



This is an often asked question at this time in the Search Process:

Why Should the Interim Pastor Not Be a Candidate for the Permanent Call?

The following is listed as the rationale for not considering the interim pastor as a candidate for the permanent position:

1. An Interim pastor has an advantage over other possible candidates who may desire to be considered for the position because he or she has more visibility to the congregation. This makes it unfair to others who may be interested in the position, but who will not have the same visibility.
2. An Interim pastor will always have a following, but also almost always will have those who are not favorably committed to him or her. If he or she were to be called to be the pastor there would be built-in opposition from the very beginning.
3. If the decision is made to consider the interim pastor along with the others being considered and the interim pastor does not get the position, there could be hurt feelings that would jeopardize the remainder of his or her interim work until the pastor is called.
4. A precedent could be set which would result in pastors seeking interim positions with the specific idea of putting themselves in a better position to be considered and called as the pastor, thus greatly damaging the whole call process.

5. The congregation itself may pass up better leadership than it is getting, even with a good interim pastor, if it fails to consider a larger number of potential pastoral candidates.
6. Interim Ministry is unique and an interim pastor may often lead in ways that would be acceptable as an interim pastor, but would not be acceptable to some congregations were he or she to remain as the pastor.
7. Other pastors will know of the ministerial ethics involved and will know that those have been broken if an interim pastor is called. The result could be a lack of fellowship and broken relationships with other pastors.
8. During the time of interim, the congregation often is uniquely vulnerable and therefore develops a relationship based on need and insecurity. While this can be useful in leading a congregation to prepare for the incoming pastor, it could make for a very inappropriate skewed decision for a permanent call.

This is a helpful tool for the Journey of a Congregation in Transition and for their Interim Pastor!

A resource from: “Temporary Shepherds.” A congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry.

By Roger S. Nicholson. An Alban Institute Publication.

Used by permission of the Interim Ministry Network,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Blessings on the Journey!

Reverend Esther Rendon-Thompson



Join Us on Sunday, May 22nd

at our 10:00 Worship Service

and Fellowship Hour

for Music Sunday

to Celebrate the

Music Ministry of our Church

The Bible states that *“Every good gift comes from God”* (James 1:17). We are a church family blessed with members who have many God-given gifts that we have been called upon to share with one another. Some of our gifts are softly shared and gently received by those in need. Others are boldly used to spear-head new initiatives or direct programs that might otherwise fall by the wayside due to apathy or lack of leadership.

The Music Ministry of this church is a wonderful example of individuals who share their unique gifts, both gently and boldly, in ways that affect the lives of all of us who come to this church for spiritual nourishment. *“Music is one of God’s good gifts. God has given both man and angels the gift of music-making”* (Genesis 4:21; Job 38:7). It often seems like the Holy Spirit is speaking to us through the members of our choir, our Choir Director, Lin, and our Organist, Gabrielle.

Psalm 95:1-2 states that the purpose of music and singing is *“to rejoice in and worship the Lord”* and Psalm 98:4 reminds us to *“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth, break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.”* Can you recall an

anthem on a Sunday morning that made you want to shout and sing praises? Can you remember a time when you felt joy swelling in your heart or tears flowing from your eyes as the music or words helped you to move to a deeper level, a level where you felt that you might be in the very presence of our Lord?

In Ephesians 5:18-19 we are encouraged to be *“filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”*.

Before our choir takes their well-deserved, and needed, summer break we have a few words we would like to say:

To Our Choir Director, Lin, our Organist, Gabrielle, and each Member of the Choir,

Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to your music ministry. Your gifts are special and valued by us, your church family. Your music speaks to our hearts and ministers to our souls. Our worship services would not be as meaningful and spiritually moving without your beautiful music. God has blessed us all.

With Appreciation from,

The Board of Deacons

on behalf of your Entire Church Family

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's
journey, *Welcome* here.



