

## THE EWELL YEARS

### 1991-1995

1994

- MCC receives a grant of \$140,000 from the Lilly Endowment to create Youth Study Circles.
- The Council sponsors "Staying Ethical: Keeping the Trust" at Bangor Theological Seminary and at St. Bartholomew's, Cape Elizabeth.
- Seeds of Promise VI highlights "What Does It Mean to Proclaim the Good News?"
- Land on U.S. Route 1 is sold to Messiah Christian Church for its campus.
- Testimonial dinner honors Daniel Johnson, longtime MCC Board member and Episcopal layman.
- With the Portland Newspapers, MCC co-sponsors Reader Roundtables.

#### Staying Ethical, Part 2:

### **Keeping the Trust: Clergy Sexual Misconduct and what clergy and laity can do about it**

Sunday, April 17, 1994  
St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church  
Two Lights Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Sunday, April 24, 1994  
Bangor Theological Seminary  
300 Union Street, Bangor, Maine

2:00pm to 8:00pm

Sponsored by  
The Maine Council of Churches  
and  
Bangor Theological Seminary

1995

- A Religious Coalition Against Discrimination (RCAD) is created with Council assistance to work on gay rights issues. It produces "A Call for Justice and Compassion" to encourage defeat of a ballot question limiting "Protected Classes Under Maine Law."
- Testimonial dinner honors Ruth and Robert Ives of The Carpenter's Boathouse.

## **Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly....** -Micah 6:8

A Publication of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination in Maine Fall 1995

### **A Call for Justice and Compassion**

BALLOT QUESTION #1  
November 7, 1995

"An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under  
Maine Law" reads:

"Do you favor the changes in Maine  
Law limiting protected classifications  
in future state and local laws to race,  
color, sex, physical or mental disability,  
religion, age, ancestry, national origin,  
familial status, and marital status, and

• *Vague, confusing, and divisive* •

We oppose this referendum because it  
is vague and confusing. The wording of  
this measure is intentionally vague and  
confusing. Although it is not readily  
apparent, the primary intent is to single out  
gay men and lesbians for discrimination.  
Such discrimination is wrong. Protestants,  
Catholics, and Jews have a long-standing  
commitment to extend human rights pro-

• *We stand together, committed* •

Some people inside our faith communities  
may be troubled by the stand we take.  
They may have questions and concerns,  
even fears and anxieties. We pledge our  
openness to talk with them and to pray  
and counsel with them. In the same time,  
we stand convinced, grounded in our faith,  
that this referendum is wrong.

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that you vote NO on this



**Edna Smith**  
MCC President  
1995-1996

### **Faith In Action:**

MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### **Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

11 Pleasant Avenue • Portland • Maine • 04103  
(207) 772-3915 • (207) 772-7040 • fax  
Thomas C. Swett, Executive Director

### **MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

#### **Dialogue Statewide**

In the winter of 1994, the Maine Council of Churches teamed up with  
Guy Gannett Communications in a unique project called 'Reader  
Roundtables'.

Over 700 Maine citizens met in 55 Roundtables from Presque Isle to  
Berwick for four consecutive weeks to discuss public education - its  
strengths and weaknesses. Using in-depth articles printed in the *Maine  
Sunday Telegram* as the basis for discussion, Roundtable participants  
joined in a statewide "conversation" on a current social issue.

The Roundtables used a small group model called 'study circles' to  
promote meaningful dialogue and understanding. A project of the  
Council's Education Committee, another Roundtable is planned for the  
fall of 1994.

The study circles model is available for use in other groups such as  
churches and ecumenical groups as well, with the Council able to  
provide material on a broad range of topics.



