



Steeple Sounds

The Newsletter of Central Square Congregational Church

May 2010

During the month of May, in the life of our church, we will celebrate many events:

- On May 1st, CSCC, along with the Pilgrim Association of the MACUCC, we will ordain Elizabeth Keyes Duffy.
- On May 16th, we will celebrate the children of our church, with a special worship service dedicated to their curiosity for Christ, the strong foundations of faith exhibited by our teaching staff and the hope of the future of our church that our children contain.
- On May 23rd, we will celebrate Confirmation. The Confirmation program has happened quietly throughout the year with leadership from Rev. Kristy and Rev. Esther. As we said goodbye to Rev. Kristy, the Board of Deacons took over the responsibility of seeing the program through to its completion. What is Confirmation? "Confirmation is the affirmation of baptism. Through baptism you entered (or will enter) the worldwide community of the Christian Church. In confirmation you affirm this. You give yourself wholeheartedly to God and seek to know God's will for your life. You take Jesus as your Lord and Savior, whom you will follow all the days of your life. You let God's Holy spirit guide you in all you." The word *confirm* means "to make firmer or stronger."

Do each and every one of us need a little bit of Confirmation?

Will you take a moment and reflect on your baptism, whether you remember it or not? Why do you think your parents wanted to have you baptized?

For many, it is just part of bringing up your family. It is what you do when you have a baby. You call the church and set up a time to have your child baptized during a worship service and the church celebrates with you.

With each of our children, our process of thinking was different. Jill, being our first, we had our sponsors as our good friends that were part of our wedding also. But to my disappointment, they are not involved in Jill's life now. With Austin, we chose to have his aunt be his sponsor and that relationship continues and evolves as each year passes by. But maybe with Tyler, we finally got the hang of it, because we opted to have the whole church be his sponsors and you have all kept up your end of the bargain and we are grateful.

When a church can embrace its youth, at a time when they (youth) are experiencing the emotional rollercoaster of their teen years, and provide the tools to them to seek answers for their future, then let the church say "AMEN".

Carol Chaffee

Chair of Board of Deacons





BOARD OF DEACONS

Transformation and the Interim Process

The **Search Committee** has finally been formed, commissioned and sent on their way by you, the congregation. During the commissioning service they appeared to be strong, committed, and eager to do the work that you, the congregation, and the Holy Spirit has called them to do. They have been told that the process may be long and tedious, that there will be lots of preparatory work to do with the congregation as they develop the church profile and develop the job description for the new minister. They have been told that there will be surveys to consider, and that salary and benefit packages often impact the number and level of experienced pastors who will consider interviewing at a church.

They know that the healthier we can become over the next 12 to 24 months, the better the chances will be that we will find the right minister for our congregation. We need to know who we are **before** we begin the interviewing process, **not after** we have called “the right” pastor. This is major concern that could hamper this whole process going forward because the **Church is its people**; however, if the people do not attend all of the meetings that are called in order to hear their opinions and gather their ideas, **how do we know who the people are?** It the members who have been sitting on the sidelines, thus far, continue to do so going forward, their voices will not be heard and the new minister will be chosen by the members of this church who have taken the time and made the commitment to actively participate in the discernment process. If you are one of those (sideline) people who have concerns or ideas about this church community, the interim leadership or process, the plans or direction the

church is heading, etc. and you love and respect your church family and want it to thrive, not fold, during this interim period, **then you NEED TO GET INVOLVED NOW!**

How can you get involved and help this church thrive while we begin the 12-24 month search process? Work with your Search Committee. Work with your Interim Pastor. Listen to her sermons about healing, change, transformation, new beginnings, and ministry opportunities available all around us. Be open to the transformation of the Holy Spirit! Be open to new ideas, new possibilities, new ways to spread the word and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. **Come to the Pot Luck Suppers** that the Deacons will be holding this summer, where we will be informally discussing different themes related to this interim period – preparing for our next settled minister. Don’t look for reasons why you can’t come – **Look for reasons why you MUST come!** Rev. Esther will be here for another 12 to 24 months. A lot of work will be accomplished during that period of time – with or without you! She will initially be helping the search committee get up and running and then will be stepping back once they understand the process. But her work will be parallel to that of the Search Committee as the whole purpose of this period of time is to discern who we are and what we need in order to prepare for the interviewing and eventual calling of our next settled pastor.

