

THE COUNCIL IS REBORN

The Committee of 15

appointed Feb. 11, 1974
by President

Rev. Bruce Roberts
Portland

Rev. Carl Geores
Leeds

Rev. Robert Howes
Kennebunkport

Mrs. Alice Sanborn
Sabattus

Mr. Charles Barter
North Leeds

Mr. Clifford Davis
Sanford

Rev. Davis Bilberry
Cornish

Rev. Kenneth Brookes
Augusta

Rev. Richard Hasty
Portland

Rev. Clement Thibodeau
Alfred

Miss Rachel Harlan
Augusta

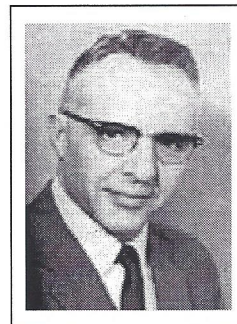
Mrs. Lucy Thompson
Calais

Ms. Ruth Ayers
Gorham

Mary Jane Cummings
Portland

Mr. Louis Marstaller
Freeport

1973-1977



Rev. Bruce Roberts
MCC President
1970, 1973-1974

1973

- September 30, 1973: MCC President Bruce Roberts receives a telephone call stating that Mrs. Elsie Libby has died and that the Maine Council of Churches is named as the sole beneficiary of her estate.

1974

- January 7, 1974: Council votes to rescind its action of February 18, 1970, and a "Committee of 15" is authorized to "consider the proper use of the Libby property and resources and make recommendations...."

- May 9, 1974: Committee of 15 reports to the Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS of the Committee of 15

Goal 1

Encourage sharing
of what God is doing
within each of the churches.

Goal 2

Develop and use creative ways
of speaking to the world,
pointing out human needs
and lifting up Judeo-Christian values.

Goal 3

Support cooperative human service projects
where two or more local churches
are working together.

Goal 4

Support judicatories
who work together
in areas of human service.

Goal 5

Provide scholarships
for individual clergy and lay leaders
who desire additional education
and spiritual renewal.

1975

- Grants Committee is established. "Grants are to be used as a stimulus to encourage ecumenical cooperation and to meet a broad range of concerns of the church community."

- The Libby Estate is settled.

1976

- A Communications Committee is organized by Rev. S. Clifton Ives to survey religious programming on radio and television.

- MCC co-sponsors a Rural Church Conference in Leeds and Fairbanks. Other sponsors include the Synod of the Northeast, Rural Community Action Ministry (RCAM), and the United Methodist Church Economic Ministry.

1977

- "That Your Light May Shine!" communications workshops for congregations are held in Waterville and Portland.

- MCC sponsors W.H.E.A.T. (World Hunger Education Action Together), an event to highlight world hunger.

- In response to the strong urging of Rev. Lynne Josselyn, Denise Ewell, and Rev. Susan Turley-Moore, a Social Concerns Department is created that will address issues of social justice from an ecumenical perspective.

**Toward
a greater
witness to
God's Love.**

**The Maine
Council of
Churches**

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AS GRANTOR

1978-1980

1978

● The Episcopal Diocese of Maine joins the Maine Council of Churches.

● "Insights" (hosted by William Stubbs) airs on WGAN-TV, 6:30-7:00 am three days a week.



1979

● Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, is welcomed as an Associate Member.

● Faiths in Action Together (F.I.A.T.) is organized to help lead the effort in the United States Congress to raise the level of support for mothers receiving funds from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

● The Marion Ulmer Fund is authorized, making possible a generation of Seeds of Promise religious education events.

*Johns Church, Florida
May 2, 1977*

*Dear Bill,
I am writing you on a suggestion which you have probably thought of and plan to do. Marion does not know I am doing it because she probably would not approve of it. No, you think it would be possible to honor her in some way for the contribution that she has made to the state.
I feel that it was a wonderful gift that Mrs. Libby left to the Council and it was because of Marion.*

In 1978, unbeknownst to her sister, Miss Madelyn Ulmer wrote to Rev. William Chamberlain, suggesting that Marion Ulmer be honored for many years of service to the Maine Council of Churches.

