

West Harpswell Baptist to celebrate 175 years

By Howard Washburn

West Harpswell Baptists are actively reading old history books, asking members and friends in the community about their memories and enthusiastically gathering bits of the past.

It's all part of the congregation's 175th anniversary year, and Aug. 10 and 11 will find them gathered inside, outside and around the community as they welcome returning pastors, former members and friends.

They've set their goals for the anniversary year to honor God's faithfulness to the congregation, even as they celebrate the people who have served and the ministries accomplished. There will be activities for children, youth and adults.

A highlight of Saturday's events will be an Anniversary Banquet to be held in the facilities of the Elijah Kellogg Church, with whom special services have been shared through the years. There will be greetings from honored guests, reflections from the past, recognition of long-term leaders and a buffet, catered by Henry's Caterers Etc. Reservations are a necessity and must be made with the church no later than

Saturday August 3.

The Sunday morning services will begin at the usual 9:30 hour and extend to a picnic and conclusion of hope and vision for the future. There will be special touches of the past, memorial moments and, God willing, the Rev. Edward Thomas, former pastor and much-loved teacher and resident, will bring a meditation.

The Planning Committee has prepared a special edition anniversary plate to mark the occasion, as well as note paper for sale and book marks for all. Mrs. Leona Field, who has served many years as the church clerk, is writing a history of the church.

An evening of music will conclude the month's activities, when the Sounds Easy singing group from West Bowdoin performs on Saturday, August 24 at 7 p.m.

The committee includes: Co-leaders Fred Kenny and Bob Davis, as well as Joyce Coyne, Carol Davis, Clement and Leona Field, Penny Kenney, John Stone, Shirley Thompson, Sally Wessel and Amy and Howard Washburn.

Community residents and visitors are welcome at all regular and special services.