CENTRAL SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CABINET MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2011

Attendees:

Moderator: **Mark Sorgman**

Vice Moderator: **Brian Maxfield**

Treasurer:

Ass't Treasurer: **Larry Brown**

Clerk: **Darlene Brown**

Financial Sec'y:

Ass't Financial Sec'y:

Historian:

Trustees: **Al Lindsay, Jack Melcher**

Stewardship: **Mike Bundock**

Outreach:

Deacons: **Rich Sullivan**

Growth: **Nancy Winter**

Music:

Nominating:

Christian Ed: **Terry Reynolds**

Altar: **Jane O'Connell**

Search:

Memorials: **Gail Wright**

Ways & Means:

Fair:

Women's Guild:

Youth:

Members:

Rev Esther Rendon-Thompson, Interim Pastor

1) Moderator Mark Sorgman called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

2) Rev Esther led devotionals.

3) Minutes from the previous meeting (2/16/2011) were corrected as follows and approved:

- a. #2 Change “she discussed” to “we discussed”
- b. #3B \$15.00 was received in memory of Betty LaMotte

4) Pastor’s Reports

- a. Rev Esther reported that February included pastoral calls, 2 baptisms, a wedding, committee meetings, sermon prep and a planning a CE teachers meeting. Ash Wednesday started Lent with an evening service. Rev Esther emphasized a good shift of sermon topics during the Lenten series. She also reported that she would be on vacation from May 12th - May 26th.

5) Treasurer’s Report - report given by Larry Brown

- a. Pledges and all contributions are being recorded on the new Servant Keeper software.
- b. We are in the process of combining the old and new systems. New system should be fully up and running by the end of the quarter and will be able to produce many different reports.
- c. Budget is tight; oil usage is already at 50% of yearly budget, may have to tap money market to pay bills.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD REPORTS

A) Board of Trustees – report given by Al Lindsay and Jack Melcher

- a. The elevator is working correctly.
- b. It will be about \$400 to fix the soffit, as there was no water damage. They will look at the window problem when they repair the soffit.
- c. The thermostats have been replaced and reset. They have a default set back. Signage and cages may be added.
- d. Trees at the parsonage need work
- e. Trustees are grateful for Larry’s work on installing the Servant Keeper program. It was noted that even though all data is stored in one file, the attendance and financial information are separate.

B) Board of Deacons – report given by Rich Sullivan

- a. He passed out the “Delay of Cancellation of Worship Services due to Acts of Nature” procedure. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the procedure. Vote followed,

motion carried. Procedure will be posted around the church and a copy will be on file.

- b. Carol is leading a 6-week study of the book “An Altar in the World”.
- c. Rich Sullivan will represent deacons on the nominating committee.
- d. Deacons need a full board of members as stated in their annual meeting dream. They need clarification about the statement in the by-laws that “The deacons are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church”.
- e. The Deacons will assist Rev Esther at Saturday’s memorial service for Ellen Carroll.
- f. Larry clarified that the Deacons Fund, which is for special purposes, currently has \$937.00 and where it came from. The Deacons budget is a separate line item.

C) Board of Christian Education – report given by Terry Reynolds

- a. The CORI checking procedure is in process and should be starting soon.
- b. The door between the nursery and the pre-school rooms was questioned about being in compliance with the child protection policy. The trustees will investigate the problem.
- c. Successful teacher’s meeting
- d. Shrove Saturday supper was well attended.
- e. Planning for Mission supper April 2nd is progressing and Terry will be working with Outreach as youth liaison.
- f. Heifer continues with over \$1100.00 raised. The 3rd and 4th grades are near their goal.
- g. CE member Christine Compton will serve on the nominating committee.
- h. Kindergarten communion training will be in May and communion in June.
- i. The fire drill may be in the fall.