Among the MCC Grantees 1975-1980

Mission at the Eastward
(East Summer Ecumenical Ministry)
\$10,500

Mt. Abram Cooperative Education Project, Salem
\$1,200

Protestant Hospital Chaplaincy, Portland
\$3,000

Somerset Organization for Mutual Assistance
\$2,500

Indian Program, AFSC
\$750

Farmington Clergy Association Counseling Training
\$600

New Testament Oral Tradition Network
\$500

Central Maine Indian Association
\$2,000

Abused Women's Advocacy Project
\$1,000

Castine Interchurch Parish Chaplaincy
\$1,000

Capehart Community Center, Bangor
\$1,000

Maine Council of Churches NEWSLETTER

Economic Ministry builds sense of self-worth and dignity

"For the most part, we take people who could not be placed elsewhere. It has given us satisfaction to see our boys and girls blossom out...to sense their worth and responsibility." The Rev. Charles Reid, Director of the Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem, Maine, was describing his feelings about a program that serves people in central Franklin County. The ministry revolves around a thrift shop and a furniture refinishing operation. Young people from S.A.D. #8 at Mt. Abram High School in Salem work as sales clerks learning basic retail skills.



Karen Smith tends Salem Thrift Shop cash register, and in the furniture where they learn the value of quality workmanship and develop confidence in their own abilities.

During 1977 four young people participated in the program that was funded in part with a \$1,200 grant from the Maine Council of Churches. The Methodists are working in conjunction with the Mission At The Eastward, a joint endeavor of the United Presbyterian, Methodist and local independent churches.

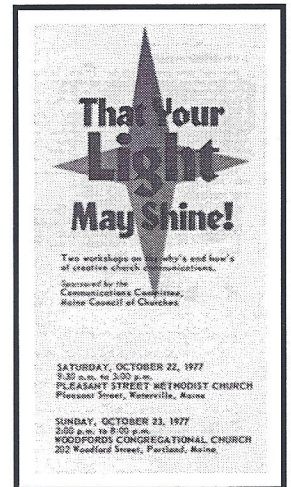
For information on how you might help support this ministry to disadvantaged people in rural Maine contact: the Rev. Charles Reid, Director, Economic Ministry, R.F.D. 1, Salem, Maine, 04983. (Tel. 687-2611)

A shelter from family violence: The Abused Women's Advocacy Project

A grant of \$600 from the Maine Council of Churches is helping many battered and beaten women and children in central Maine. Until this project, women and children who were abused, beaten, and battered have had few places to look for help.

Planning for the Abused Women's Advocacy Project began nearly two years ago. This past March, the project was able to open an apartment to shelter women and children who needed help. The purpose of the project is to provide immediate help for women and children who need protection from members of their family, usually the husband, who has resorted to physical violence. Often the women and children are persuaded by the husband to the homes of relatives, and so a private temporary shelter is necessary.

Before the apartment was opened, the project would find shelter in private homes, and from September to March, shelter was found for 41 women and children. Since the opening of the apartment, help has been given to 16 children and 11 women. After arriving at the shelter women receive counseling and are forwarded to other relief agencies when appropriate. Some families are reunited, and when necessary women and children are helped to become independent members of the community.



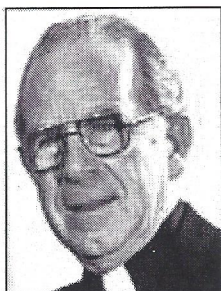
Rev. Carl Geores
MCC President
1977-1978



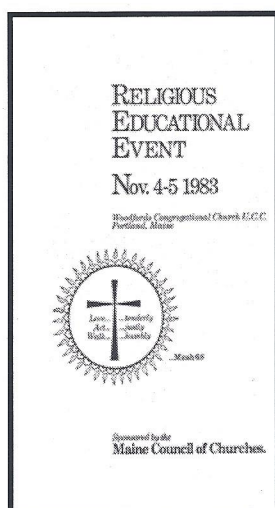
Rev. William Chamberlain
MCC President
1979-1980
Southern District Supt.
Maine Conference UMC

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THE COUNCIL IN THE EIGHTIES



**Rev. Canon Joseph
"Ray" Bolger**
MCC Executive Secretary
1980-1986



Family Matters
Television Series

CHANNEL 13 WGAN - 12:30 P.M. SUNDAYS
MAY 4 - JULY 27
CHANNEL 5 WABI - 7:00 A.M. SUNDAY
MAY 11 - AUGUST 3

"TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY"
- HOST: REV. DON LONSDALE
- PRODUCER REV. DICK LONSDALE

1981-1985

1981

- MCC opposes Question 4, a DOC referendum authorizing 138 more beds at the Maine State Prison. Instead, the Council urges creation of a Maine Sentencing Guidelines Commission.
- MCC sponsors "Parole: YES or NO," a forum at Woodfords Congregational Church.

