



Steeple Sounds

March 2011

The Newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church

From the Interim Pastor's Desk:

March 2011

As we move forward in our search to find a permanent pastor, it is important to understand our relationship with former Pastors and Interims.

BOUNDARIES ISSUES IN THE INTERIM TIME AND BEYOND

Possibly the most difficult ethical issues during the interim time have to do with boundaries. Congregations need to deepen their understanding of such dynamics. *Both interim pastors and congregational leaders need to understand what type of relationship is appropriate between congregants and previous pastors.* Certainly what constitutes a life-giving relationship depends in part on the circumstances under which the previous pastor left the congregation. Former pastors who were involved in sexual misconduct, for example, are clearly banned by ecclesiastical authorities from continuing ministry, nor would congregations want them to do so.

Beloved pastors from former years who continue to maintain relationships or provide pastoral services to former congregants pose a different problem. When relationships with former pastors are being used as a way of undermining the development of new pastoral relationships or as a way of showing passive-aggressive behavior toward the interim pastor or the new pastor's ministry, then such relationship needs to be confronted.

Previous pastors who continue to receive prerequisites or to perform pastoral functions for former parishioners interfere with the opportunities for establishing new pastoral relationships.

Parishioners requesting from former pastor to participate or officiate in baptisms, weddings or funeral services, is not appropriate, unless the Interim or called pastor is in charge and presiding. Best is to invite the former pastor to attend like any other guest. The previous pastor's participation may imply that there is something missing in the way the Interim or called pastor is conducting the service.

Ministers also need to recognize the powerful emotional influence they have and therefore use care and sensitivity in dealing with all people. While holding strongly to their own theological convictions, they must at the same time be careful not to force their beliefs upon others, respecting the integrity and freedom of each person to find his or her faith.

(Roger S. Nicholson, "Temporary Shepherds," A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry, The Alban Institute, 2000, pg. 135-137).

The more we know the better our relationships are with one another!

Blessings on the Journey,

Rev. Esther



BOARD OF DEACONS

Lenten Book Study

Thursdays 7:30 – 9 PM

March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14

Church Parlor

Book: An Altar in the World

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

The Dallas Morning News writes “Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we are doing and take time to notice the sights, smells and sounds around us.” As

we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do.

Books are \$10.00, please see Carol Chaffee if you would like to order one, or you may get one on your own. You do not have to attend every week. Each chapter is a discussion by itself and is not dependent on another. Please join us!



Our Dreams for C.S.C.C. – U.C.C.

In January, the Cabinet asked the various boards and committees to highlight their accomplishments for the year. They were then asked if there were no limit to what they could spend what would be their dreams for the church. At the Annual Meeting the following was posted in the vestry under the title of Seeds of Hope. Here is what each of the boards and committees dream for the future of C.S.C.C.

1. Projection screens for the worship for songs and lyrics.
2. Consider memorializing thru gifts to the church.
3. Christian Education:
 - a. Youth director/minister
 - b. Technology support
 - c. Form a young adult group
 - d. Increase our numbers in Sunday school
 - e. Bible/book studies throughout the year
 - f. Wi-Fi
 - g. New projector
4. Youth choir on a regular basis
5. Growth:
 - a. Become opening and affirming
 - b. Attract college age adults
 - c. Offer a contemporary worship service
6. Trustees:
 - a. Pay raises for staff
 - b. Set aside money for a permanent pastor
7. Deacons:
 - a. Ministry teams
 - b. Full confirmation program
 - c. Occasional contemporary worship
 - d. Full board of deacons
8. Youth
 - a. Mission trip beyond contiguous U.S.

