

## **What's it like to live in Wells, Maine?**

Travelers entering Maine, are greeted by a sign that says, "Maine: The Way Life Should Be." Messiah congregants agree that there is an ease that accompanies life in Maine, and particularly in Wells, the church's seaside location. Wells, founded in 1635 and is coined the "friendliest town in Maine" is a very close-knit and active community rich in family values and neighborly connection. Because Wells is situated just 28 miles south of Portland, Maine and 70 miles north of Boston, it has become a growing home base for commuters, families, and retirees

Wells provides ample opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors whether at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Laudholm Farms, or fishing, swimming, surfing, walking and relaxing on its 7 miles of beaches. It is only a quick trip to the mountains for hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter sports and activities. The neighboring towns of Ogunquit and Kennebunk are world renowned for their oceanside art galleries, seafood, gift shops, and the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport. Fishing and boating are major industry and pastimes with over 600 boats in the river at any given season.

The year-round population is made up of approximately 10,000 residents and increases up to 50,000 during the peak of summertime, providing vital economic opportunities for many small, family-owned businesses. Wells takes pride in education which is one of our leading occupations. Our school systems rank among the best per U.S News & World Report. The Wells Ogunquit community school district is rated within the top 20% of Maine schools with a 99% graduation rate and passionately supports a solid sports program that holds many state championship titles.

The property taxes in Wells are some of the lowest in the state. Town roads, schools, and beaches are very well maintained. Wells is the kind of community in which people commonly remain throughout their lives, raising their families, and retiring. More recently, many prior vacationers have been relocating to the area due to its many features and attractions. Most people will tell you that they live here because it is safe, refreshing and clean. It is considered one of the top three safest towns in Maine, experiencing a crime rate that is significantly lower than the state and national average. Our nightly news is dominated by the latest moose hit or whether it's safe to drive on the lakes for ice fishing! More and more people are discovering that Wells is a great place to live!!

Like its neighboring New England states, Maine is largely unchurched but these warm Mainers will attend church, if invited. Messiah has always been energized by our location in this special, coastal mission field, and we welcome you to join us here in one of God's most beautiful places.