Board of Stewardship – report given by Mike Bundock

- j. The Stewardship committee is asking all committees to share their dream moments with us during service for the next 5 Sundays.
- k. They are encouraging the use of EFT
- l. Mike thanked all who supported the community breakfasts and discussed further plans.
- m. Debbie Rice has ideas for fund raising

- n. John Sharland was concerned about the balloon payment and mentioned capital campaign.
- o. The pledge list will be updated & forwarded to the financial secretary for posting.

D) Board of Outreach – no report

7) STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Growth Committee – report given by Nancy Winter

- a. The committee is sending notes to families who have had a baptism and to people who have missed services.
- b. The welcome flyer is almost done.
- c. They discussed adding or replacing signs around the church.
- d. Dine with Nine Spring groups have started.
- e. Single Parent Group needs come guidance
- f. Deacons are responsible for April coffee hour. There is usually no coffee hour on Easter as there is a breakfast after the Sunrise service. A discussion followed about whether to have the coffee/breakfast on Easter Sunday.

B) Memorial Committee – report given by Gail Wright

- a. A \$50.00 donation was made to memorials.
- b. An article in the Steeple Sounds would remind members about memorial donations.
- c. Memorial Gifts are registered in the Memorial book.

Altar Committee – report given by Jane O’Connell

- a. Need to purchase more liquid wax from Heritage House. This is a Deacons budget funded item.

C) Music Committee – no report

D) Ways & Means – no report

E) Nominating Committee – no report

F) Youth Group – report given by Brian Maxfield

- a. Rock Show at the Parish Center netted \$450.00. \$100.00 deposit was returned for good cleanup.
- b. Mission meeting being successfully run by Deb Sorgman and Donna O’Neil.

8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Nominating committee is being formed: Members so far are: Al Lindsay from Trustees, Rob Basler from Stewardship, Rich Sullivan from

Deacons, Christine Compton from CE, Deb Sorgman, member at large.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Rev Esther was pleased with the positive response for the donations for Ellen Carroll's funeral. A memorial fund will be created with any leftover donations. A burial plot has been donated and the memorial service will be simple.
- b. Jack and Mark will go to the Bridgewater Credit Union concerning re-financing the mortgage Mike will attend a seminar about obtaining funds from the Community Preservation Act for church improvement. He will contact trustees who will work with Stewardship.
- c. The idea of forming a new capital campaign was discussed. Larry stated that we will need more funds for paying the mortgage and for a new pastor. As a cabinet, we need to either look into paying a consultant, contacting the conference or start working on our own plan. Stewardship should set the need framework and form a subcommittee. John Sharland will be asked about the steps involved, as he worked on the last campaign. Leadership for the capital campaign will be discussed next month.

10) UPCOMING CHURCH CALENDAR

- a. April 2 – Mission Supper
- b. April 9 – Rummage Sale
- c. April 21 – Maundy Thursday Service
- d. April 20 – Next Cabinet
- e. May 22 – Last Choir, Music Sunday

11) REMINDERS

12) As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35PM

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene S Brown
CSCC Clerk

Approved as corrected on

April 20, 2011



News from your MACUCC Delegates – Carol Chaffee and Kevin Thompson

There has been “much ado” about everything, lately, in the Pilgrim Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (MACUCC, for short). As you know, we, Central Square Congregational Church are autonomous in our structure and governance, but belong to the wider church of the MACUCC which is divided into 11 Associations throughout the state. We are part of the Pilgrim Association, 34 churches, in partnership with each other, the Massachusetts Conference and the National UCC. There are three Associations in the Southeast Area: Pilgrim, Barnstable and Old Colony. “Twenty-six of the seventy-four churches, in the Southeast Area, are in a period of transition between “settled” pastors, exploring who they are, who is their neighbor and who God is calling them to become and be!” * We are not alone!

The Annual Meeting of the Pilgrim Association was held April 3, 2011 at the UCC Congregational Church of Norwell. Rev. Esther, Kevin and I attended. From the report of the Moderator of the Association, Bob Gowdy, I wanted to share a couple of action items with you because they are ways that we can participate and be supportive of our Association.

