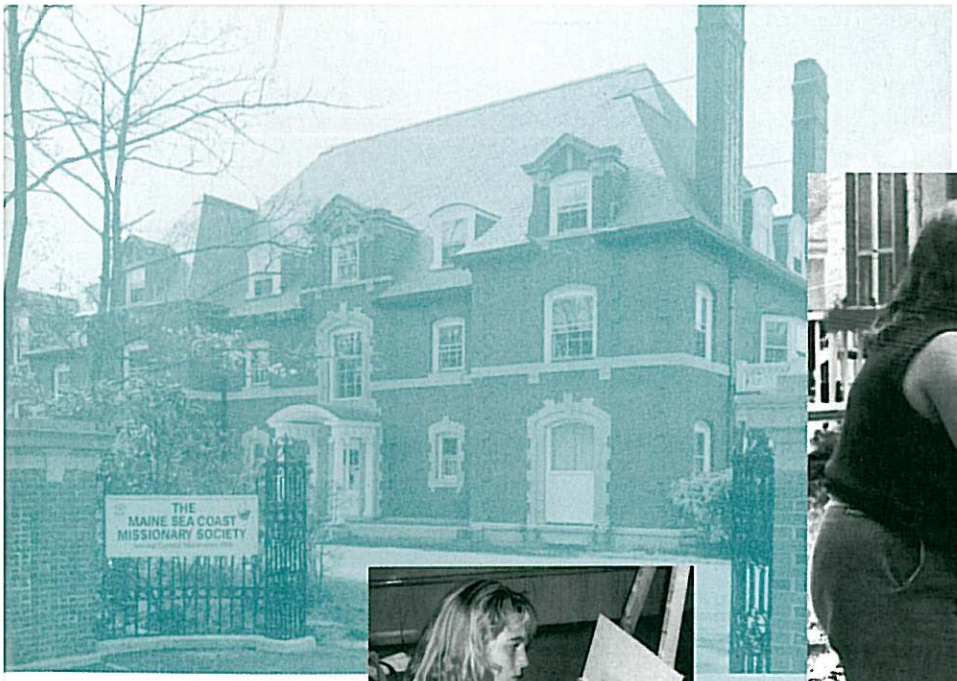


NINETY FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAINE SEA COAST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In the ninety five years since the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society was founded, the work has been carried out by many compassionate and caring individuals. From our founders, the Revs. Alexander and Angus MacDonald, up to present day staff, whose reports of their work form this report, a succession of love and care for people in need has prevailed. It is to all of them that this report is dedicated.

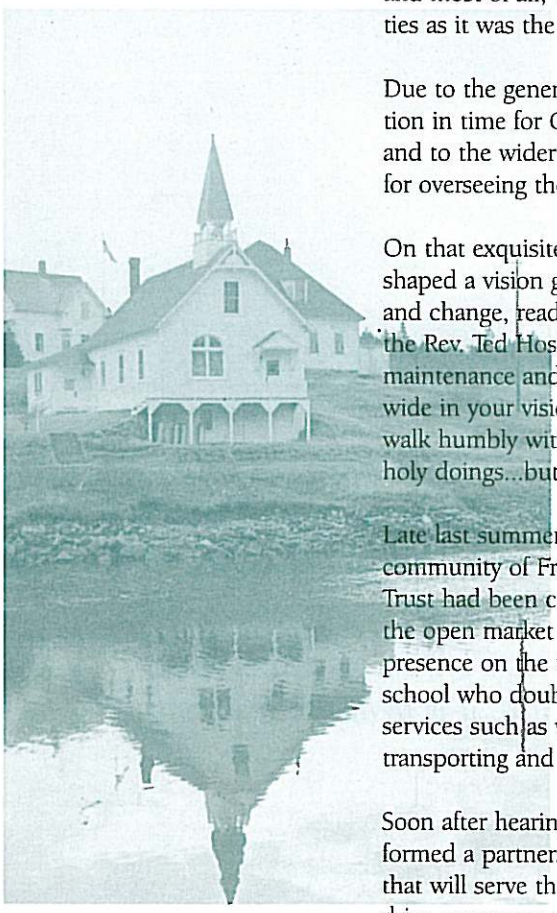
Call for the Annual Meeting
11:00 AM, Friday, July 28, 2000
Mission House, 127 West Street, Bar Harbor, Maine

In accordance with the ByLaws (Article 4, Section 1)

Letter from the Executive Director and the President, board of directors.

Looking astern is a good thing to do, especially in a year when we have all been standing on our tiptoes looking ahead. We are deeply engaged in getting a fix on what course we are called to steer into the future. Any good helmsman knows, however, that looking back at your wake can quickly tell you a lot about where you've been and what course corrections are in order.

1999 saw us bring some large projects to a successful close and at the same time lay a foundation for solid programmatic growth. We launched out into some fairly deep water, we established some wonderful partnerships and most of all, we let the world know that the Mission is as committed to the islands and coastal communities as it was the day it was founded 95 years ago.



Due to the generosity of good people, the finishing touches were added to the Mission House exterior renovation in time for Gary's Service of Installation to officially welcome our new Executive Director to the Mission and to the wider community. In the midst of the festivities we also thanked Assistant Director Jackie Davidson for overseeing the Mission's work from the first of the year until Gary's arrival in May.

On that exquisite fall afternoon with the Sunbeam anchored just offshore, the words of each successive speaker shaped a vision grounded in the past but, equally importantly, with a faith that looks ahead and is open to risk and change, ready to do great things for God and God's children. In his charge to the new Executive Director the Rev. Ted Hoskins said: "Follow the prophetic path: And what does the Lord require of you? Do justice...in maintenance and care of your boat and house, in salary and support of the staff and crew. Love mercy...be wide in your vision and dream of what we can do...be extravagant in your following of God's prompting. And walk humbly with your God...God's intent is to save this whole world...we, here, are a very small part of those holy doings...but keep walking...with God in the lead."

Late last summer we read in the newspapers that a large tract of land, 850 acres, more than half of the island community of Frenchboro, was going up for sale and that the Island Institute and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust had been contacted by the community for help. There was a valid concern that if the land were sold on the open market it would be the end of the community as a year round fishing village. The Mission has been a presence on the island since our founding. Up until the mid-1960's we were supplying the teacher of the school who doubled as a religious leader. Since then the Sunbeam has been a regular visitor providing many services such as worship, pastoral care, art lessons and other outlets and services to the islanders, including transporting and housing a medical team from the local hospital.

Soon after hearing of the need last summer we called the other two organizations and together we quickly formed a partnership that was very effective. A plan of acquisition and community development was devised that will serve the island well, giving them control over their future. The Mission was successful in a fund drive among our own Directors, along with committing some of our reserves. Our fund raising will restore the church that was built by our founder, Alexander MacDonald, along with the parsonage.

Due to all the changes in the economy and the pressure on the fisheries, the threat to the way of life along the downeast coast and on the islands is only going to increase. The Mission will continue to work as an advocate with churches and communities, both through our own program initiatives, through partnerships and through work such as our support and facilitation of community- based organizing efforts in fisheries and other areas. In 1999 we partnered with the Washington Hancock Community Agency in their Welfare to Work Program. We began a loaned staff program with them to support the work of Peaceful Choices, the only shelter for women in Washington County. We continued our work with youth downeast, providing staff support for a community-wide interdenominational youth program.

