

**TEWKSBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2006**

Dear friends in faith,

Annie Sullivan, a resident of the State Hospital in Tewksbury for a number of years, was a brilliant educator... and a woman with a huge stake in doing well at her first job. When she joined the Keller household, her young charge Helen was so unruly that in the first day she took a swing at Annie and knocked out one of her front teeth.

The wonderful scene at the water pump... where Helen rediscovered the word for ‘water’ .. suddenly opened up the very limited world of Helen Keller. Helen became a student at that moment! This brilliant educator fed Helen profound words, feelings, attitudes and perspectives on the world through the marvel of a system of spelling by touch.

Helen went from defiant anger and independence to a stance of willing dependence and openness to learning because of the relationship she sensed she could have with Annie Sullivan. ‘Teacher’ could be tough as well as gracious. But in their relationship Helen sensed a profound guide and older friend. Later in life Helen would be the guide and the loving friend to her mentor and teacher as she entered darker valleys in her life’s journey. It was truly a relationship of interdependency.

Commitment unlocks learning. Annie was committed to Helen in those early, impressionable years... and then on into her adult life. As I look around our own church school I also see that heart felt commitment to our children and youth. I see it in our teaching staff, in youth leaders, in our board of RE and in Rita Masters’ gracious oversight of the whole program.

Let’s start the year with a deepening gratitude for the gift of their love and commitment. Let’s resolve to do our part to grow as teachers – and learners—in this wonderful year ahead.

Yours in faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jonathan", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Jonathan

DEACONS

-submitted by Julie Marotte, Deacon Chair

The Board of Deacons welcomes with open arms and hearts the return of **Pat Takach** and **Noel Metcalf** joining **Donna Haines, Sue Trudeau, and Bob Jenkins.**

We are anxious to continue the new year planning with the Pastor at the Deacon's Retreat to be held on Saturday, September 16th.

A big Thank-You to **Bob Masters, Jay McFadyen, Donna Haines and Paul Manning** for leading worship services in July.

EVENT

Attention All Bargain Hunters

“Shop for a Cause”

(to benefit The Open Pantry of Lowell)

At any Macy's on **Saturday, September 16, 2006.** It's a win, win event. You get discounts, specials, drawing, etc. The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell (OPOGL) gets your \$5.00 donation and Macy's gets customers!

****For the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell to benefit, please purchase your \$5.00 tickets in advance from Donna Haines, 978-851-7717. TCC Member of Board of Directors, Open Pantry of Greater Lowell.**

JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

YOUTH ADVISORS

*JoJo Scharmer,
Steve Trudeau,
Cricket Foss*

What a year we have planned! Come and join us **Sunday, September 10th** from **6:30 – 8:00** pm and see! All seventh and eighth graders are welcome. Bring a friend, too.

We know that you cannot always make every meeting, but that is cool. Come whenever the spirit moves you! We will be here. Our leadership team will be on hand to guide you through a year of faith-centered activities. Our time together will include fun activities planned by you, worship, exciting service ideas and lots of eating!

In the springtime, we will be going to Craigville on the Cape for a marvelous retreat. We will be electing officers in September so be thinking what you can do to add to the group.

Your invitation is to come and be part of a group that is exciting, packed with fun and growing in Christ.

- Submitted by JoJo Scharmer

*Sunday,
September 10th
from 6:30 – 8:00
pm
All seventh and
eighth graders*

BAPTISMS

Quintin Dennis Kelly the son of **James** and **Jennifer** was baptized on Sunday, August 6th. Quintin is their first child and he was born on June 22nd. Godparents are **Kristen Mercer** of Dracut and **Donald R. MacLaren** of Tewksbury.

Kalyn Renee Khachadourian the daughter to **Scott** and **Kelly** was baptized on August 20th. Kalyn was born on March 9th. Godparents are **Jonathan Risteen** of Orlando, Florida and **Francis Morrisey** of Newton, MA. TCC godparents are **Bob** and **Heather Mulvey**.