**Rev. Jim Connor**  
Ecumaniac Extraordinaire

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

## THE EWELL YEARS

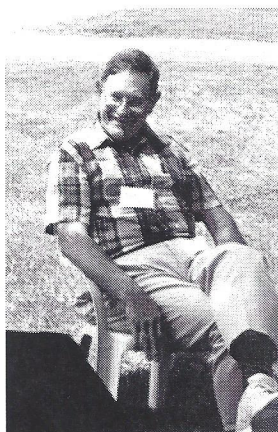
### 1996-1999



Elly Haney

#### The Eleanor Humes Haney Fund

The Fund named to honor the memory of Elly Haney, an activist for social justice and a member of the Bath United Church of Christ, has helped make possible a number of MCC environmental and economic justice projects.



Rev. Cn. Henry Male, Jr.  
Episcopal Diocesan  
Representative  
to the MCC  
Board of Directors

1996

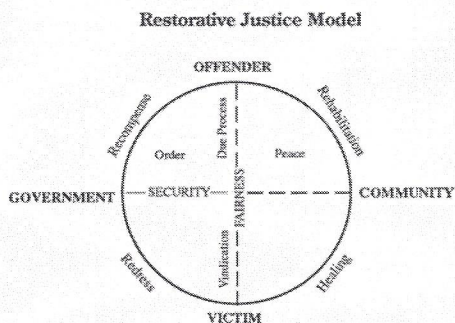
- **Kaleidoscope of Justice**, a restorative justice newsletter, is launched.
- Reader Roundtables is spun off into a separate organization: The Roundtable Center.
- Seeds of Promise VII (at Woodfords Congregational Church UCC) features Howard Hanchey, with worship led by Brian Wren and Susan Heafield.
- MCC co-sponsors "Building Community Partnerships: Mental Illness Issues in the Criminal Justice System."
- MCC co-sponsors "Life Planning for Caring Families" (estate planning co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Services).

1997

- MCC endorses the US Catholic Bishops' statement: "An Ethic for Economic Life."
- MCC sponsors Eco-Spirituality and Earth Stewardship Day in Newcastle and Damariscotts (the 1st Watershed Event).
- A "Spirituality and Earth Stewardship" advisory board is created, headed by Dr. Susan MacKenzie.
- The greater Damariscotta area celebrates its watershed as a spiritual gift.

## CROSSPOINT

Volume VII, Number 1 The Newspaper of the Maine Council of Churches Winter 1997



**The Maine Council of Churches  
presents**

**Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.**

of New York's Riverside Church  
at the Council's  
**Annual Assembly**

**Friday, November 7, 1997**  
Falmouth Congregational Church  
267 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, ME

**Kaleidoscope  
OF  
JUSTICE**

Highlighting Restorative Justice in Maine

A publication of the Criminal Justice Program of the Maine Council of Churches Vol. 3, No. 2 - June 1998

**Seeking justice for crime victims**

As often, when our criminal justice system completes its cycle with yet another offender, the victim is left wondering what happened and believing that justice has not been served. The system is indeed a criminal justice system, seeking to find guilt and exact punishment while assuming that the offender's rights are not violated. The victim often has little or nothing to do with the process and may end up feeling even more victimized by it.

Gordon Bassett of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Project illustrates the differences between a restorative approach and a rehabilitative criminal justice response. He tells of a young teenager whose bedroom was invaded by a neighbor who sat on her bed for several hours, smoking her hair and "talking dirty." She identified the man, he was arrested and found guilty.

The victim and her mother were given the opportunity to speak at the sentencing hearing. After careful thought, they asked the judge to require restitution of \$500 to cover the cost of replacing the girl's bed and bedding since she was too embarrassed by the experience to sleep in her old bed. They also asked that the man be required to seek counseling for his obvious problems, noting that incarceration was not needed as far as they were concerned because he did not seem to pose any further danger to the community as long as he could deal with his issues.

The judge thanked them, then sentenced the man to six months in jail (where no counseling was available) and to pay a court fine of \$250.

The issues facing victims in our current system and the hope brought by restorative justice is the subject of our featured article by Marty Price, director of The Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program Information and Resource Center.