Our scholarship program represents our commitment to the youth along the coast and to adults who are seeking alternative ways of enhancing their skills. 1999 saw our Education Fund Endowment increase significantly

by the receipt of a generous gift from the estate of Caroline Bruhn, a long-time friend of the Mission. We plan to grow that endowment so that we are making a significant difference in the horizons that can be reached by youth and adults along the coast and on the islands.

The most far-reaching initiative of 1999 was our decision to launch an extensive strategic planning program. Having contracted with a highly regarded consultant, early in the fall we convened the twelve member planning committee comprised of both board members and staff. We have continued to meet at least monthly during the winter for meetings that begin with breakfast at 7:30 AM and end at 12:30 PM. It represents a deep commitment for those who are serving. In addition, we have had two full days with the entire staff and several mailings to our full Board. We have sought their guidance and suggestions as we progressed step by step in the development of a comprehensive five-year plan designed to strengthen and grow our outreach to those we serve.

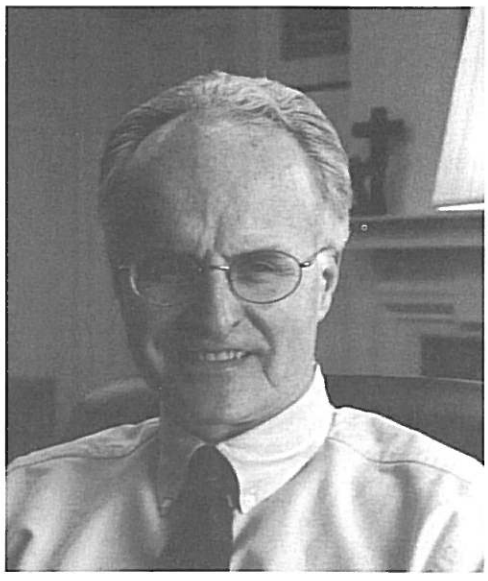
The issues facing the area we serve are large and complex. They include churches with aging buildings and aging members, wide spread poverty, domestic violence, drug abuse, especially among youth, and conflicting development values. They do not lend themselves to easy solutions. Each of them may require additional competent and committed staff in order for us to make a difference. As the challenges increase among the churches and communities that we serve, the Mission, as always, seeks to develop ways of reaching out that will enable us to respond faithfully and effectively. We now have nineteen staff members serving from mid-coast to downeast in churches, in the pantry and recycle shop and among youth.

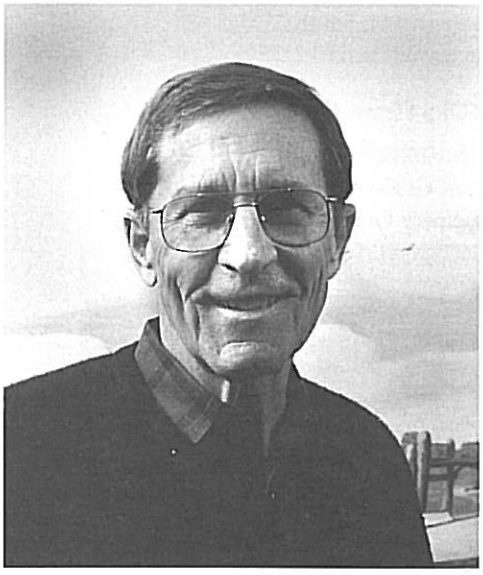
Looking back at 1999 we see so many signs of life and vitality that we are filled with excitement and confidence for where we are heading. We are confident that with the prayers and support of our many members and friends, the future of the Mission is filled with promise.

Sincerely,

Gary A. DeLong
Executive Director

Edward S. Greaves
President





Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Mr. Edward S. Greaves
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Alan L. Baker
SECRETARY	Miss Jackie L. Davidson
TREASURER	Mr. Douglas Williams

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mr. Benjamin R. Nielson	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mr. Dale J. Foley	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mr. Erwin S. Soule	Bar Harbor, Maine

DIRECTORS (Terms Expire 2000)

Mr. Curtis L. Blake	Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Mr. Dennis S. Damon	Trenton, Maine
Mr. Gordon I. Erikson	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mr. Edward S. Greaves	Portland, Maine
Dr. Frederick Hutchinson	Lamoine, Maine
Dr. John E. Parker	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Mrs. Linda B. Thompson	Addison, Maine

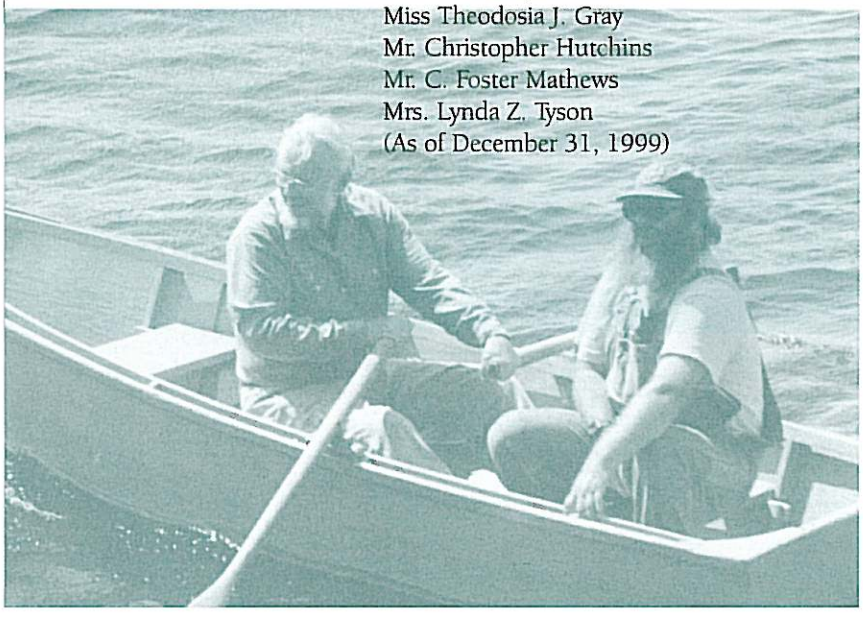
DIRECTORS (Terms Expire 2001)

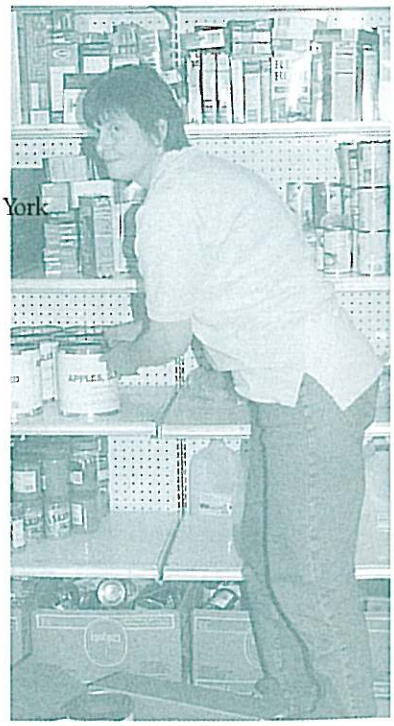
Mr. Alan L. Baker	Ellsworth, Maine
Mr. Charles K. Foster, Jr.	Ellsworth, Maine
Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mr. Chester E. Norris, Jr.	Naples, Florida
Mrs. Patricia Scull	Northeast Harbor, Maine
Mr. Timothy P. Schieffelin	Greenwich, Connecticut
Mr. Chadbourn H. Smith	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mr. Douglas Williams	Cold Spring Harbor, New York