MEMBERSHIP AND ENLISTMENT

Jean Metcalf, Heather Leary, Suzanne Spezzano, Loretta Miggos, and Cathie Seaman



After a summer of rest, we look forward to September and church board meetings once again. **Heather Leary, Loretta Miggos, Suzanne Spezzano, Cathie Seaman** and I are eager to get started on the upcoming year's work.

At the top of our list is making TCC a welcoming church as we greet new and old members. I had some meetings with Pastor Jonathan over the summer and we have come up with some new ideas. I also asked our M&E members to think about this over the summer and hopefully they will have some ideas too. Look for the October newsletter with our plans.

Jean Metcalf was in charge of greeters for July and August. Thank you those who greeted during the summer months.

In closing, we look forward to our work, please do not hesitate to call me with your concerns and suggestions as we are interested in your thoughts and ideas.

Again, thank you for keeping the visitor and handicapped spaces open on Sunday mornings as your help is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ, Jean Metcalf
M&E Chairperson
978-640-9220

LETTERS AND TELEPHONE CALLS

From **Sandra Mouser**: a note thanking the TCC family and friends for their many prayers, cards and telephone calls during her recent surgery and recovery.

From **Gail Bliss**: a note of thanks to her many TCC friends and family who shared their condolences at the loss of her mother **Mary** in August. Gail was overwhelmed with everyone's kindness and concern.

Eleanor Corey wishes to thank the TCC family for their many telephone calls and cards at the passing of her brother, **William Newcomer**.

George Thompson is on the mend. Said he is feeling much better and is able to work on more chores around their property. He is getting better and better every day he said. **Ivy** is doing good too!

TCC MISSIONS IN ACTION

- Jean Carr (Chair)
(Members: JoJo Scharmer, Emir Galevi, Eleanor Riddle, Beth McFadyen, and Leanne Keddie)



*A generous man himself will be blessed,
for he shares his food with the poor (Proverbs 22:9)NIV*

Last year numerous saints from TCC participated in our missions' projects and experienced the joy in doing the work of our Lord. This year the mission's board will continue to present some of the same opportunities as well as some new ideas.

Remember our little group of five is only an extension of you, so we are eager to hear what you would like to see our church as "Christ's hands" achieve and we will work creatively with you to see your ideas come to fruition. Also, if your lifestyle is such that you cannot commit to monthly meetings, but you would love to help on a "one-time" project, please communicate this to a mission member.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

This November we will begin celebrating Jesus by adopting families and TCC seniors for our Lord's birth holiday. The ornaments went fast last year, so be prepared to select yours early!

Our youth groups will be joining hand-in-hand with missions this year, so keep watch for news regarding service opportunities with our valued younger members.

We have leadership positions available for our scheduled monthly activities, including: baking cookies for the housebound (October), Baby blankets (January) and Baby Kits (February), Warm-wear collection for the disadvantaged (October), to name a few. Volunteer opportunities will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and published in this newsletter.

Here on this earth, Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours; they are yours to serve with the joy of compassion. That is what TCC missions is all about!

ANNUAL REPORTS

Have you kept any of the church's annual reports? The office is looking for reports dated prior to the year 2000. Please call Sue in the church office (978-851-9411) if you have any annual reports available for copying.

CALENDAR

Contact Bob Jenkins by email if possible if you have any additions or updates to the calendar posted on the web. His email address is RWJenkins1@aol.com and you can also reach him by telephone at 978-459-1640.

ANDOVER NEWTON ASSOCIATION – OPEN MEETING

Saturday, October 14th at Topsfield Congregational Church with the Rev. Dr. Jim Antal preaching. Jim is our new Conference Minister. Meeting begins at 8:30 AM with light refreshments. Participation is not limited to Association Delegates but is open to everyone.