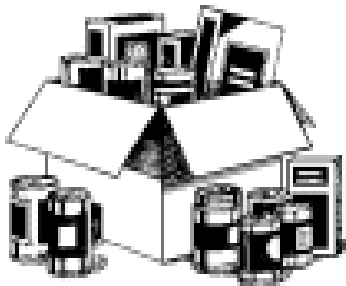
- b. Youth minister
- 9. Children: To raise a goat, rabbit or other animal for Heifer
- 10. Organize family mission trips
- 11. Music: A dozen additional choir members
- 12. Mission Outreach: 20% of church budget allocated for Outreach and ½ or (10%) of that given to Wider Mission / Basic Support
- 13. Women's Guild and Fellowship to Grow membership
- 14. All pews filled on Sunday morning
- 15. Every member pledges 100%, EFT participation
- 16. Creation of a formal endowment policy
- 17. Stewardship:
 - a. Increase giving by 25%
 - b. Faith giving

Congregation's Dreams

Just prior to the Annual meeting, in her "Sharing the Passion" moment, Deb Rice, a member of Stewardship board, asked a similar question of the congregation. Here are some of the dreams for the church the congregation shared.

1. A coffee house that would welcome people from the community to our church. The purpose: entertainment and Fair Trade Coffee.
2. To be open and affirming
3. To serve God and Jesus all my life here on earth
4. Have more women's group activities during the month
5. More active 30-40 year old women's group
6. To have support groups for different groups within the church
7. That we may all be one. Book studies on a regular basis.
8. To get together for exercise program. Youth group breakfast
9. A happy loving church without having to worry about money
10. To come together in unity
11. To be united, to be active in the church, everyone feel love, accepted and connected
12. To end bullying
13. To give more as a church to charity, and to be financially stable in the church
14. To have a salary increase of 15%
15. To have a good sound system
16. To have a vibrant involving youth program
17. Full time pastor and associate pastor, continue outstanding choir and youth programs

18. More members run activities at the church: education, fellowship, and social activism inviting outside community.
19. To continue to see our church grow
20. To see the pews filled with people of all ages, races, orientations, i.e. O&A
21. Church growth, peace
22. Congregation will grow as the Holy Spirit grows with all the people in the church
23. That our church grows in faith and people to do the work of God
24. My dream is that everyone is united in peace
25. Peace and tranquility
26. Give more and do more through Outreach
27. To help with basic necessities for children of the Caribbean - especially the children of the Dominican Republic.
28. Outreach feed the hungry, feed the poor, visit the sick, cloth the naked. It is what Jesus would have us do.
29. To help domestic violence victims and by God's will to open a shelter that will aid them and give them a knowledge of God
30. That no child will ever fall under the deadly spell of drugs and that no family will ever feel the pain of the loss of a child
31. That my children will be able to afford a life better or equal to mine
32. To have a group of people write to our troops.



Bridgewater Food Pantry

Bridgewater Food Pantry is in need of specific items: ketchup, mayo, mustard, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, rice, rice pilaf, jelly, peanut butter, instant mashed potato, canned fruit, cake mix, crackers, juices (bottles and juice boxes), coffee, and tea. There are boxes provided in the narthex for this collection. Thank you!



Good Friday 5 Mile Walk

April 22, 2011

Registration 9:15 ó 9:45 AM

Walk begins 10 AM

Scotland Trinitarian Church

1000 Pleasant Street, RT. 104

Bridgewater, MA 02324

The Bridgewater Council of Churches is reviving the Annual Good Friday Walk this year and for years to come hopefully. This 5 mile walk will raise funds to support the Bridgewater Food Pantry, The Bridgewater Council of Churches Outreach Programs and Sharing, Inc. We invite you to take an active role in this community event, either by walking, sponsoring a walker or volunteering the day of the walk; helping with registrations, as a crossing guard, or as a taxi driver for those who need a ride during the walk. Consider giving 3 hours of time on Good Friday for some fun-filled community service and exercise with friends and family of the Bridgewater Community. For more information, please contact Carol Chaffee: (508)697-3728 or email: galchaffee@msn.com

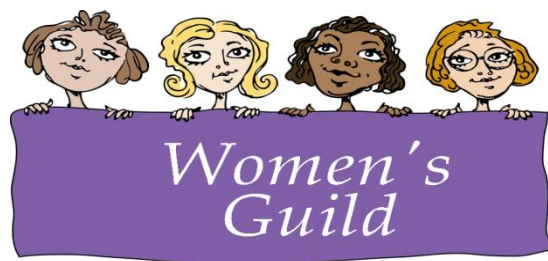
Information pamphlets and sponsor sheets will be available at the Shrove Tuesday Supper on March 5th at our church.