- “Enhance our email database by adding leaders at the local churches including their “job” – Moderator, Deacon, Christian Ed., New Member Team, Delegate, etc. to support targeted linkage and communication.

- Progress Report: We asked local churches to provide names and email addresses of Delegates and lay leaders. Response was disappointing. We need to do a better job of explaining the purpose via person contact.”
- “Launch a newsletter – ideally monthly – to include a local church section highlighting important events, a Pilgrim Association section to include events and available resources and Mass. Conference section featuring upcoming training opportunities. The newsletter will be sent to church electronically and formatted so that all or parts of it can easily be added to Sunday bulletins and/or newsletters.
 - Progress Report: Progress has been non-existent as no one has stepped forward to work on the project.”

So, having brought those to the forefront, I would like to be able to supply our Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Cabinet representatives’ email addresses to the Moderator of the Pilgrim Association. If you give me permission, via a quick email, then I will send it off. I am entertaining the thought of volunteering for the newsletter though it seems like a *grand* task, meaning both wonderful and huge.

The program of the afternoon on April 3 was a presentation by two churches, UCC Norwell (this is the church where Rev. Elizabeth (Keyes) Duffy served) and First Trinitarian Congregational UCC Scituate. Both of these churches have transitioned from Board/Committee structure to Ministry Team structure, certainly not without failures, but with constant energy knowing that there was a better way to engage their congregations through the sharing of their gifts. Both Pastors and staff were greatly involved in the transition as well as the Moderator from Scituate and the Gifts and Call Coordinator from Scituate.

UCC Norwell has actually published a booklet of their process and it is being promoted by the Alban Institute. From my viewpoint, neither churches’ formula was an exact fit for us, but the skeletal model and concept are certainly worth entertaining. This is not something we need to wait for our new settled pastor to lead us through. We can make very simple adjustments to the way we operate to see if it works. The Deacons are considering looking seriously at a few sub-committees, which could be considered Ministry Teams, over the summer. The

main goal is to have people serve the church in ways that God has gifted them, to educate them in ways to share those gifts and to have God, Church, Family, Work, and Play all be part of our faith journey.

On Sunday, April 10, we attended an Ecclesiastical Council for Rev. Leann Walt who has been called to the First Congregational Church of Braintree, UCC. Now, this church re-joined the UCC in 2010 as we learned of this at the MACUCC Annual Meeting 2010, after a several year span of being a member of NACCC, National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. So this is a church that left the UCC and has now come back. This, like the Wollaston Church, is a “turnaround ministry”, referred to in the book by Rev. Mary Lou Gifford, The Turnaround Church. Later, that afternoon, Leann was installed officially as pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC.

Coming up, Rev. Esther, Kevin and I will be representing the church at the 212th MACUCC Annual Meeting on June 18, 2011 in Sturbridge. I have included with this article a tentative schedule of events. As we get more information, we will share it with you, but please feel free to ask of any questions about our partnership with the UCC.

Carol Chaffee
Kevin Thompson

*From Rev. Dale Hempen’s Annual Report of the Southeast Area Minister.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011

Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center - Sturbridge, MA

(Worship elements and music by BFJ will be woven throughout our time together)

7:30 AM	Registration opens at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center
8:00 AM	Breakfast Forum time with UCC General Minister and President Geoffrey Black
8:30 AM	New Delegate Orientation and Marketplace New delegates are oriented to the “ins and outs” of Annual Meeting and marketplace opens.
9:00 AM	Plenary I The opening plenary session will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening worship • Introductions of staff and Board of Directors • The State of the Conference report from Minister and President Jim Antal • Votes on the standing rules and consent calendar
10:15 AM	Hearings and Forums Smaller group opportunities for engaging the issues at hand will be held. <i>Hearings</i> will focus on the budget and resolutions. <i>Forums</i> will focus on the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Capital Campaign and General Synod
11:30 AM	Plenary II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote: UCC General Minister and President Geoffrey Black • Presentation on the budget
12:30 PM	Luncheon Delegates and visitors gather at lunch, networking, visit marketplace; time to relax in each other’s company
1:15 PM	Awards, Comedian and Dessert Rev. Jen Munroe-Nathans, Pastor at Christ Church in Millis
2:00 PM	Plenary III Business will continue including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from the Board of Directors • Volunteer Development Committee report • Budget actions • Resolutions and other business of the Conference
5:00 PM	Adjourn or Plenary IV (if needed)