**Inside this issue**

**Page 2** - A district attorney develops new ways to deal with drug offenders.

**Page 3** - The effect of recent US drug policy.

Restorative justice is focus for CA Catholics.

**Page 4** - A victim/offender mediator looks at punishment and our criminal justice system from the victim's perspective.

**Page 5** - Kaleidoscope of Justice writes/edits letters to North Carolina.

**Page 6** - A restorative justice response to school-age offenders.

**Page 8** - A retrospective: 30 years after President Johnson's Crime Commission report. Upcoming events.

**Resources**

From the Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation - two video tapes: each is 25 minutes long and costs \$50.

1 - Restorative Justice: For Victims, Communities, and Offenders

2 - Restorative Justice: Victim Empowerment Through Mediation and Dialogue

Phone - 612-625-1855  
Web site - [www.ccrj.org](http://www.ccrj.org)  
CJR42m

#### Kaleidoscope of Justice

Edited by Evelyn Hanneman, Kaleidoscope of Justice earned a national reputation as a cutting edge journal of Restorative Justice.

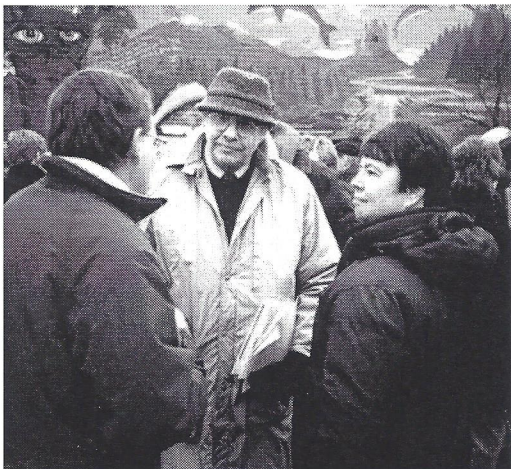
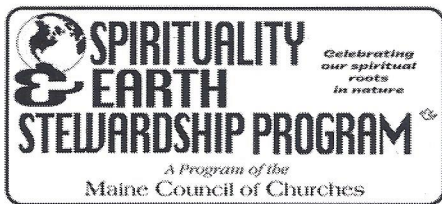
SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

## THE EWELL YEARS

### 1996-1999

1998

- MCC co-sponsors "Reclaiming Our Faith" conferences in Lewiston and Somesville (with Maine SpeakOut) to encourage gay men and lesbians to speak out from faith perspectives.
- Youth Study Circles engages more than 700 young people in dialogues on issues of ethics.
- Dr. Susan MacKenzie leads Spirituality & Earth Stewardship workshops.
- Seeds of Promise VIII is held at BTS, Bangor, with keynoter Rev. Raymond Collins of Catholic University of America.
- Evelyn Hanneman receives the Watering Can Award from Maine Initiatives for her contribution to criminal justice reform.

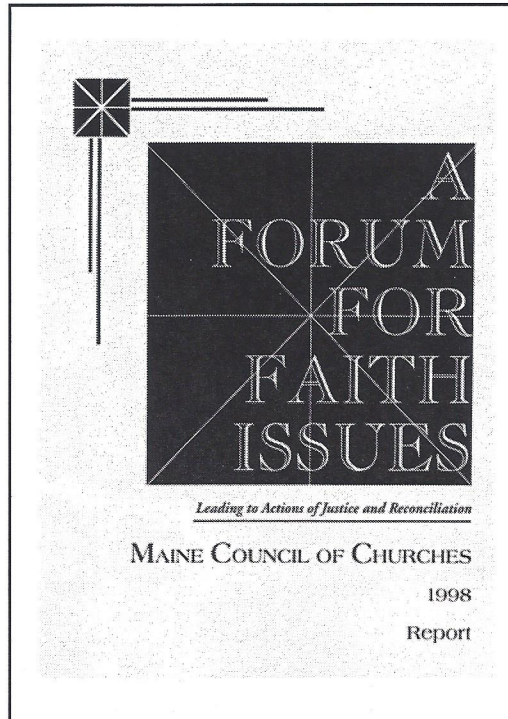


**"Don't Freeze Us Out"**

Tom Ewell and Episcopal Bishop Chilton Knudsen join a 1999 rally to stand with the poor.