DIRECTORS (Terms Expire 2002)

Mrs. Ruth Colket	Paoli, Pennsylvania
Mr. Warren C. Cook	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mrs. Rosemary Graffius	Mount Desert, Maine
Miss Theodosia J. Gray	Bar Harbor, Maine
Mr. Christopher Hutchins	Bangor, Maine
Mr. C. Foster Mathews	Cherryfield, Maine
Mrs. Lynda Z. Tyson	Salisbury Cove, Maine

(As of December 31, 1999)





Members of the staff

MISSION HOUSE

The Rev. Gary A. DeLong	Executive Director
Miss Jackie L. Davidson	Assistant Director
Mrs. Annie T. Schwartz **	Director of Development
Mrs. Laura A. Parlee	Office Secretary
Mrs. Terri W. Rodick **	Office Secretary
Mr. Wayne H. Sprague	Caretaker-Custodian
Mr. Michael A. Gurtler	Bookkeeper

MINISTERS-IN-THE-FIELD

The Rev. Edward A. Bacon
Serving Islesboro

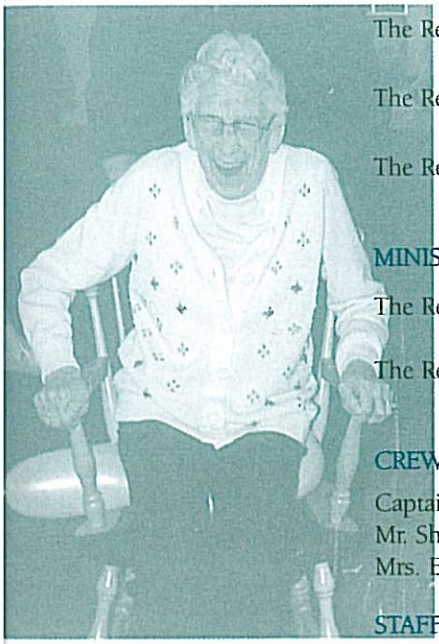
The Rev. Theodore G. Hoskins
Serving as Missionary Pastor aboard SUNBEAM

The Rev. David A. Macy
Serving North Haven

The Rev. Martha B. Shaw
Serving as Missionary at Large, Washington County

The Rev. Norma C. Smith
Serving as Missionary at Large, Washington County

The Rev. Michelle M. Wiley
Serving Vinalhaven



MINISTERS SERVING ASSISTED CHURCHES

The Rev. Margaret Proctor
First Congregational Church, Cherryfield

The Rev. George Woodward
Sawyer Memorial Congregational Church, Jonesport

CREW OF THE SUNBEAM

Captain David T. Allen	Master
Mr. Sherwood S. Carr, Jr.	Engineer
Mrs. Elizbabeth J. Allen	Steward

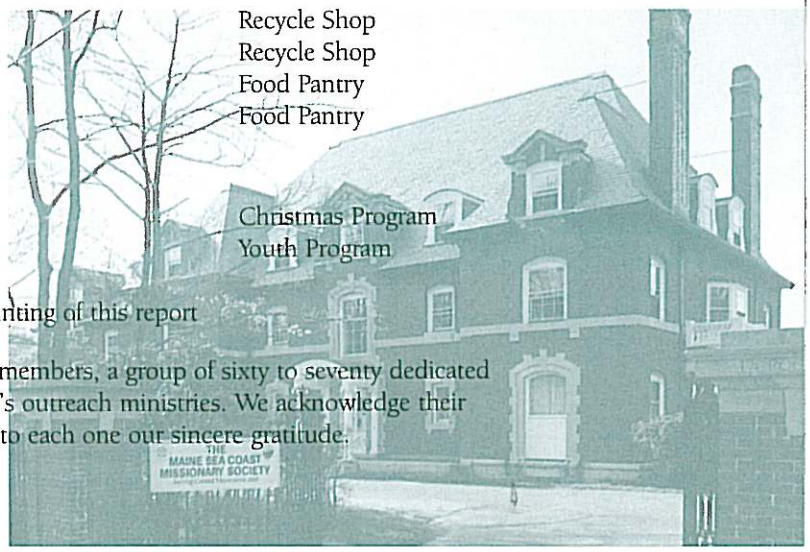
STAFF AT WEALD BETHEL

Mrs. Nancy Carver	Recycle Shop
Mrs. Laurie Merchant	Recycle Shop
Mrs. Marilyn Nickson	Food Pantry
Ms. Gena Norgaard	Food Pantry

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Mrs. Cindy Walls	Christmas Program
Mrs. Linda Bernstein	Youth Program

(As of December 31, 1999)
** Joined staff between 12/31/99 and printing of this report