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President UCC, will be with us keynoting and leading us in communion. It is wonderful that Rev. Black is able to be with us celebrating our wider United Church of Christ community and our Communion in Christ.

Pastor of Church of Christ in Millis and Stand-Up Comedian The Rev. Jennifer Munroe-Nathans will stoke our spirits with laughter. The band BFJ from West Brookfield, UCC will lead us in song. Our meals together will provide valuable time to talk with each other and meet new people. A marketplace will engage the gathering in mission, education and resources for ministry.

Many of you appreciated the opportunity to be together both for business and worship. Once again, this year, we have provided this opportunity. Should you choose to travel a day ahead, the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center is providing a special rate for early reservations.

I look forward to seeing you in Sturbridge on June 18th.

Grace and peace,
Nancy Lawrence
Chairperson, Annual Meeting Planning Committee
Member, First Church in Sandwich, UCC



Report from Your Trustees **Trustees Cleanup Day!**

It's time for the annual Trustees Cleanup Day, scheduled for **Saturday, May 14.**

If you have an hour or two or three to come and pitch in toward the beautification of Central Square Congregational Church, please stop by. No experience necessary!

We'll be getting going around 8am, and probably won't go beyond noon. Two specific things are on the agenda so far, although we reserve the right to add to the list as the day draws near.

The first job on the list is that there are some trees at the parsonage that need to be trimmed and/or removed. Dave Hanson will be supplying tools and a tractor to help in the effort. And although we would love the youth to come out and help with the church cleanup, we'll probably keep this project to adults only.

Dave Hanson will also be arranging for us to have some new mulch for the flower and tree beds around the church. Lots of hands will make this project go quickly, as we'll be raking out the beds and distributing the fresh mulch. Helpers of all ages are welcome!

Other Improvements

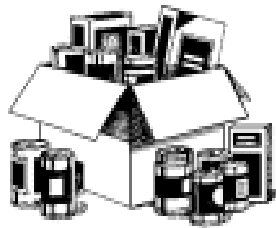
The Trustees are proud to report that set-back thermostats have been installed in various locations of the church, and at the parsonage. These will allow us to ensure that the heat turns itself down during the times when the church is not being used, such as overnight. Heating oil is a huge cost for the church, and this will help keep that cost down.

Diane Sheibley, Trustee



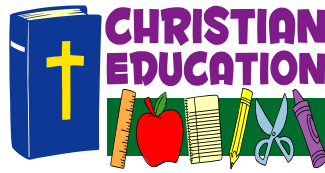
Liturgists/Lay Participants

Upon invitation of our pastor, Rev. Esther and the Board of Deacons, if you would like to take part in worship, inclusive of reading scripture and/or leading the opening prayers, please sign up for a specific date at coffee hour in the next few weeks. The Deacons will organize a schedule for Rev. Esther so that she can just notify, via email, the scheduled person of what prayers and readings she would like you to deliver from the lectern



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!



Christian Education Summer Sunday School

Reserve **Sunday, June 12th** on your calendar as that is the date for Children's Sunday. It is the day we celebrate the church year, honor our graduates, commission our Mission Youth and the day we celebrate Pentecost, so it should be an exciting day.