1999

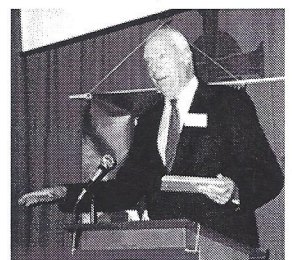
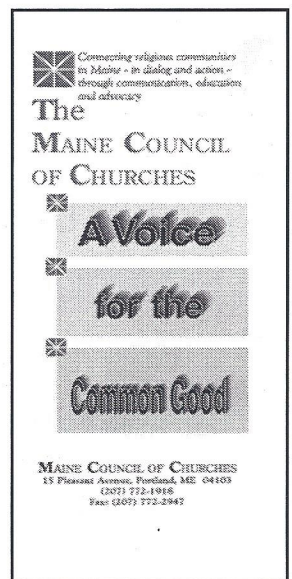
- Dr. Larry Harcourt institutes the End of Life Program, and MCC hosts an Interfaith End of Life Conference at Temple Beth El, Portland.
- With a grant from the Department of Justice, Suzanne Rudalevige leads five "H is for Hell, Hope & Healing" statewide clergy conferences.
- "Reclaiming Our Faith" conferences are held in Lewiston, Camden, Machias, Dover-Foxcroft, Caribou, and Bangor (co-sponsored by Maine SpeakOut).
- Susan MacKenzie speaks at "Caring for the Earth" series co-sponsored by MCC, Bangor Theological Seminary, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM).



The Council's 1998 Annual Report was designed and edited by the Council's Communications Director, Karen Caouette, and MCC Development Director, Doug Cruger, to tell the Council's story of justice, compassion, and reconciliation.



**Elizabeth Ring**  
MCC President  
1997-1998




**Rev. Fred Pease**  
speaks for the  
Legislative Issues Committee  
1998



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## THE EWELL YEARS


### 2000-2002



Baseball – a tradition that unites American families will bring together people of many diverse cultures at

**IN THE BIG INNING**  
*"A Time for Connecting"*  
 A baseball game -  
**Portland Sea Dogs**  
 versus the  
**Altoona Curves**


**Wednesday,  
 June 19, 2002**  
 presented by the  
 Maine Council of Churches



Hadlock Field



A \$100,000 grant to MCC from the Beldon Fund makes possible the success of Maine Interfaith Power & Light.



**Restorative Justice**

Restoring Victims of Crime  
 Building Healthy Communities

Prepared by the  
 Criminal Justice Issues Committee  
 of the  
**Maine Council of Churches**

15 Pleasant Avenue • Portland, Maine 04103  
 Phone: 207-772-1918 • Fax: 207-772-2947

E-mail: [MCCChurches@aol.com](mailto:MCCChurches@aol.com)  
<http://www.maineccouncilofchurches.org>

#### 2000

- MCC helps create Maine Interfaith Power & Light, the first IPL in the United States, making it possible, by 2003, for Mainers to purchase 100% renewable energy to heat and light their homes.
- Dr. Larry Harcourt conducts Congregational End of Life Conversations, MCC's part in a \$450,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- 200 Community Justice professionals attend "Strengthening Maine's Community Justice Partnerships," co-sponsored by MCC, at the Samoset Inn, Rockland.