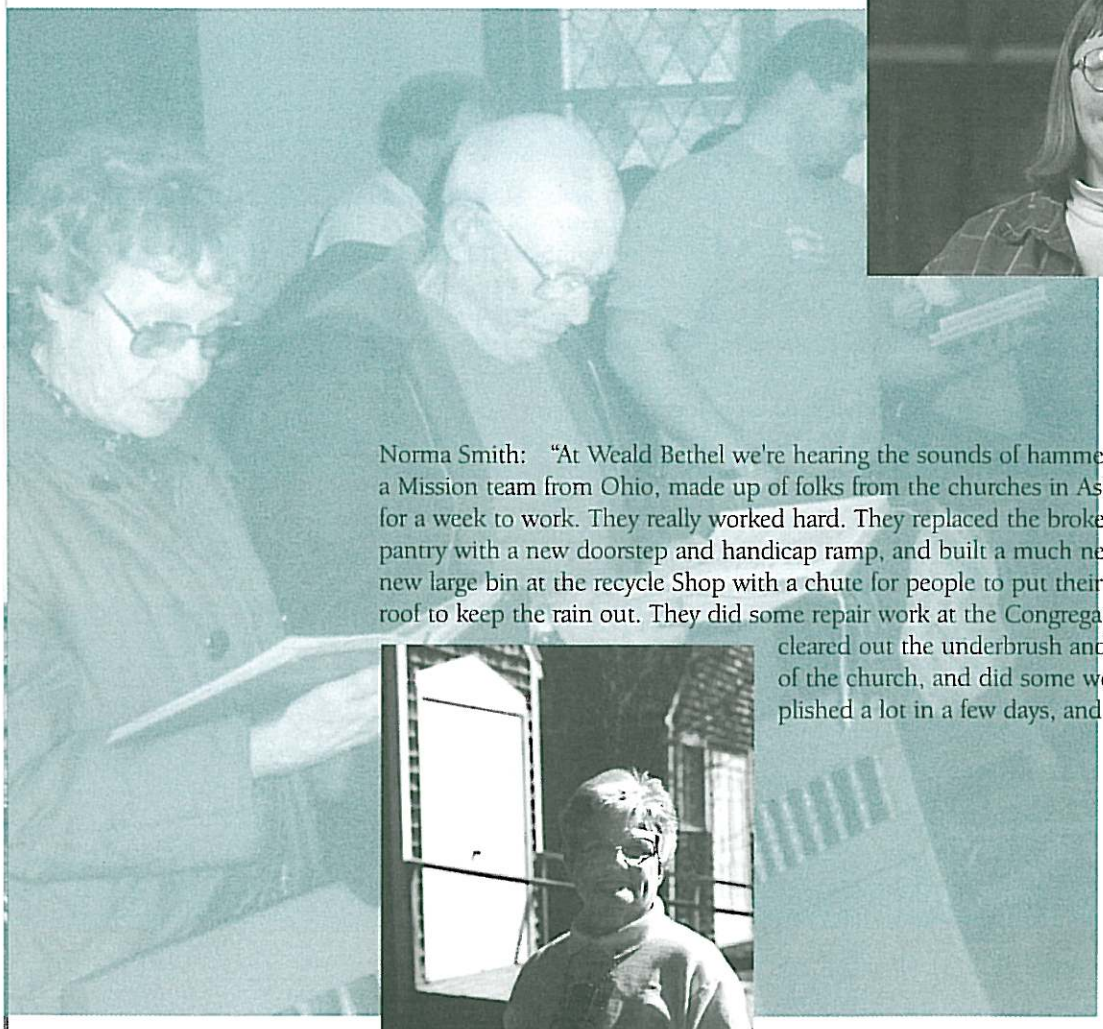
In addition to the full and part-time staff members, a group of sixty to seventy dedicated volunteers works to continue the Mission's outreach ministries. We acknowledge their donation of time and energy and express to each one our sincere gratitude.

Downeast Ministries

Marty Shaw: "A woman that I visit way down east has been living in one room of her house this winter because that's the only room with heat. She'd been sleeping on an aluminum framed chaise-the lying-in-the-sun kind of chaise, because she had no bed that would fit in the kitchen where the heat is. I took her a roll-away cot and you'd think I'd given her the crown jewels...She's having a really hard time, but really appreciates all that the Mission has done for her"

"My attention this month has been primarily focused on the groups that I facilitate. The women's group is a small one; most of the members have been in an abusive relationship at some point in their lives. It is humbling to me, and at the same time, awe-inspiring to see them struggle with ordinary life issues, and not-so-ordinary issues...the Batterer's Intervention Program, where I'm learning to be a facilitator, is a small group, too...it is an educational program for men, lasting 48 weeks, and it covers subjects of feelings, anger and what to do with anger, learning to communicate, listening skills, and so forth....the people in both of these groups badly need your prayers."

Marty Shaw



Norma Smith: "At Weald Bethel we're hearing the sounds of hammers pounding and saws buzzing.....from a Mission team from Ohio, made up of folks from the churches in Ashley, rural Chapel, and Kilbrourne, here for a week to work. They really worked hard. They replaced the broken steps and wobbly railing of the food pantry with a new doorstep and handicap ramp, and built a much needed storage shed. They also built a new large bin at the recycle Shop with a chute for people to put their donations into with an overhanging roof to keep the rain out. They did some repair work at the Congregational church where they slept and ate, cleared out the underbrush and surplus trees along the river in front of the church, and did some work at the parsonage. They accomplished a lot in a few days, and even took some time off for fun."

Norma Smith

Food Pantry

"Tuesday and Thursday mornings the Food Pantry is open for business. Marilyn and Gena are still putting last minute items into the refilled boxes as people come for them. Volunteers are busy answering the phone (which often starts ringing at 7:30 a.m.), dividing and repackaging food items, restocking shelves, and making boxes ready for the next business day. A typical month in 1999 served 6,330 meals to 422 people in 170 separate households, averaging almost 792 meals each day the pantry was open. That is a lot of food."

Norma Smith

Gena Norgaard

Marilyn Nickson

"Another day was spent at Weald Bethel with all the downeast ministry staff. It is so moving to sense the love and care that goes out with each box of food and each bag of clothing. We are very fortunate to have staff who approach their jobs as professionals. In so many little, behind-the-scenes ways they go the second mile-taking special note of dietary needs for an elderly shut-in or offering clothing that is presented to the public with as much care and class as any L.L.Bean showroom, each article on a hanger and sold in a dignified transaction for the affordable (but not handed out) cost of ten cents per item."

Gary DeLong

Recycle Shop

"I visited the Recycle Shop and Nancy and Laurie showed me the work they have done organizing the "Jobs Closet" section, which contains items of clothing specifically available to men and women enrolled in the Welfare to Work program. The area set aside looks real nice, and we talked about a few ways we could improve it. During 1999, 100 women and men made the transition from welfare to work in Washington County. In addition to providing clothing appropriate for the workplace (thanks to the generosity of many local donors), the Mission provided funds for car repairs, haircuts and styling, and tools, as necessary."

