but rarely eaten food, the small gift you decide to give to yourself, and the plans you make for the coming year. Have you at least one New Year's pledge you made and kept? I have. I promised to stop smoking January 1, 1990 and I did.

Love to you all,
Beth Carter, Pastor

From the Dec. 1982 Summit. Article and poem written by Rev. Virginia Leach Falls

Thinking...about Christmas and the giving of gifts...There is an art to giving...

“He gives best who gives most; but he gives most who gives best.”

Too many of us have debased the noble art of “giving”. We have lowered it to terms of the amount of money spent for the gift. Millions and millions of dollars are spent each year at Christmastime by those who are trying to “give most.” But how little is spent in comparison by those who are “giving best.” For there is much more to a gift than the price tag on it at the store. This is not an attempt to get people to spend less money, but a plea to give your gifts a spiritual quality which will make them loved no matter what the cost might be. The difficulty, I believe, is not that receivers demand that large sums of money be spent on them – it is just that our enthusiasm for the occasion, and the person, we want to do the best we can and we mistakenly figure the best in proportion to the size of our pocketbook.

It’s not the gift it’s self that makes it important – it’s putting yourself into it in a spirit of love or true friendship, whichever the case may be. Remember this: a gift, no matter what it costs, never stand alone – *You* make it valuable or worthless, It is the spiritual touch of your own self which can give tin a greater luster than gold, and the lack of that touch will tarnish the gold before New Year’s Day.

Often as little poem of your own devising will put sparkle in a present. It may not be good poetry, but it will speak wonderful words to the soul of the receiver. So, make giving an art this year – you will be surprised how much you will learn about the real Christmas spirit. Give with a style and flourish and all of the little things which make gifts worthwhile, even though they are little gifts. Wrap up your heart in that box along with the gift itself – that is the spiritual art of giving.

***Before your gifts are all wrapped up
And gaily ribbon tied,
Oh, please remember to tuck in
A lot of love inside.***

***The gift itself may be quite small
But love tucked in with care
Can change it to a wondrous thing,
An offering rich and rare.***

***The gift itself may soon wear out,
Its usefulness be past,
But always you can be quite sure
The love tucked in will last.***

Submitted by Reverend Beth Carter