A successful Blankets+ Event

On behalf of Church World Service, I would like to thank you for your generous support of our church's Blankets+ program which took place on the 13th and 20th of February. We collected \$416 and some more funds may still trickle in. I am always grateful, because such energy, time and treasure is put into the preceding weeks of the Heifer Project, a hands-on and truly enjoyable event for our children, that we still seem to be able to come up with a significant amount to support the work of Church World Service, of which the United Church of Christ is a member. So, thank you again!

Sincerely, *Carol Chaffee*



Women's Guild and Fellowship

We are hopeful all women of the church will attend our Annual Auction on Wednesday evening, March 2, 2011, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We ask everyone to bring something useful or fun or pretty to be auctioned off. All are welcome to attend our meeting that evening at 6:00 PM when we will discuss the March church spaghetti supper and the April Rummage sale.

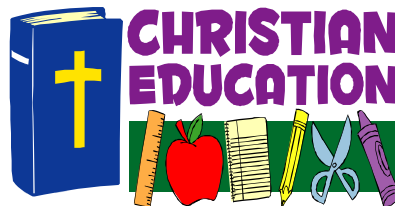
On April 6, we will have a wonderful guest speaker, Deborah Dempsey, AUD, CCC-A, FAAA, Doctor of Audiology, who will provide a PowerPoint presentation: "WHAT?? How Will We Know When We May Be Losing Our Hearing?" Our business meeting will be 7-7:30 PM followed by the guest speaker from 7:30 to 8:30 PM, in the upstairs parlor. We'd love to see you there!!



Spaghetti Supper

We are having a Spaghetti Supper on March 30th hosting Rev. Chang-Hee Son and his students from the Christian Fellowship Center at Bridgewater State University. The Women's Guild has done this for the past three years, and it is a lot of fun! This year, it will be open to our parishioners. We will be serving spaghetti, salad, rolls & butter, beverage and dessert. The cost for parishioners will be \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. The deadline for reservations is March 15th.

Sandy Alley, Women's Guild and Fellowship



Heifer

Recently the young people of the church celebrated the completion of Heifer Project with the Living Gift Market. Food, games and guessing the correct number of fish eggs (jelly beans) in the jar was the general fare for the day. The real stories though are the lofty goals our children set for themselves, the faith in achieving their goals, and their surprise when they went way beyond.

Pre-K has 4 children in the class and so they chose a flock of chicks for \$20.00 thinking they would be lucky to make their goal. Were they surprised the Sunday after the Living Gift Market when they discovered they had bought not 1 or 2, but 4 flocks of chicks totaling \$80.90. Kindergarten chose to sponsor piglets with a goal of \$120.00. They Raised a little over \$90.00 and continue to return banks. A trio of rabbits for \$60.00 was the goal for grades 1 and 2. They reached their goal and beyond with a total of \$94.66 and still counting. Grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 each set a high goal of \$170.00 for the Farmerø basket. Both classes have decided they would like to continue to bring in banks to try to reach their goals. Third & fourth grade needs about \$40.00 and grades 5 & 6 about \$50.00. I have no doubt they will achieve their goal. Grades 7 & 8 decided they would like to sponsor chicks. I gave them a challenge to set a higher goal. They revisited their choice and changed to a Basket of Hope ó chicks, ducks and geese totaling \$60.00. Not only did they raise the \$60.00, but were able to purchase 2 Baskets of Hope and more with their \$137.47. Teen Forumø favorite choice is a fish farm for \$50.00. They once again donned the fish costume and were able to drum up enough business to purchase 2 fish farms and 3 shares of another totaling \$131.19. The grand total for the month of January and the Living Gift Market was \$997.75 and still counting. Thank you everyone for your support.