Summer Sunday school will begin the following Sunday, June 19th. It is at this time we give our Sunday school teachers a rest and time to enjoy the service. We ask members of the congregation to volunteer one Sunday during the summer to present a lesson through music, games, fun activities, crafts or conversations. All lessons are prepared for you and will match the lectionary of the church. The lessons allow you the opportunity to follow them as written or use your own creativity and imagination and take the children on a journey through Bible lessons. This summer they will explore Pentecost, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph.

Group Sunday school generally has around 10 children in attendance. Ask a friend or your husband/wife to co-teach with you. It could be a fun and rewarding experience for you, but more importantly the children will benefit from the gift you give them, a piece of yourself.

The CE board would like to challenge you to teach our children. Please sign your name on the Summer Sunday school calendar located on the bulletin board by the back door or you could see Terry Reynolds after church or call Terry at 508-607-4666.

Kids of the Kingdom

Have you been to Kids of the Kingdom? The second Friday of the month is the meeting date. The children play games, make and enjoy a snack together and explore their creativity through a craft. Come on **Friday, May 13th from 6-7:00 p.m.** bring a friend and find out what Kids of the Kingdom is all about.



Praise Chorus News!

We will be participating in 1 upcoming worship service: June 12.

June 12: Meet in Sanctuary at 8:30 (no Saturday rehearsal)

Everyone is welcome to sing or play an instrument. The more the merrier!

E-mail gab.heath@yahoo.com with any questions. ♪



Our final WG&F meeting of the season will be our annual banquet held on Wednesday, May 4th at Boston Tavern, Route 106 in West Bridgewater in the “Boston Tea Party Room” located on the right as you enter the door to the restaurant. There is plenty of parking in the parking lot in front of the restaurant. Cocktails at the cash bar are from 6-6:30 PM followed by a wonderful buffet at 6:30PM. We will have a short business meeting following dessert. If you have not yet made arrangements with Sandy A., Phoebe H. or Bev M., please notify one of them right away.

Remember to bring kitchen items for our “Church Shower”. We are in need of Brillo or SOS pads, new dish towels, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, scotch tape, permanent markers, etc. I bought the kitchen scissors (3 pair) that were needed, and we have plenty of paper towels and sponges at the moment.

Thank you all and hope to see all of you at our banquet. It should be a wonderful celebration at the end of a very busy season for WG&F.

Ruthie LaBonte



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.



I still read the newspaper every day. You know, the type that gets flung out of a vehicle every day onto my front lawn. Call me a dinosaur – I'm not easily offended.

“Paper versions” of things are rapidly disappearing. Did you get your new phone book yet? Ours was thrown on the front lawn a few days ago. When I picked it up and slid it out of the plastic bag, it seemed awfully thin compared to last year's. Could that many people have moved out of the “Brockton Area” in one year??? I scanned thru the first few pages and there I found a letter from the top phone book guy – It said, “Based on feedback and other reasons – we have eliminated the Residential Listings” In true dinosaur fashion, I marched into the house, tore out the Residential Listings section from the 2010 phone book and stuffed them into the new one. There – I'm good for at least one more year.

I really enjoy reading David Yount's weekly religion column in the Saturday Brockton Enterprise – a couple of weeks ago, he reported on the recent release of a statistical report on religions, etc. in America. (<http://users.erols.com/dyount/>)

Some interesting facts from his article:

- Membership in the Catholic church and in “protestant churches that are affiliated with a recognized denomination” continues to decline.
- 50% of churchgoing Americans are Protestant – the largest group of churchgoing Americans.
- Of that 50%, 14% attend a church that is not affiliated with a denomination and that number is growing.
- And here is the really interesting fact – of the 50% of churchgoing Americans who are protestant, 40% of them claim to be Evangelical. In other words, 40% of all churchgoing Protestants claim to be Evangelical.

In our modern America, I am not really sure what being an Evangelical means - it would seem that if 40% of us Protestants have taken an oath to carry out the great commission, you wouldn't be able to cross any sidewalk in America without bumping into someone who is determined to bring you to Christianity.