1982

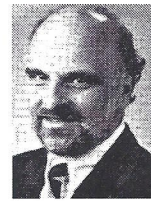
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland is welcomed as a member of the Maine Council of Churches.
- Church Women United is received as an Associate Member.
- "Report on Prison Ministries" press conferences in Portland and Bangor, covered by three TV stations and the Associated Press, urge alternatives to imprisonment before investing in costly prison construction.
- 87 acres of land is sold to the US Fish & Wildlife Service to extend the Rachel Carson Preserve.
- A workshop, "A Wholistic Approach to Social Action," is held at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church, Portland.



Rev. N. Wesley Haynes and Rev. Walter Van Hoek at an airport news conference on Prison Ministry.

1983

- The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches is received as an MCC Member.
- The Swedenborgian Community (Church of the New Jerusalem) is received as an Associate Member.
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is received as an Associate Member.
- The first Seeds of Promise Religious Education Event, funded by the Marion Ulmer Fund, is held at Woodfords Congregational Church. Keynoters: Thomas Groome, Sharon Daloz Parks, Walter Brueggeman. 440 in attendance. MCC publishes "To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly: An Agenda for Ministers" (featuring the keynote addresses). The book is still in print.



Keynoters: Sharon Daloz Parks, Thomas Groome, and Walter Brueggeman

- MCC endorses "Campaign for Peace with Justice in Central America."
- Donna Gilbeau is hired as a paid lobbyist for the Maine Council of Churches.



SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THE COUNCIL IN THE EIGHTIES

1981-1985

1984

- Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, is received as an Associate Member.

- Annual Assembly votes unanimously to endorse ratification of the Maine Equal Rights Amendment.

- MCC sponsors "Prison Overcrowding: The Lawmakers' Dilemma" workshop.

1985

- Resolution on Central America calls for "peaceful, negotiated settlement of conflicts in the region," commended El Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte, and urges US President Ronald Reagan to pursue peace without military intervention.

- An MCC Board resolution calls for the U.S. Dept of Immigration and Naturalization to review cases where Cambodians have been refused refugee status, so that families in the US can sponsor their close relatives in Khao I Dang or in border camps.

- MCC campaigns for a holiday marking the birth of Civil Rights pioneer Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

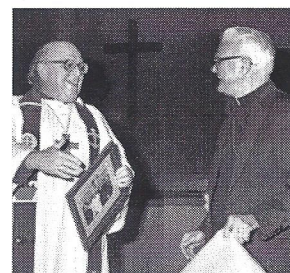
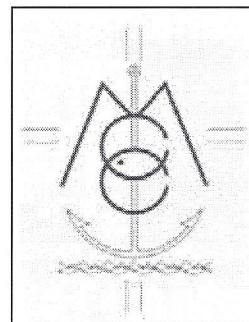


MCC President, Rev. Lynne Joselyn leads a meeting of the Maine Council of Churches. To her right: Arthur Duffett. To her left: Executive Secretary "Ray" Bolger.

MCC Grantees 1981-1985

(a partial list)

Pastoral Care and Counseling Service	\$1,000
Cumberland County Bail Project	\$1,000
Hospice of Western Maine	\$750
Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Falmouth	\$1,000
Coastal Family Hospice	\$1,000
Rural Community Action Ministry	\$6,500
Womankind, Inc.	\$1,500
Abused Women's Advocacy Project	\$1,000
Clergy and Laity Concerned, Bangor	\$8,550
Aroostook Medical Center Pastoral Care	\$2,500
Interfaith Low-Income Awareness Project	\$3,000
Portland Area Displaced Homemakers	\$2,500
Religious Institutions for Family Life Education	\$7,500
Woodfords/Deering Afterschool Program	\$2,500
Tikkun Olam	\$3,000
Economic Justice for Poor Women	\$2,350
Criminal Justice Education Project	\$3,000
Good Shepherd Food Bank	\$6,000
Alliance for the Mentally Ill	\$1,000
Elder Circle Transition Program	\$2,500
Celebration of Peace Concert Series	\$2,000
Long Timers Group, Inc., Thomaston	\$2,500
Habitat for Humanity, Portland	\$2,500

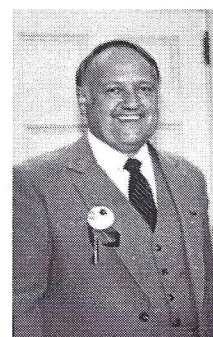


Lutheran Bishop Wismar and Catholic Bishop O'Leary at the 1983 Annual Assembly.