Faithfully yours,

Terry Reynolds

Shrove Tuesday (Saturday)

You are all invited to begin the Lenten season by enjoying a delicious supper of pancakes with maple syrup, Belgian waffles heaped high with your choice of strawberries or blueberries and whipped cream, bacon sausage, fruit salad, juice and coffee.

Date: Saturday, March 5th

Time: 5:30 p.m.

We hope to see you there.

The Christian Ed Committee

Dates to Remember

Shrove Tuesday (Saturday) ó Saturday, March 5th

Kids of the Kingdom ó Friday, March 11th



Search Committee

At this time, the committee has completed tallying all of the returned surveys. We are now meeting weekly in order to write the Church Profile. We have asked several committees to help us in our endeavor by providing information that is relevant to their committees. Thank you again for your support.



GROWTH

God is speaking a message of extravagant welcome and hospitality in the United Church of Christ. Congregations must prepare to welcome guests who might not be familiar with being in church, people who might have been alienated from the church, people who might not expect to be welcomed by the church. Ask yourself: Do I and my congregation welcome strangers as I like to be welcomed? How did I welcome a guest recently in church? Welcoming congregations are made up of welcoming people, where everyone extends hospitality.



March 2011: Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?

March 1, 2011

Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14b

Everyone jokes about African time, but I think the North American concept of time is a big joke. Have you ever noticed how often you hear the word *busy* in a day? Being busy in North American culture is highly valued. By contrast, African culture does not value being busy. If you ask someone if they are busy, they look at you strangely. Don't even try to ask someone what time it is. They don't have watches. This culture values spending time with friends and family, and helping each other.

In North American culture, I may have had six or seven meetings a day. A typical day in Africa consists of *footing* to my office and waiting until someone walks in and wants to talk to me. Sometimes there is a meeting scheduled although it's rare to have an appointment. No one has a watch, let alone a phone to call ahead. A meeting scheduled for nine, generally starts at 9:30 but sometimes it gets underway at ten or even eleven. This culture values discussion and consensus building. Decision making by consensus takes time, so there is no predicting when a meeting will end. The more people that attend, the longer the meeting.

Waiting, such as waiting in line or a *queue*, is something we in North America abhor. But it is expected in Africa. Why hurry? We in North America never loiter, dawdle or linger around. We are busy. In my former life I was so busy I had to schedule a phone call with my friends. There were never enough hours in a day. When my children were young I often missed their sporting events or dance recitals because I was busy. But here, loitering is a way to chat and connect with friends and family. (And everyone is family.) In Africa, I loiter. I meet a lot of people that way. I learn about their life, their families, and their values. Maybe we in North America have it all wrong. Maybe the joke is on us. Maybe we should loiter more often.

Donald and Maryjane Westra are missionaries with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Donald serves as staff to the Micro-Enterprise and Strategic Planning/Management Program at Mt. Selinda. Maryjane serves as a health and child care consultant at Mt. Selinda



Flowers for the Church Altar

Would you like to see fresh flowers more often on the altar? You can donate flowers for display on Sunday mornings for celebrations such as birthdays or anniversaries, or in memory of loved ones, and then take them home or have them delivered to a shut-in. Please see Jane O'Connell after church or call her at 508-697-3602.



You are Invited to Join Us for Breakfast at

Central Square Congregational Church

71 Central Square

Bridgewater

On

March 13, 2011

Between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.

Bring your family, bring your friends.

All are Welcome.!!

Stewardship Committee Steeple Sounds

March 2011

Do you brag to others about our church? Do you let other people know about the good work we do? Do you encourage other people to attend our church? If you don't tell other people about us then who will?