**ALTAR
FLOWERS**



July 9: Flowers given by the **Bliss family** in memory of family.

July 23: Flowers given in love and remembrance of **Cathie Seaman's mom, Mary Lou Williams.**

August 6: Given by **Sue and Steve Trudeau** in memory of Sue's brother **Sam** who died two years ago.

August 13: Given by **Bob and Rita Masters** in loving memory of **Everett and Marion Daniels.**

**HELP
WANTED:
PIANO
PLAYER**

Volunteer Help Needed – Bruce Panilaitis is seeking a volunteer to play the piano during rehearsals for the Jr. Choir and also when they sing in the sanctuary. The Jr. Choir meets weekly before church at 9:00 AM for their rehearsals. For more information, please call Bruce at 978-858-0528.

**HANDBELL
UPDATE**

Our handbells have returned from being refurbished and they are simply beautiful. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. Now all we need is some ringers to help make equally beautiful music. This year we could have as many as four different handbell choirs (adults, youths, youth quartet and adult quartet) if there is sufficient interest.

As many of our youth get closer to their high school graduation, it becomes very challenging for them to balance school, outside activities, part-time jobs, and participation in a handbell choir. As a result, there are some openings this year for youths in Grade 6 or above.

The youth handbell choir (the Jubellation Ringers) normally practices on Monday evening from 6pm to 7:30pm. The adult handbell choir (the Carillon Ringers) normally practices on Monday evening from 7:30pm to 9pm. Quartet practices will be scheduled to fit the participants.

Rehearsals will start sometime in September and continue until late May/early June.

Although previous musical training is beneficial, it is not required, a typical handbell ringer should have the following characteristics:

- (a) You know your right hand from your left hand.
- (b) You can count to 4
- (c) If you make a mistake, you are not afraid to look at the ringer next to you as if to say "Why did I make such a mistake?"

If you are interested in playing handbells, please contact **David Fulton at (978) 640-0792**, put a note in the **Handbell Director** mailbox, or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Fairgrieve Room.



**LADIES AID,
FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE, AND
HOLIDAY
FRIENDS**

All ladies of the church are invited to attend. For more information, please call 978-851-2773.

—
Ladies Aid
Lunch
September 13th
Vestry

—
Friendship Circle
meets
second
Thursday of the
month at 9:00 am
in the Vestry

Holiday Friends

Holiday Friends held four workshops during the summer months. Sometimes we met in the Vestry and other times in Fellowship Hall due to the on-going construction. A special thank you to all who worked on the summer projects and we hope you had fun and enjoyed the time with old and new friends.

As we get ready for another season—children going back to school and many church activities starting up, etc., it is time to think about our Thursday 9:00 AM workshops. Dates are as follows:

September 7, 21 and 28 * October 5, 19 and 26 * November 2, 9, 16 and 30

Marilyn and I would like to issue an invitation to everyone in our church to join us at Holiday Friends. If you cannot join us during the day, we have two evenings planned on **Tuesday, September 26th** and **Tuesday, October 24th at 7:00 PM.** During our daytime sessions, you need not come every week, and we will teach you all you need to know about making our holiday crafts.

So come one and all for fun with glue guns, greens and flowers. The conversation and friendship is great food for the soul and we make some money for our church too. Looking forward to seeing you all. If you have any questions, please call either Marilyn or me.

Jean Metcalf – 978-640-9220
Marilyn SanClemente – 978-458-0729
Co-chairs of Holiday Friends

Ladies Aid

As the newsletter was in the process of publication, members of the Board of the Ladies Aid met at the home of Eleanor Corey in late August to determine their activities for the year. In the next issue of the newsletter, more information will be available. Ladies Aid members will meet for lunch at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 13th in the vestry. All women in the church are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Ladies Aid held the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, please call Eleanor Corey at 978-851-2773.

Friendship Circle

This year members of Friendship Circle will once again meet the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Vestry starting in September. Members take turns providing devotions and coordinating a monthly program.