Is the Holy Spirit calling you to come and listen or give your input about where this church is heading and who our new leader should be? Are you listening for Him?

A new future awaits Central Square Congregational Church. Be part of this exciting journey and transformation! Don’t let others decide your future!

Yours in Christ,

Pat Lindsey

Board of Deacons



Kids of the Kingdom

Calling all third through sixth graders, do you like to eat, play games or make a craft? Then come join the fun at Kids of the Kingdom. There is just one more meeting night this spring. Denise Molinari will lead the group on Friday, **May 14th from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Bring a friend and come and enjoy yourself at Kids of the Kingdom.



Children's Sunday

Sunday School is drawing to a close and the children will celebrate the church year on Children's Sunday. Each class will have the opportunity to participate in a different part of the church service. Parents, invite their grandparents and other family members and come celebrate with your child on Sunday, **May 16th Children's Sunday.**

Summer Sunday School

Sunday School may be ending, but summer Sunday school will begin on June 7th. Children ages 5-12 will engage in activities such as art, music and drama. The curriculum makes connections between weekly themes and the various age levels of the children making it a fun experience for all.

Now all we need are the leaders to present the curriculum to the children. If you would like to teach Sunday school once or twice during the summer please see the sign up sheet in the back hall outside the church office. You may sign your name beside a particular date or if you are

not sure when you will be available please sign your name as a substitute. We will call you when there is an open date to see if this is a convenient time for you. Help make this a successful program for the children of Central Square Congregational Church and sign your name to teach Sunday School.

The Christian Ed. Staff

Christine Compton, Denise Molinari, Marlene Jacobs, Ben Sorgman & Sunday School Superintendent, Terry Reynolds



News from Outreach

Strengthen the Church Offering

God is Still speaking, spread the love. This is the theme for the Strengthen the church offering this year. This is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Outreach sponsors it each year on Pentecost Sunday, the founding day of the Christian Church. It is such an appropriate Sunday for this offering as one of the programs it supports is funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations. Do you remember a few years ago we partnered with the Mashpee Church to help them begin? This is only one of the many programs of Strengthen the Church. The offering is also used to nurture lay and pastoral leadership, build youth and young adult ministries, and of course support the **God is Still Speaking Ministry**. Won't you consider giving the Strengthen the Church offering on **Sunday, May 23rd.**

The Youth Group will meet on May 9th and May 23th, from 5:30 to 7:00p.m.



Bridgewater Food Pantry

Please remember our needy families in Bridgewater, through the spring and summer months by bringing canned goods and non perishable foods and paper goods to the church. The boxes will remain in our church's entry hall (Narthex) all summer. Thank you for your generosity.



The Shaw's Community Rewards Program has been discontinued!

To all of you who participated in this program over the years—thank you! The church has received several checks from Shaw's rewarding your patronage!



A Story from your Global Ministries

May 2010: Expanding Our Vision



Written by Donna Dudley
May 1, 2010

*All things are possible to those who believe.
Mark 9: 23*

Eva Chipenda challenged and inspired me to go to Angola. Let me tell you a little about her: As Eva closes in on 80 years of age, she has pushed with all her considerable might to open the Canata Preschool Program which currently enrolls nearly 100 children between the ages of 3 and 5. When you walk in the courtyard door, the children run to greet and embrace you – but, not with the same fervor that occurs when they see Dona Eva enter. They cry out her name and last week practically knocked her off her feet in their enthusiasm to hug her!