Religious Educational Event

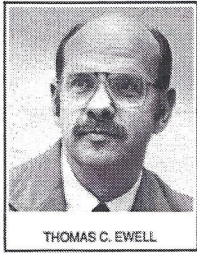
Seeds of Promise II (1985) featured Parker Palmer and James and Evelyn Whitehead.



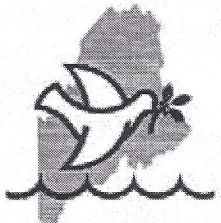
Rev. Carl Beyer
Associate Conference
Minister UCC

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THE EWELL YEARS



THOMAS C. EWELL
Executive Director
1986-2005



**Maine Interfaith
Flood Recovery
Agency
1987**



Robert Foulger
Presbyterian laymen

Newsletter of the Maine Council of Churches

1986-1990

1986

- The First Radio Parish Church of America is received as an Associate Member.

- Tom Ewell is hired as the Council's full-time Executive Director, and the Council office moves to Clark Memorial United Methodist Church, Portland.

- MCC becomes a founding member of Mainers Against the Death Penalty.

1987

- In response to the floods of 1987, MCC creates the Maine Interfaith Flood Recovery Agency, a 501(c)3 corporation. In one year, through donations from denominations and individuals, the Agency provides \$193,000 in direct emergency aid to flood victims.

- MCC co-sponsors rallies in Rumford, Portland, Bangor, Augusta, and Lewiston-Auburn against a KKK presence in Maine. Co-sponsors: Jewish Federation of Southern Maine, Maine Chapter NAACP, Christian Civic League of Maine, NOW, and the AFL-CIO.

- An MCC Criminal Justice Committee is created.

- The Council's newsletter, *Crosspoint*, begins publication.

MCC Grantees 1986-1988

(a partial list)

Maine Association of Handicapped Persons
\$2,000

Birthline, Bangor
\$2,000

Craft Catalog Economic Project, UMC
\$2,400

Center for Vision and Policy
\$3,000

Project for the Advancement of Sexual Health and
Safety, Maine State Prison

\$2,600

The AIDS Project
\$1,400

Presque Isle Student Ministries
\$1,000

Brunswick Area Church Shelter
\$1,200

Bread of Life Ministries Emergency Shelter
\$1,200

Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry
\$2,000

Family Planning Association of Maine
\$1,000

Maine Peace Mission
\$2,500

Rural Community Action Ministry
\$2,000

Sentencing Options
\$3,500

and others totaling more than \$30,000.

Fall 1987

The KKK gets chilly reception in Maine



KKK members wearing traditional robes and hoods prepare to light a cross at Rumford Point.

Church World photo



SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THE EWELL YEARS

1986-1990

1988

- Annual Assembly adopts a resolution on AIDS, calling for education, pastoral and housing support, political protection, use of church facilities and volunteers to address the concern.

- MCC receives an \$80,000 grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to assist the Criminal Justice Committee. The grant allows the Council to hire a Public Policy Research Director to support the Committee.

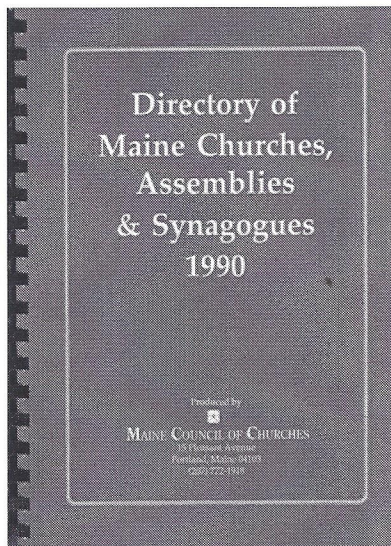
- A Fair Share Plan for annual contributions is adopted by the Council's member denominations.

1989

- The Council's first Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship, held in Lewston, draws 800 worshippers.

- Seeds of Promise IV features "Religion and the Arts," including a performance by the Choral Arts Society.

- Maine Council of Churches leads the successful campaign to defeat a \$35,000,000 prison bond referendum that would have funded a maximum security prison in Warren.