Jackie Davidson

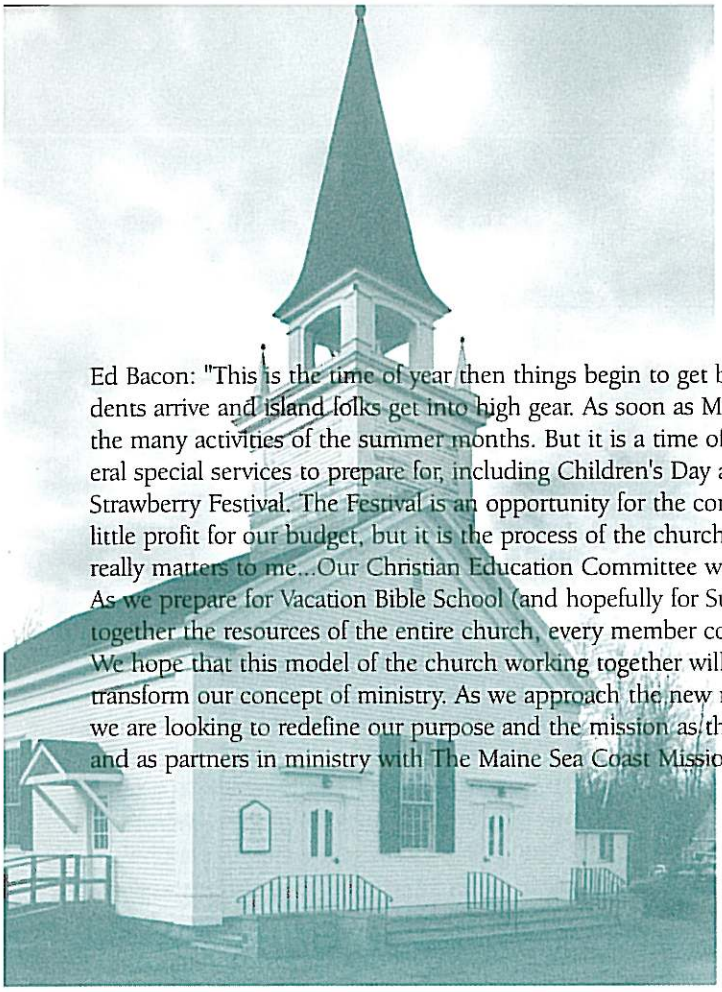
Nancy Carver

Laurie Merchant

Island Ministries

David Macy

David Macy describing a June trip made by his church's youth group: "...all the fund raising done during the previous year had turned into a trip to the big town of Long Island, Maine - actually another island, in Casco Bay, off of Portland. Thanks to the Mission van and to one of the new adult leaders letting us use the house he owns on the island, we spent the weekend in a town smaller than our own! Kathy Russo, the minister at the church on Long Island and a former Mission staff person, was trying to start up a youth group of her own, and our arrival was deemed heaven sent. She organized a softball game between North Haven and kids from some of the Casco Bay Islands, to be followed by a pizza get together. The pizza was great, the kids got to mix with each other, and as for the softball game-uh,we let them win-yeah, that's it!"

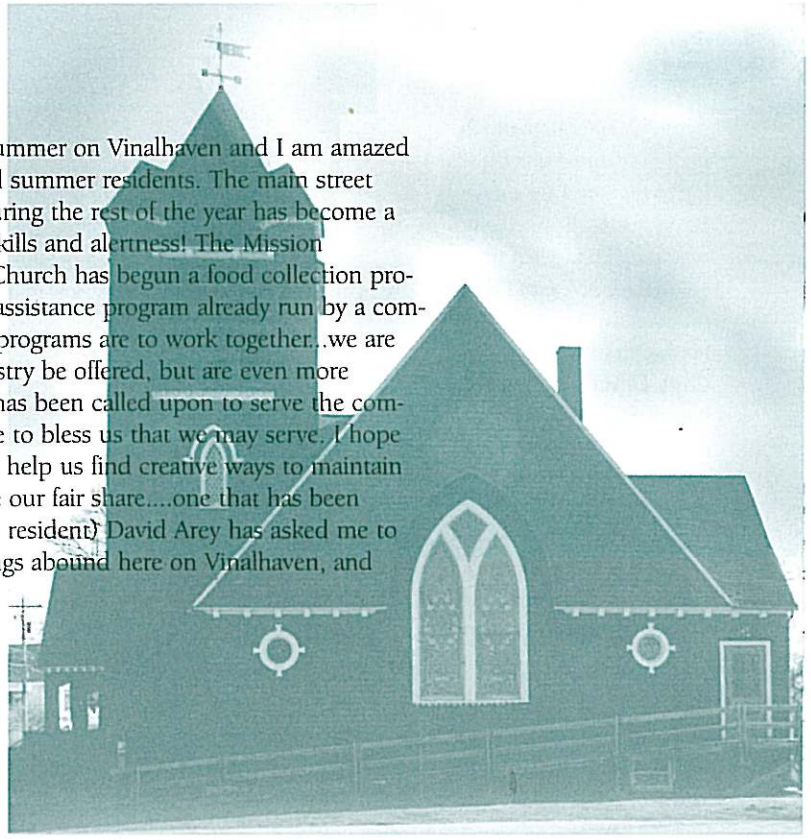


Ed Bacon: "This is the time of year then things begin to get busy on the island Many of the seasonal residents arrive and island folks get into high gear. As soon as Memorial Day arrives the church braces itself for the many activities of the summer months. But it is a time of great opportunities of ministry. There are several special services to prepare for, including Children's Day and Baccalaureate. and then, there is the Strawberry Festival. The Festival is an opportunity for the community to come together and we do make a little profit for our budget, but it is the process of the church coming together and working together that really matters to me...Our Christian Education Committee would like to take this process one step further. As we prepare for Vacation Bible School (and hopefully for Sunday School in the fall) we would like to bring together the resources of the entire church, every member contributing a little of their time and talent. We hope that this model of the church working together will begin to transform our concept of ministry. As we approach the new millennium we are looking to redefine our purpose and the mission as the church and as partners in ministry with The Maine Sea Coast Mission."

Ed Bacon

Michelle Wiley

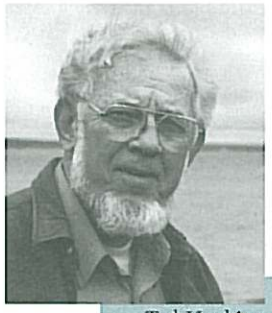
Michelle Wiley "My first summer on Vinalhaven and I am amazed at the influx of visitors and summer residents. The main street which is easily passable during the rest of the year has become a test of one's navigational skills and alertness! The Mission Committee of the Union Church has begun a food collection program to support the food assistance program already run by a community member. The two programs are to work together...we are thrilled to see such a ministry be offered, but are even more amazed at how quickly it has been called upon to serve the community. May God continue to bless us that we may serve. I hope the Mission will be able to help us find creative ways to maintain and grow this ministry...With summer comes weddings and we have our fair share....one that has been talked about much, and I would like to share, is my own. (Longtime resident) David Arey has asked me to marry him and I accepted. The date is set for September 18. Blessings abound here on Vinalhaven, and David and I are most thankful to God for bringing us together."



Sunbeam

"We brought December to a close by traveling to Frenchboro and Great Cranberry to conduct Christmas Eve services. It was great having my wife, Judy, our daughter Marcy and her husband Bill, and our son, Josh go with us. At both services Marcy sang "Once in David's Royal City" a cappella to start the service. After that I really didn't need to preach. Judy played the keyboard on the SUNBEAM at Frenchboro and the piano at Cranberry. We worshipped on the SUNBEAM on Frenchboro because the furnace was down at the church and it was a very cold day. Josh played his guitar, so we're thinking about taking this show on the road! Board members Ruth Colket and Jill Goldthwait and members of their families went with us, and it was a great boost the islanders and the services. Our Steward Betty Allen did a great job preparing dinner for the larger than average number of guests. It was blowing pretty hard when we got to Cranberry and the tide was two feet below normal low water, but Capt. David Allen put the bow of SUNBEAM gently against the end of the wharf in about a teacup of water. Engineer Sherdy Carr held her fast to the pilings and helped us all scramble over the bow and onto the wharf for a brisk walk to the candlelit church. It was a great day and one that will not soon be forgotten." Gary DeLong

Ted Hoskins: "One of the things being on the SUNBEAM means is going on the Inter-Island Event, the annual overnight gathering of school children from the outer islands. SUNBEAM, under the threat of bad weather, picked up the Matinicus students the day before and made it to Isle au Haut for an overnight aboard. The kids (and teacher and parents) loved it. Many 'go' on the SUNBEAM, but not everyone gets to sleep overnight on board! Tragedy struck at 3:50 a.m. as a top bunk sleeper rolled over and fell...breaking an arm. Mom, who had EMT training and experiences, soothed the tears and splinted the arm while we roused a local fisherman from sleep for a trip in pouring rain to the mainland for medical help. All turned out well on the trip from Isle au Haut to Stonington to Blue Hill to Ellsworth, each adding their varied levels of medical skill, until at last the orthopedic surgeon did the deed and set the bone in a handsome cast. Meanwhile, the students (who slept through the emergency) went on to Islesford joined by students from Isle au Haut, Frenchboro, and the Cranberrys. It was a marvelous time for all, a great opportunity to become interconnected at both the kids' level and parents as well...add to that the usual events of worship on the islands, funerals and a wedding. Regular calling in each home continues to be an important part of my ministry, reminding me that I need more time than a day or two for island visits."