Creating a better life for herself, her family, and others, has been the story of Eva's life. Of twelve children, she was one of only three in her family who survived to adulthood. Frequently uprooted, Eva often felt herself to be an outsider, but never let the changes that distanced her from family and peers stop her quest for education and training. As her husband, José became internationally known as head of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Eva often lived in his shadow, not uncommon for Angolan women. But, in her own way, Eva always managed to emerge from that shadow to shed her own bright light. Everywhere they went – from New York to Geneva to Nairobi to Lobito – Eva availed herself of opportunities to learn and developed her vision to start projects in Angola – including dressmaking, culinary arts, and children's programs. Now these many projects have improved the lives of hundreds of women and children.

Eva has encouraged me and stretched my own vision of what is possible for women to achieve. The challenge is for each of us to step out of any shadow that can hide our light and become our best selves.

Donna Dudley serves with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. She assists with development projects and staff leadership training programs.

For More Info.: Sandra Gourdet
Area Executive, Africa
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Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2010 (Year C)

Sat., May 1

Psalm 148
Daniel 7:27
Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Mon., May 3

Psalm 133
1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42
Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 4

Psalm 133
2 Samuel 1:4-27
Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 5

Psalm 133
Leviticus 19:9-18
Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 6

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:1-5
Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 7

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:6-8
Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 8

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:9-15
Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 10

Psalm 93
1 Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 11

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 12

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 34:20-33
Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 13

Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 14

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:12-17
Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 15

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:18-23
John 1:14-18

Sun., May 16

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,
20-21
John 17:20-26

Mon., May 17

Psalm 29
Exodus 40:16-38
Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 18

Psalm 29
2 Chronicles 5:2-14
Acts 26:19-29

Wed., May 19

Psalm 29
Ezekiel 3:12-21
Luke 9:18-27

Thurs., May 20

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 32:11-17
Galatians 5:16-25

Fri., May 21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 44:1-4
Galatians 6:7-10

Sat., May 22

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
2 Kings 2:1-15a
Luke 1:5-17

Sun., May 23

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Mon., May 24

Psalm 48
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 2:1-11

Tues., May 25

Psalm 48
Ezekiel 11:14-25
1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Wed., May 26

Psalm 48
Numbers 24:1-14
Luke 1:26-38

Thurs., May 27

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:13-18
Ephesians 1:17-19

Fri., May 28

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:19-26
Ephesians 4:1-6

Sat., May 29

Psalm 8
Proverbs 4:1-9
Luke 2:41-52

Sun., May 30

Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Mon., May 31

Psalm 124
Proverbs 7:1-4
Ephesians 4:7-16



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May 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Parish Care Deacons: Pat Lindsey (508) 821-5911 & Carol Chaffee (508) 697-3728 Coffee Hour Hosts: Christian Education						1 Elizabeth Keyes Duffey Ordination 2:00PM
2 Choir Confirmation Class BSC Alumni Chorus AA	3 Christian Ed. 7:30PM Narc-Anon	4	5 WG&F Annual Banquet (offsite)	6 Beacon Hospice 6-7:30 Parlor Al-Anon	7 Trp. 306 6-7:30PM Al-Anon	8 Trustees Clean-Up Day
9 Choir Teen Forum Youth Grp. 5-7:30PM AA	10 Deacons 7:30PM Narc-Anon	11 Trp. #600 3:30-6PM Growth 7:00PM Outreach 7:30PM	12 Trustees 7:00PM	13 Ascension Day Beacon Hospice 6-7:30 Parlor Al-Anon	14 Kids of the Kingdom 6:00-7:30PM Pack #35 7:30-9PM Al-Anon	15 Confirmation "Late Night"
16 Choir AA	17 Confirmation meeting with Deacons 6:30PM Narc-Anon	18 Trp. #600 3:30-6PM	19 Cabinet 7:00PM	20 Beacon Hospice 6-7:30 Parlor Al-Anon	21 Trp. 306 6-7:30PM Al-Anon	22
23 Choir Confirmation Sunday Youth Grp. 5-7:30PM AA	24 Bridgewater Moms Narc-Anon	25	26	27 Beacon Hospice 6-7:30 Parlor Al-Anon	28 Al-Anon	29
30 Teen Challenge AA	31 Memorial Day					