On Christmas Eve I found myself standing in a local business, chatting with the manager and a customer about the weather, the price of fuel, and all the usual small talk folks make in such a situation. I was surprised when the other customer, commenting on the drop in fuel oil prices, said, “We can’t even enjoy the lower prices of fuel oil because it’s been too warm.” I was enjoying the fact that the furnace wasn’t running! There’s a whole story there in how we never seem to be satisfied with what we’ve got, but that’s for another time.

As I sit here typing this today it’s 18 degrees outside. It was 25 the other day, and I had to laugh when a friend on Facebook said “Only in Maine would we say the ‘cold spell’ is over when it warms up – to 25 degrees!” Seems that fellow got his wish, after all. No snow on Christmas day but plenty for Thanksgiving, below zero temperatures followed by ‘normal’ days in the 20’s, January thaw to look forward to – these are all the pleasures of living in New England. I have heard it rightly and often said that if you don’t like the weather here in Maine,
just wait a few minutes and it will change. And it often does!

Change is what this letter is about. George Hicks has stepped down as director of Inter-Church Ministries as of January 1, 2015 to be able to more fully devote his time to caring for his dear wife, Anne. It comes as no surprise to the board of directors as George has needed to take this step for some time now due to Anne’s health issues. The only reason he stayed on as long as he did was because we were waiting for God to send a successor. As it turns out his successor has been on the board for a while now, and it seems that God has taken care of everything well in advance to make this a smooth transition. It’s always a joy to see the Hand of God in action, and always the greater blessing to be part of His Will. George will be staying on as a board member, and we greatly value his wisdom and experience as we look to the future of the ministry of Inter-Church.

My name is Jeff Tenney, and I am now the Director of Inter-Church Ministries. I have been preaching for Inter-Church since Dick Woehr was the Director, back in the mid 80’s. I grew up in Hampden and remember attending the Church of the Open Door shortly after Dick started the ministry. I was in grade school then, and knew Dick as a customer when I was working in my father’s hardware store in Hampden. I also attended grade school with one of his sons. It is with great delight I can testify that Dick has remained faithful and that his reputation is well deserved. I recently was laughing with a brother in Christ that every now and then folks tell me that Dick isn’t doing so well physically. Then I’ll hear him preach or have the opportunity to meet with him and see the fire and passion he still has for ministry. Maybe Dick’s not doing so well physically, but the Holy Spirit seems right at home in his life! It was Dick that first got me into many of the churches in Maine for pulpit supply, and I thank him for his servant’s heart for ministry.

I continued preaching under Inter-Church when I moved back to Maine from Florida. Art Cotton was the director then, and his son, Tim, was my best friend at Bangor Christian Schools. Art was a mentor to me, particularly as I was a Junior and Senior and trying to decide what to do with my life. Art was preaching at a church in Bangor, and I appreciated his humor and dedication to service. He helped me to understand that a pastor is just like anyone else when it comes to family and friends, and I continue to treasure Art and his family’s friendship.

I became a board member of Inter-Church under Nate Ewer’s directorship. Nate had a vision for Inter-Church that moved us forward by leaps and bounds. He and his dear wife Betty opened their home to us many times, and I was always impressed with the collection of books that Nate had accumulated. He was a voracious reader about Maine and history. He loved the outdoors and my son Jonathan and I have many fond memories of fishing with Nate. It was a
New Year and New Beginnings

Written by Jeff Tenney
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It was a great shock to us when God took Nate home. Nate and Betty lived and breathed Inter-Church and he is still greatly missed. Nate truly walked with God, often in His creation, and I hope to continue on with the passion for our local churches that Nate so powerfully displayed.

I was on the board of Inter-Church when we elected George Hicks as our director. George’s experience as a missionary to Brazil and his part in setting up a Bible College there are a valuable asset to all that know him. I will be leaning on him in the coming months as we transition the directorship. I thank God for George’s willingness to stay on the board and continue to help guide and direct Inter-Church into the future.

If you would like to contact me my email address is jeffet@icmne.org. I check this email daily and would love to hear from you! If you have a resume on file and would like to ‘freshen it up’, please send that along as well. Or, if your church is looking for a pastor, let me know how we can help. I will be updating the website, icmne.org, in the coming weeks, so be sure to check it out around the end of January. I also look forward to spending some time on the roads of New England as I visit the churches and people that are served by Inter-Church Ministries. You can call me at 207-478-7880 or drop me a line at 88 Norfolk Street, Bangor, ME, 04401. Until then, may the Lord richly bless you in every endeavor.