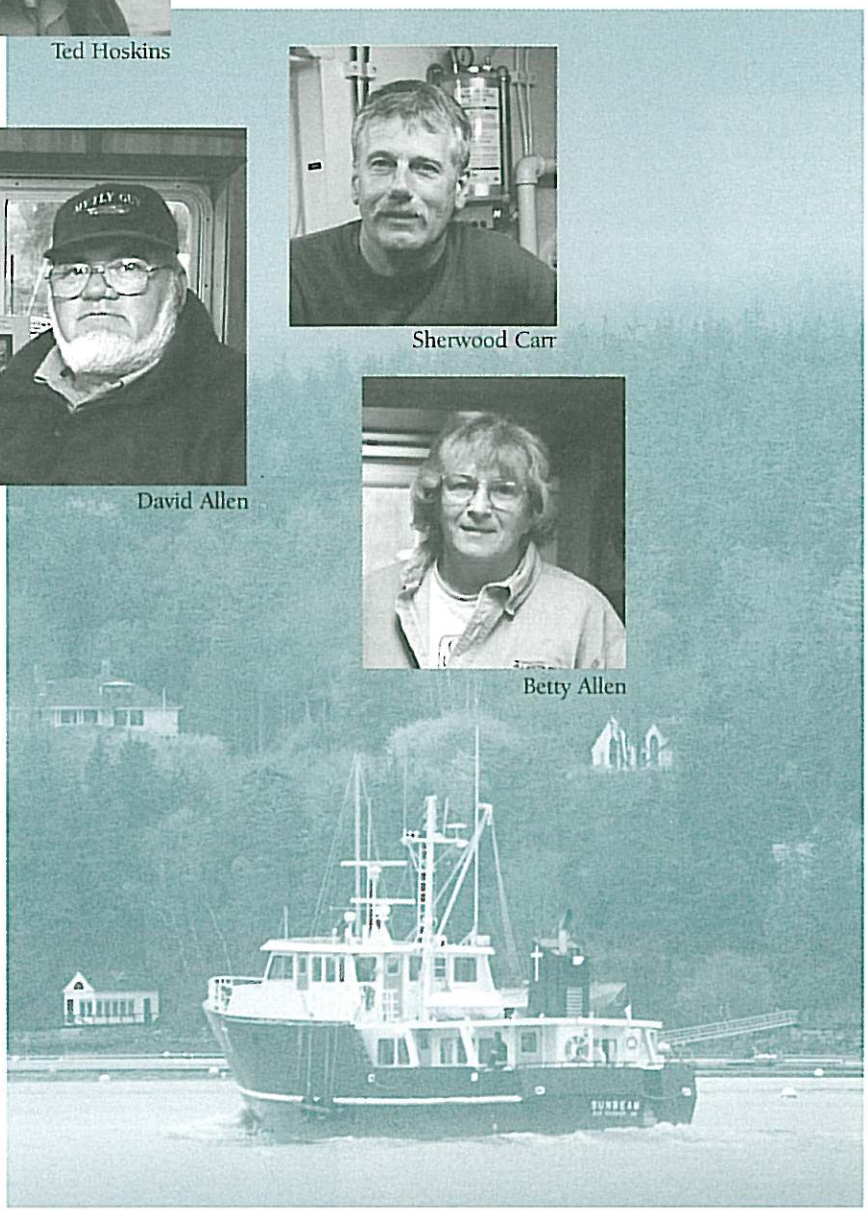


Ted Hoskins

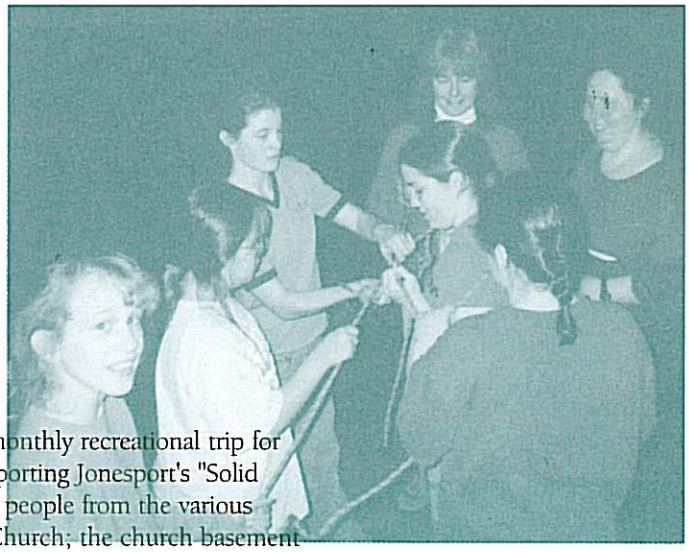
Sherwood Carr

David Allen

Betty Allen



Special Ministries



Youth Program

Linda Bernstein: "My services to youth in Washington County have included a monthly recreational trip for Jonesport-Beals girls in grades 5-8, usually about 12-15. The Mission is also supporting Jonesport's "Solid Rock Cafe", a monthly youth outreach program organized and run by a group of people from the various churches in the Jonesport-Beals communities. It is held in the Jonesport RLDS Church; the church basement is set up cafe style, with tables, and lots of hot, tasty food and treats. There's Christian music videos, games, and huddle groups for discussion of relevant topics, and plenty of time to socialize! Buzz and Suzanne Carver, young ministers who run this along with John and Sharon Church, are excellent mentors to the area youth. Another program involves drama. A student from the University of Maine at Machias, Leigh Woodward, is instructing boys and girls from grades 5-8. They are working on a play about teens that illustrates all the good in them. Very poignantly, all proceeds from the purchase of this play go to the victims of the Columbine tragedy. We're excited about the play, which will be presented in May, 2000.