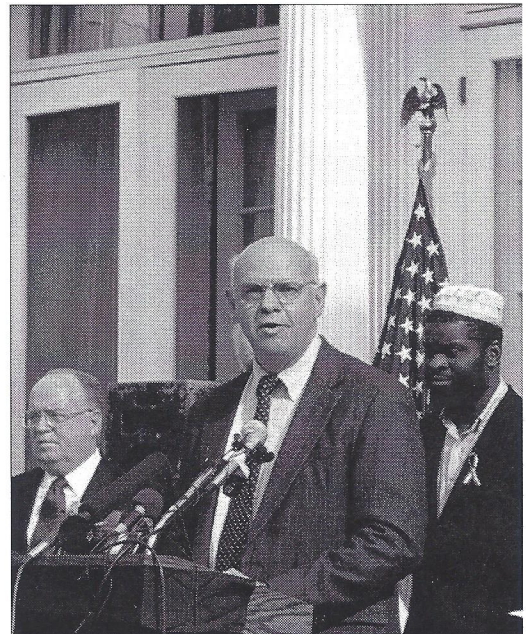
**Pioneering Women in Ministry Dinner**  
 Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke, Portland  
 November 30, 2000

#### 2001

- MCC Legislative Day initiates a "Campaign to End Homelessness in Maine."
- Marva Dawn keynotes Seeds of Promise IX.
- With leadership from staff member Suzanne Rudalevige, MCC brings Rev. Pierre Allard to speak at Bates College about "The Restorative Justice of the Bible."
- MCC sponsors "A Celebration of Restorative Justice" at the Senator Inn, Augusta, honoring five Maine restorative justice pioneers.

#### 2002

- 30 religious leaders join 1,200 colleagues nationwide in a letter to the U.S. Senate urging an environmentally and economically just energy policy.
- MCC sponsors "In the Big Inning," an Intercultural/Interfaith welcoming event, at a Portland Sea Dogs baseball game at Hadlock Field.
- Annual Assembly initiates an Economic Justice Program. Dolores Vail is hired as its director.
- MCC gathers 10,000 signatures in support of a \$12,000,000 affordable housing bond.
- In September 2002, the Council issues "A Statement for a Just and Non-Violent Resolution to the Impending Military Action in Iraq."
- Staff member Anne D. "Andy" Burt organizes "The Great Anti-Gas-Guzzling Gathering and Gala."



**September 12, 2001**

Tom Ewell leads an interfaith prayer vigil on the steps of the Blaine House on the morning after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

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## RETOOLING FOR THE FUTURE

### 2003-2005

2003

- The MCC Board of Directors issues "A Pastoral Peace Letter." The Council becomes a lead organization in the Win Without War Coalition.
- While the MCC Board opposes the casino referendum, it vows to support tribal economic development.
- Thirty EarthCare teams, organized by MCC's Environmental Justice Program, celebrate at The Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset.
- MCC Board accepts a challenge goal from the River Rock Foundation to raise \$120,000 to create a Restorative Justice Center to support restorative justice practice within Maine.
- Board of Directors begins an intensive strategic planning process to chart the Council's course for the next decade.
- MCC receives a grant from the Presbyterian Church USA to launch the General Assistance Project, to educate congregations and communities about the inequities within Maine's municipally-administered General Assistance Program.



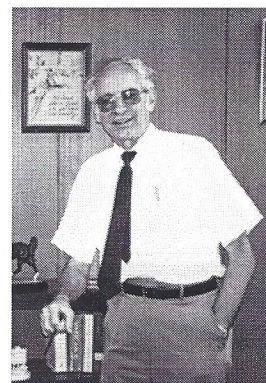
Don Clark and Dolores Vail

2004

- Economic Justice Program Director Dolores Vail works to launch "Hear Our Stories, Know Our Names," a real-life performance piece by and about the homeless. The drama introduces dozens of congregations to the realities of poverty in their midst.
- Andy Burt organizes "Walk on the Wild Side," an environmental sleep-over for middle school boys and girls.