1990

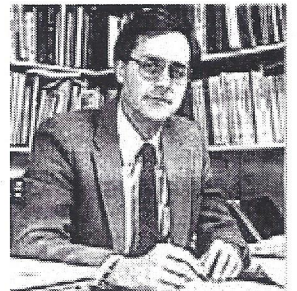
- On behalf of the Council, Criminal Justice Committee chair Dr. Craig McEwen and MCC executive director Tom Ewell meet with Governor John McKernan to offer assistance in the development of "a long-range plan for corrections and a step-by-step strategy for how we should get there."

- MCC's Sally Campbell receives a Golden Arrow Award from the Maine Public Relations Council for her work on the prison bond campaign in 1989.

- December 29, 1990: Seven judiciary leaders meet with Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell concerning the impending Gulf War, "to personally express appreciation for [his] leadership in this very difficult time" and "to share with [him] the positions our denominations hold regarding the Persian Gulf Crisis." (In attendance: Rev. Otto Sommer, Bishop Edward Chalfant, Rev. Clifton Ives, Bishop Joseph Gerry, Bishop Amadee Proulx, Rev. Glenn Turner, and MCC executive director Tom Ewell.)



Rev. James Connor
MCC President
1986-1988



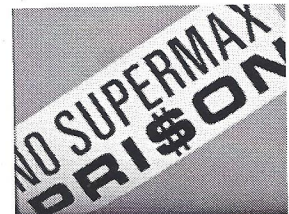
Dr. Craig McEwen
MCC Criminal Justice
Committee Chair



Monsignor Vincent Tatarczuk meets with Sally Campbell and Tom Ewell.
1988



Tom Ewell discusses the 1988 Annual Assembly agenda with MCC clerk Dorothy Larrabee.



'One of best kept secrets'

Catholics heavily involved in Maine Council of Churches

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THE EWELL YEARS

1991-1995



Rev. Jean Bass
MCC president
1989-1990

Rev. Dr. David L. Glusker
MCC president
1991-1992



Marc Mutty
MCC president
1993-1994

Vote YES on #6!

The Maine Council of Churches urges your support for the \$20.25 million prison bond.

- By including a variety of correctional facilities, this bond shows a balanced approach to meeting Maine's needs.
- By including facilities built in a variety of areas throughout the state, this bond does not burden one section with a large prison population.
- By including alternatives to prison, this bond gives judges several choices for placement when sentencing offenders and should diminish future need for building prisons.

All of this adds up to a wide variety of correctional space at a reasonable cost to the citizens of Maine.

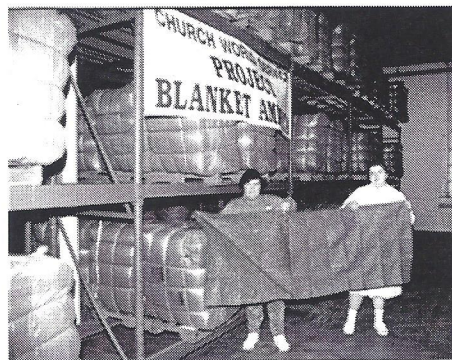
1991

- MCC's "An Ethic for Economic Justice: Raising Up the Voices of Those who May Not Be Heard" calls upon state legislators to attend to the needs of the poor.

1992

- The Council receives the Presidential Award from the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) "for dedication to justice and equality for Maine's Lesbian and Gay citizens."

- Blanket America Project (with Church World Service and Good Shepherd Food Bank) distributes 15,500 blankets.



Sally Campbell
Communications
Director
1987-1995



Evelyn Hanneman
Criminal Justice and
Development Director
1988-1998

1993

- An Edna McConnell Clark Foundation grant allows MCC to help plan a Sentencing Institute for 300 judges and corrections officials.

- MCC-produced Public Service Announcements air on WCSH Radio.

RADIO SPOT #4

"Get Into Practice"
30 seconds

Little girl: "Grandpa, how come you never play your piano?"

Grandpa: "Oh, I've gotten out of practice. I ain't played in years. I used to play in a dance band years ago. I even played in church?"

Little girl: "You did?"

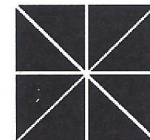
Grandpa: "Ayuh. When I was a boy, I used to play for the Sunday night service."

Little girl: "Maybe you need to start practicing again."

Grandpa: "Naw, I've been away from the piano too long to take it up again."

Little girl: "I meant going to church!"

Announcer: "Something to think about, from the Maine Council of Churches."



Bangor Daily News

RELIGION

Sat. Jan. 3 - 6, 1993

**Maine Council of Churches passes
resolve on 'prudent fiscal policies'**

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.