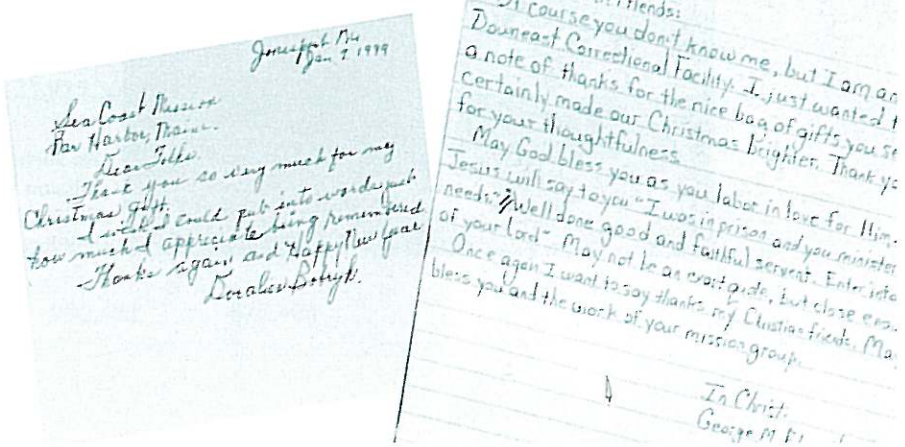
"Another project I have been quite involved with is to facilitate bringing Big Brothers Big Sisters to Washington County. This organization has been in existence for 90 yeas and is considered to be one of the better prevention programs in the nation for youth. With the high number of children from single-parent families, and the need our children have for attention, guidance and support, Big Brothers Big Sisters will serve us well, I believe. Our Fund Development team is working hard to raise the $30,000. required to begin. Our goal is to begin June, 2000, serving 15 children at the outset. With continued fund raising, though, the potential for Washington County children to be served is staggering."

Scholarship Program

This special outreach ministry made a difference in the lives of 71 coastal Maine residents during 1999. Grants totaling $40,300 were awarded to students attending college and vocational schools, adults seeking specialized education, and young people attending camping programs.

Christmas Program

With assistance from dozens of volunteer wrappers and community 'elves', Cindy Walls (Mrs. Christmas) shared the Good News of the birth of the Christ child with just under 3,000 people, including children, elderly and shut-in adults, and prisoners.



Mission House

The staff of six at Mission House is actively engaged in the work of facilitating and coordinating the work of the Mission from the islands in Penobscot Bay to the northern borders of Washington County. Each member of the Mission House staff is a representative of the spiritual and social ministries outreach that is the Sea Coast Mission. In addition to traveling north and south to stay in touch, the staff readies the building and plays host to a wide variety of workshops, day retreats and, in 1999, sixteen weddings. It is at Mission House that much of the used clothing and household items is received and sent downeast to Weald Bethel, and staff members respond to the many requests for assistance in meeting the basic needs of everyday life.

Gary DeLong

Jackie Davidson

Annie Schwartz

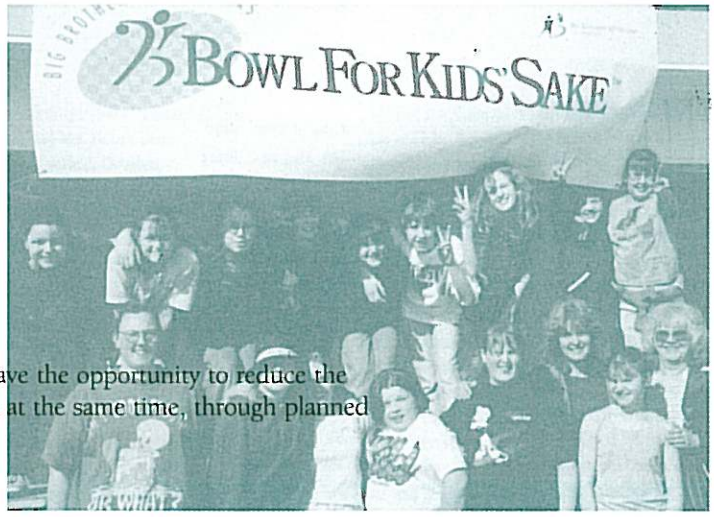
Michael Gurtler

Terri Rodick

Wayne Sprague

An anchor and plaque sit next to a lighted flagpole on the grounds of Mission House, creating the Seafarer's Memorial Park. The park was dedicated to area men and women "who went down to the sea in ships" and lost their lives, at a special ceremony in June, 1999.

Planned giving opportunities



Members and supporters of the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society have the opportunity to reduce the taxable amount of their estates and to help secure the Mission's future at the same time, through planned giving. Here are some ways you might consider a future gift.

The Mission as Beneficiary

Naming the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society as beneficiary of an IRA, life insurance policy or investment account is as easy as notifying your account or policy manager of your wishes. Some individuals set up life insurance policies, costing a small amount annually, with the intent of leaving the Mission a larger sum at the end of their lives than they would be able to contribute during their lifetime.

Naming the Mission in your will

Adding a sentence to your will instructing that a specified dollar amount or percentage of your residuary estate be given as a charitable contribution to the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society will result in a gift that will both reduce estate taxes and help the Mission to extend its future outreach. Real estate and investment securities can also be designated as gifts to the Mission via your will.

Planned gifts prolong your support of the Mission's work indefinitely, ensuring that ever increasing numbers of Maine's coastal and island residents will know the Mission as their partner in weathering life's challenges.

Statement of Financial Position

These figures are included in the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society's financial statements which were audited by Horton, McFarland, & Veysey, Certified Public Accountants, Ellsworth, Maine. We would welcome a request to inspect a complete copy of the Auditor's Report from anyone wishing a better understanding of the Mission's financial status.

	1999	1998
Total Current Assets (Restricted & Unrestricted)	$ 22,940,971	$20,077,096
Total Fixed Assets	1,704,652	1,582,264
Total Assets	23,945,623	21,659,360
Total Current Liabilities	20,118	0
Total Net Assets	$ 23,925,303	$ 21,659,360
Statement of Activities		
Total Income and Investment Gains (Realized and Unrealized)	3,256,425	4,159,048
Total Expenses	990,482	827,404

GENERAL FUND 1999

Gifts of $5,000 and Over

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The Congregational Church, South Glastonbury, CT
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The Dover Church, Dover, MA
The Union Trust Company, Ellsworth, ME
Old South Congregational Church, Hallowell, ME
First Congregational Church, Nantucket, MA
Citicorp Foundation, New York, NY, Matching Gift of Mr. Timothy Schieffelin
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, ME
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Mount Desert Island Rotary Club, Bar Harbor, ME
Trinity Episcopal Church, Castine, ME
Edgecomb Congregational Church, Edgecomb, ME
Congregational Church of Edgecomb, Edgecomb, ME
First Baptist Church, Fairfield, ME
Sawyer Memorial Church, Jonesport, ME
Second Christian Church, Kittery, ME
Hancock United Chirch of Christ, Lexington, MA
Bee and Missionary Society, First Cong. Church, Middletown, CT
The Third Congregational Church, Middletown, CT
Monhegan Community Church, Monhegan, ME, In Honor of Ted Hoskins
Wilson Memorial Chapel, Ocean Point, ME
Squirrel Island Chapel, Squirrel Island, ME
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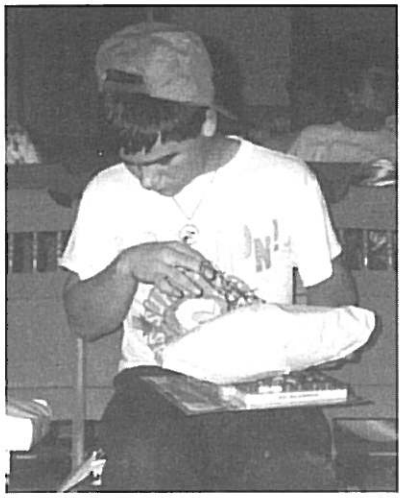