2005

- MCC launches the "Giving Winds Campaign" in conjunction with the Four Directions Development Corporation (FDDC) to create a loan fund to stimulate economic development within Maine's tribal communities. The campaign leverages more than \$1.4 million for the tribes.
- Tom Ewell resigns after nearly 20 years as Executive Director.
- Rev. Jill Job Saxby is hired as the Council's second Executive Director and accepts the challenge to lead the Board in creating a plan to eliminate the Council's deficit within ten years.



Brother Francis Blouin  
MCC President  
2003-2004



Anne D. Burt  
Environmental Justice  
2002-2008

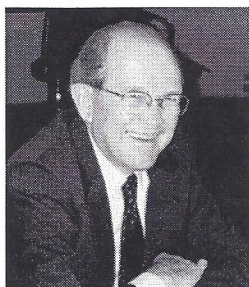


In November, 2005, MCC's new Executive Director, Jill Job Saxby, speaks at a rally in Portland's Monument Square in support of maintaining legal protection for LGBT people under Maine's Human Rights Protection Act.

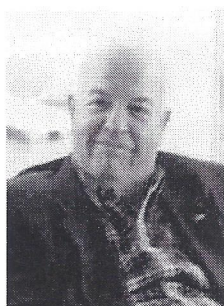
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## A VOICE AND A RESOURCE

### 2006-2008



**Rev. Edward W. Poitras**  
MCC President  
2004-2006



**Ken McAfee**  
MCC Treasurer  
and  
Chair of the Finance  
Committee

#### 2006


- The Board of Directors adopts a new mission statement and a new logo.
- MCC and Bangor Theological Seminary co-sponsor "A Conversation with Belden Lane" at Sky-Hi Center in Topsham, about faithful living in an age when the moral underpinnings of past days are being called into question.
- MCC sponsors "How Shall We Live So That All May Thrive?," a major environmental conference for congregations, at the Augusta Civic Center. Gary Gardner from WorldWatch Institute is the keynote speaker.
- The No-Idling Project, launched in Freeport by churches and the community, spreads to other communities through the leadership of MCC Environmental Justice Director Andy Burt.
- In its first years, the "Be a Good Apple" campaign enlists 35 congregations and hundreds of individuals to take the Local Foods Pledge.
- MCC becomes the first statewide ecumenical group in the nation to join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT).

#### 2007

- Board of Directors adopts an 8-year Development Plan to grow the Council while at the same time gradually eliminating the draw-down on the invested fund.
- Eric C. Smith is hired as Congregational Outreach Coordinator.
- The final parcel of the land bequeathed to the Council 34 years ago by Elsie Libby is sold to the Preachers' Aid Society of the New England Conference, United Methodist Church.
- MCC is an organizer of "Maine Partners for Cool Communities" along with the American Lung Association, Maine Energy Investment Corporation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club. The partners seek local solutions to Global Warming.
- The Restorative Justice Center concludes its work with the confidence that, thanks to the work of its director Jon Stanley and others before him, the concept of restorative justice has been firmly planted within the Maine judicial branch. Hereafter, the Council's restorative justice work will fall within the work of the MCC's Public Policy Committee.


Maine Council of Churches  
Presents  
A Conference on ECO-JUSTICE

**How Shall We Live  
So That All May Thrive?**  
Building Neighborhoods of  
Environmental and Economic Justice



"The Neighborhood"

**Saturday, October 21, 2006**  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Augusta Civic Center  
Keynote Speaker:  
Gary Gardner  
Senior Researcher,  
World Watch Institute



Be a Good Apple!  
Local Foods Pledge Project

**SAVE THE DATE**  
for  
A CONVERSATION WITH BELDEN LANE  
**THURSDAY, MAY 18th**  
Sky-Hi Conference Center, Topsham

**In wilderness,  
fear and growth  
walk hand in hand.**

Belden Lane

Sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches  
and Bangor Theological Seminary



Rev. Jill Job Saxby with MCC Presidents  
Silver Moore-Leamon (2008)  
and Rev. Dr. H. Roy Partridge, Jr. (2007)

SEEKING COMMON GROUND. WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

## 2006-2008

2008

- MCC works on a Leadership Team with Consumers for Affordable Health Care supporting "Consumer Voices for Coverage" (made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).