But what I do know is that in my several visits over the years to Evangelical churches (for weddings, baptisms, Easter Service when away from home, just exploring, etc.), I find their members to be very generous givers. Serious, sacrificial giving. Probably bumping up on tithing in most cases. Which in turn provides modern facilities, many ministries, huge outreach, no budget concerns, etc. etc? All the things we only dream about here at CSCC. The big difference is commitment – this we know for sure – Evangelicals are committed to giving sacrificially for the good work of the church.

So, my request is that you think about all of this, think about our eternal struggle with finances here and then be part of the solution. Give like an Evangelical!! Give sacrificially! It's O.K. to rethink your pledge in mid-year!! Make the commitment!

John Sharland for the Board of Stewardship



May 2011: A New Way is Possible

Written by Tim Rose
May 1, 2011

Go, stand in the temple court and tell the people the full message of this new life. Acts 5:20

The prison of Basse-Terre has been making the French news lately, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons. It was ranked the worst prison of France. Tim Rose, Global Ministries missionary in Guadeloupe says, I am assigned as both prison chaplain and "reinsertion" counselor at the prison of Basse-Terre.

Originally built in 1660, as a catholic convent, it was converted into a prison in 1772. Not only is the prison old and rundown, the prison is extremely overcrowded. Set up to hold 130 prisoners its current population is approximately 200 and there are only two social workers assigned to work with the prisoners.

The Protestant Reformed Church of Guadeloupe (PRCG) has a prison chaplaincy program and a partnership with a local non-profit organization, "Accolade Caraibes", to maintain a presence in the prison. I accompany the prisoners spiritually, and I help them make plans to re-enter society after their release. Through job training, spiritual support, family counseling, transitional housing opportunities and acting as a link between the prisoners and the parole board, I try to help prisoners create a new life for themselves.

Obviously the challenges are immense. Through listening, prayer and helping prisoners find real solutions to their problems, many have come to realize that God's promise of new life is possible.

Please pray for the prison population of Guadeloupe and the work of the Prison Chaplains and the social workers of Accolade Caraibes.

Tim Rose serves with the Reformed Church of France as the Pastoral Assistant for Diaconal Ministries in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

May 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion Sunday	2 Christian Ed 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm	3 NRC 9:30 & 11 Brownie Group 3:30-6 Vestry	4 Women's Guild Banquet offsite Den 2 LL BCUAC rehearsal Sanctuary	5 Brownie Troup 6:00 LL Search Committee 7:00 pm	6	7
8 Teen Forum Youth Group	9	10 Outreach 7:00 pm Growth 7:00 pm	11 Trustees Mtg 6:00 pm BCUAC rehearsal Sanctuary Search Committee 7:00 pm	12 Stewardship Mtg 7:30 pm Den 5 LL 6:00 pm	13 Kids of the Kingdom 6-7 pm GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	14 Trustees Cleanup Rev. Esther on vacation
15 BCUAC concert Sanctuary 3:00	16	17 NRC 9:30 & 11 Brownie Group Vestry 3:30-6 pm	18 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 Den 2 LL	19 Brownie Troup 6:00 LL Search Committee 7:00 pm	20	21
22 Teen Forum Youth Group Last Choir Sunday	23	24 NRC 9:30 & 11	25 Search Committee 7:00 pm	26 Den 5 LL 6:00	27 GS 73502 LL 6-7:30	28
29 Rev. Esther back from vacation Group Sunday School	30 Mothers' Club nursery 9:30 am	31				

June 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6 Christian Ed Meeting 7:00	7 Outreach 7:00 Growth 7:00	8 Trustees 8:00	9 Stewardship 7:30	10 Kids of the Kingdom 6:00	11
12 Children's Sunday (Ice Cream Sunday) Intergenerational Sunday	13	14	15 Cabinet 7:00	16	17	18
19 Summer Sunday School Begins	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		