Many people think the Stewardship committee is all about money and pledges. This committee believes that it is all about passion for what our church believes in and what we do. From Matthew 6:33 we read **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** So if we are passionate about what we do, the time, talent, and treasures will come.

One way to stir up the passion at our church is during our “Spiritual Moments” just before our offering. This is an opportunity to tell the congregation about your dreams and experiences regarding our church. It is a great way to share your spirit with everyone. Please contact the church office or the Stewardship committee if you would like to speak for our “Spiritual Moments”. We all need to hear your story.

We also encourage you to come and enjoy yourself at one of our “Dream Café” breakfasts served on Sunday from 8:30-10:00AM (check with the church for dates of these events). This is a free breakfast created to bring people together to share in the spirit.

Don't forget to tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives about us. If we are to be at our best we always need fresh, new ideas, and new people to turn those ideas into reality.

See you at church.

It is going to be an awesome year at CSCC!!

God Bless you,

CSCC Stewardship Committee.



Adirondack Mission Trip and Dinner

The Adirondack Mountains of northeastern New York provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Adirondack Park was created by the New York State legislature in 1882. It is comprised of 6.1 million acres— the size of the state of Vermont— and contains 85 percent of all wilderness in the eastern United States. The region also contains 3,000 ponds and lakes and 2,000 miles of hiking trails. The Adirondacks are home to 137,000 people year-round and 200,000 seasonal residents. Tourism, timber and mining remain the mainstays of the modern Adirondack economy and landscape. Tourists spend almost \$1.7 billion each year in northern New York, and an estimated 37,000 jobs are supported by both direct and indirect tourist dollars. The region is home to several small towns and villages, all popular vacation destinations for those seeking a respite from busy city life. But many year-round residents struggle with poverty.

Our Mission Youth will serve at the YouthWorks site located in the small community of Warrensburg, at the foothills of the southern Adirondacks. Warrensburg is home to 3,348 residents and is located closely to Lake Champlain, Lake George, Albany and the Adirondack High Peaks. Over 17 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. The Mission Youth will enjoy the hospitality and resilient spirit of the residents of this small town as they serve and minister to those in need.

The Mission Youth Team invite you to support them in their service by attending the Adirondack Lodge Mission Dinner on April 2nd at 6 pm. Chef Basler has prepared a wonderful menu (which follows) to tempt your taste buds. Come, relax, and enjoy our mountain Adirondack ski lodge for dinner on April 2nd.

Adirondack Lodge Dinner

April 2 6:00 pm

Starter...\$10

The Gauntlet Nachos

Tortilla Chips, Pulled Pork, Black Beans, Melted Monterey Jack,

Scallions & Sour Cream

Entrees...\$18

Free Trappers Stew

Braised Beef with Mushrooms, Root Vegetables and Crispy Pastry

Ausable River Salmon

Maple Glazed Soy Salmon

Corn with Caramelized Red Onions & Smoked Mountain Man Potatoes

Prospector's Choice

Grilled Boneless Roast Pork with Chunky Applesauce Glaze

Corn with Caramelized Red Onions & Smoked Mountain Man Potatoes

All Entrees Served With...Choice of Onion Soup or

Trappers Salad w/House Dressing

Drinks...\$2

Coffee, Tea and Pepsi, Diet Pepsi & Sprite

Sweet Endings...\$4

Wild Forest Trifle, Saranac Bread Pudding, Giant Mountain Cake

Enjoy!!!.....Chef Basler



PLEASE!