- The Council publishes "The Things That Make for Peace: Resources for A Time of War," marking the 5th anniversary of the start of the ground war in Iraq.

- Jill Saxby works with Jewish and Muslim leaders to create an Action Alert Network capable of responding to hate-incidents within Maine communities.

- MCC is an active partner in developing and implementing Governor Baldacci's "Carbon Challenge Plan."

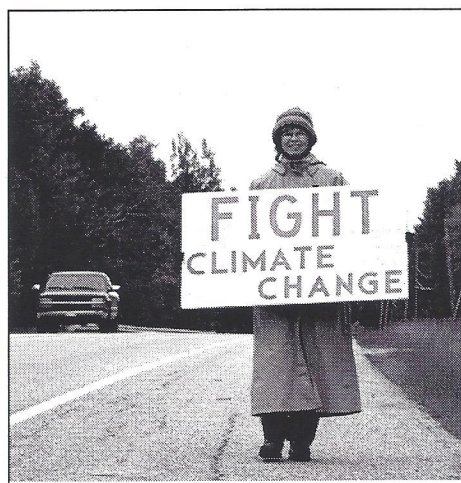
- The Council and its economic justice partners wage a successful campaign to fight cuts to essential services, even in the midst of a budget crisis.

- Maine Council of Churches co-sponsors a major conference on "Mindful Living: Human Health, Pollution and Toxics."

- The Maine Council of Churches celebrates 70 years of service with a gala at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. Bishop S. Clifton Ives is honored for his more than 50 years of volunteer service to the Council.

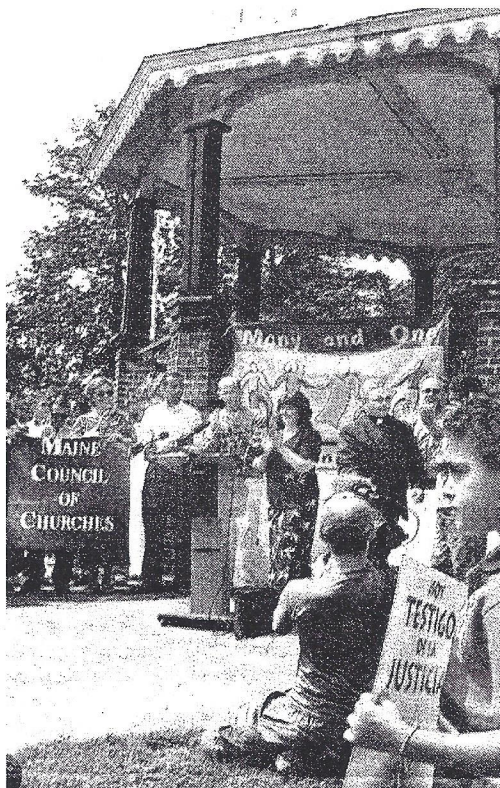


**"Hear Our Stories, Know Our Names"**  
The Original Cast



**Sally Chappell makes a statement.**

Sally is an MCC volunteer and a parishioner at St. Joseph's Parish, Bridgton.

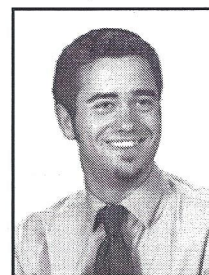


**2006 Rally Against Hate**  
Lewiston, Maine

Maine  
Council  
of Churches



**Rev. Jill Job Saxby**  
MCC Executive Director  
2005-present



**Eric C. Smith**  
MCC Congregational  
Outreach Coordinator

**Torture**  
is a  
**Moral**  
**Issue**

NRCAT National Religious Campaign Against Torture

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