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Bridgeport Community Church, Bridgeport, MI
Naskeag Chapel, Brooklin, ME
S.A.R.A. Committee of Capitol Island, Capitol Island, ME
Interchurch Parish of Castine, Castine, ME

Cliff Island Ecumenical Church, Cliff Island, ME
Christ Church, Damariscotta, ME
First Baptist Church, Gardiner, ME
Christ Church of Gardiner, Gardiner, ME
Hancock Point Chapel Society, Hancock Point, ME
Calvary Community Church Circle, Harrison, ME
Islesford Congregational Society, Islesford, ME
Christ Church, Kennebunk, ME
New England Conference of the UMC, Lawrence, MA
Ladies Social Union of the Lubec Cong-Christian Church, Lubec, ME
First Church of Christ in Lynn, Lynn, MA
Orthodox Congregational Church, Mansfield, MA
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Milbridge Congregational Church, Milbridge, ME

Women's Fellowship, First Cong. Church, Millinocket, ME
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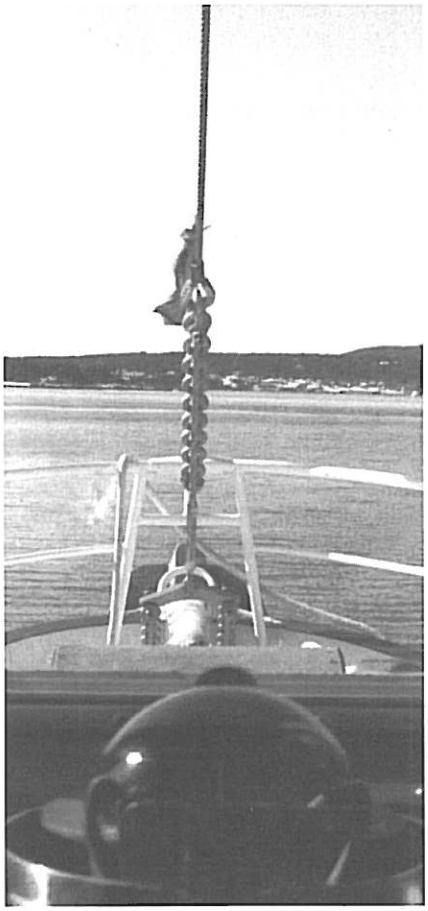

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Bar Harbor Senior Citizens Club, Bar Harbor, ME
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Ladies Benevolent Society, Wells Congregational Church, Wells, ME
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First Congregational Church, Winthrop, MA
First Congregational Church, Wiscasset, ME
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Sigma Kappa Sorority, Trenton / Delaware Valley New Jersey Chapter

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Gifts of $500 - $999
Mary S. Enk Trust
Mr. & Mrs. E. Robert Kinney

Gifts of $250 - $499
Lawrence Family Trust, Latham, NY

Gifts of $100 - $249
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In Memory of Catherine Moore
Presbyterian Women, First Presbyterian Church,
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ADDITIONS TO ENDOWMENT FUND

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Caroline E. Bruhn Trust u/w

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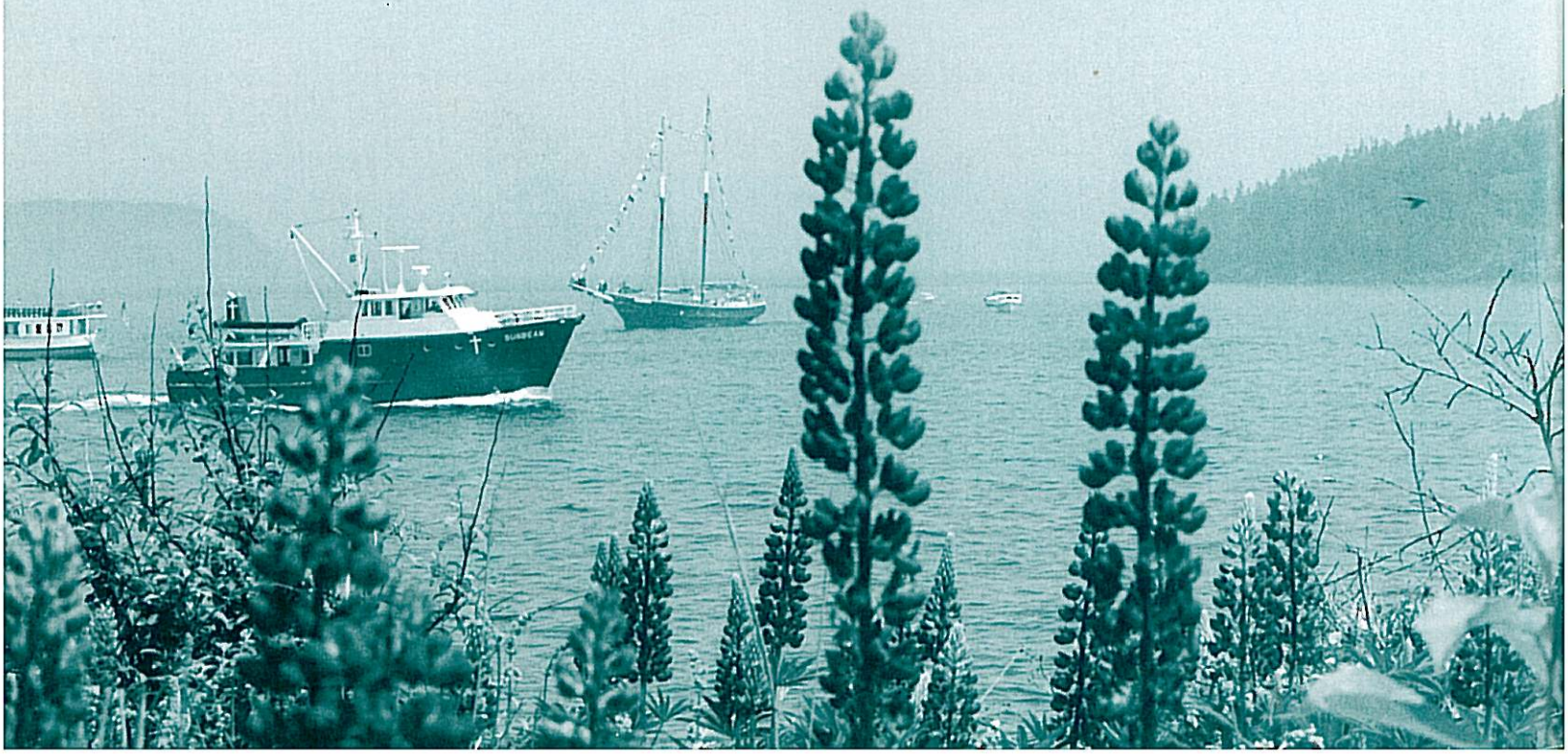
In addition to the contributions of money, listed above, we also wish to acknowledge the gifts of miscellaneous items, too numerous to list, and to express to each donor our sincere gratitude.

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