HELP SUPPORT THE MISSION
YOUTH IN THEIR FUND-RAISING
EFFORT FOR THEIR TRIP TO THE
ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS, NEW
YORK BY DONATING YOUR
BOTTLES & CANS THRU JUNE 2011

An account has been set up at:

BRIDGEWATER BOTTLE & CAN RETURN, Inc.,

106 HALE St., 1st Floor,

Bridgewater, MA

Hours: Monday-Fridays 10-5 pm; Saturdays 9-4pm

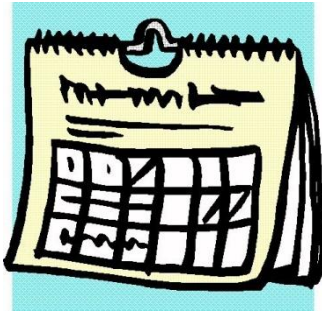
People can bring in their separated cans, plastic bottles and glass bottles and tell them they are to go into the CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MISISON YOUTH ACCOUNT.

Five cents for every can and plastic soda bottle and four cents for every glass bottle will be credited to the Mission Youth account.

This is an ongoing fund raiser, so please help spread the word.

Thank you very much I advance from the Mission Youth!

Lukas Hanson, Tyler Chaffee, Andrew Jackson, Dan O'Neill, Kaitlin Derocha, Tim Tufts, Laura Sorgman, Micala Boudreau, Noah Poole, Joey Sullivan Jade Reynolds, Tori Gulusha



Save the Date!

Mission Youth and Parents Meeting:

March 13 and March 27

Immediately following church service



Thanks to everyone who donated items for "Warmth in Cold Places".

The Outreach committee was able to distribute for a second time this winter, on Tuesday, February 15, (which was a very cold day) at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton. Those who stopped by the soup kitchen and received these items were most appreciative.

Thanks again for your support in helping us continue this program.

Board of Outreach

March 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Brownie Group 3:30-6	2 Women's Guild Fellowship 7:0 Den 2 LL	3 Brownie Troup 6 LL	4	5 CE Family Night Fat Tuesday (Saturday)
6 Communion Sunday	7 CE Mtg 7:00 Deacons Mtg. 7:30	8 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Outreach Mtg 7:00 Growth Mtg 7:00	9 Trustees Mtg 6:00 Ash Wednesday 7:30	10 Stewardship Mtg 7:30 Dens 1 & 5 LL 6:30	11 Kids of the Kingdom 6-7:30 Single Parents 6-7:0 Parlor GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	12 Rock Show? Mission Youth
13 Teen Forum Youth Group?	14	15 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Brownie Group 3:30-6	16 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 Den 2 LL	17 Brownie Troup 6:00 LL	18 Pack #35 Vestry 7-10pm Set up	19 Pack #35 Vestry Pinewood Derby 11-4
20	21	22 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9	23	24 Dens 5 LL 6:30	25 GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	26
27 Teen Forum Youth Group?	28 Mothers' Club 9:30 Nursery	29 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9	30 Den 2 LL	31 Brownie Troup 6 LL		

April 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Mission Supper Silent Auction
3 Communion Sunday OGHS Offering	4 CE Meeting 7:00 Hospice Parlor 6-7:30	5 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Brownie Group 3:30-6	6 Ash Wednesday 7:30 Women's Guild Den 2 LL	7	8 Kids of the Kingdom 6-7:30 Single Parents 6-7:00 Parlor GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	9 Women's Guild Rummage Sale
10 Joe Average Youth Mtg. Teen Forum Youth Group?	11	12 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Outreach Mtg 7:00 Growth Mtg 7:00	13 Trustees Mtg 6:00	14 Stewardship Mtg 7:30 Dens 1 & 5 LL 6:30	15 Pack #35 Vestry 6:30-9GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	16
17 Palm Sunday Group Sunday School	18	19 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9 Brownie Group 3:30-6	20 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 Den 2 LL	21	22 Good Friday Walk	23 Holy Saturday
24 Easter Sunday Intergenerational Sunday	25 Mothers' Club 9:30 Nursery	26 NRC 9:30 & 11 Bella Voce Sanctuary 7-9	27	28 Brownie Troup 6 LL Den 5 LL 6:30	29 Bella Voce/Choir concert Sanct. Vestry GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	30