A '**Friendship Tea**' is planned on **Sunday, October 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Vestry. There will be a small charge for tea and desserts and this money will be used for one of the many programs supported by Friendship Circle. Teas are memorable events to attend. They provide an opportunity for enjoying this wonderfully fragrant and ancient beverage and a chance to enjoy an array of homemade desserts. You are encouraged to bring your family and friends to this 'first time' event sponsored by Friendship Circle. For more information, please call Yvonne Hall at 978-851-6668.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

-Submitted by Director of Religious Education, Rita Masters

Rally Day/Open House is Sunday, September 10



Sunday School Begins

Rally Day/Open House is Sunday, September 10. Yes, it is already that time of year. Sunday School will be back in full swing on Sunday, September 10. Sunday School/Worship will begin at 9:30am with an Open House from 9:00-9:25 in Fellowship Hall. This will be a time for meeting staff, locating classrooms, registration of any NEW students and updating any student information. There will be “light” breakfast treats. The 3 year olds begin Sunday morning activities in their classroom at 9:30. This allows for a more stable learning environment. Parents of three year olds can choose to have their child begin their Sunday morning activities by first attending worship but they will need to bring the child to the classroom during the regular Sunday School dismissal time from the worship service. Looking forward to seeing you there and hearing about your summer.

Mini-Sunday School Recap

During the 12 week Mini-Sunday School for preschool to grade three children there were 12 plus students attending the morning classes. Students were divided by age level into two classes. This seemed to work quite well. Teachers were Linda Wieselquist, Cricket Foss, Heather Leary, Cathie and Craig Seaman, Betsy Goodell, Rita Masters, Marlene Gasdia-Cochrane, and Sherry Fulton. Sue Hansford coordinated the many caregivers for the nursery this summer. Thank you to each and every one of you. There will be **NO** Mini-Sunday School on Sunday, September 3. Nursery care will be available.

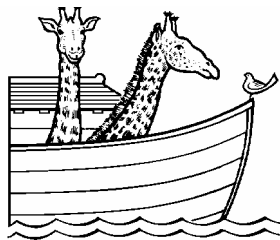
CWS School Bags (Church World Service)

This traditional TCC mission project has a NEW twist. Our goal is to complete **20** school bags. CWS has a **VERY specific list** of supplies that are needed to complete each. There will be a collection area as you come in the double doors of the educational wing along with a chart listing the needed supplies and a weekly update to the chart showing the supplies collected to date. The idea here is that the amount of supplies collected will more closely equal the amount of supplies needed to complete 20 bags. I’m hoping to have a list of supplies needed to be available on the church website, www.tewksburycc.org, under Sunday School. This way you can check what supplies are needed before you do your "back to school" shopping. Families are asked to donate whatever supplies they are able. In-gathering Sunday will be Sunday, October 15.

Supplies needed to complete a bag.

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| One 30-centimeter ruler(12") | One large eraser | One pair of blunt scissors |
| One pencil sharpener | Twelve sheets colored construction paper | |
| Six new pencils with erasers | One box of 24 crayons | |
| One spiral notebook of ruled paper 8-1/2"X11" containing 140-200 sheets of paper. | | |

As of Sunday, August 13, supplies have been donated to fill **10** school bags. Happy Shopping!



Special note: The goal for **Heifer** this year was \$3,000.00, and \$3,044.88 was collected. A job well done!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

-continued

Teaching Staff:

Tewksbury Congregational Church Sunday School is a very special place for several reasons. Each Sunday children and youth come to learn of God's love and to share that message of God's love. The newly renovated Educational Wing offers a comfortable environment for learning. Each Sunday there is a faithful group of adults and youth who form the leadership for the teaching staff.

For the 2006-07 school year there are still openings in the teaching staff. I ask you to please to think about the possibility of becoming part of the TCC teaching staff.

Staff needs:

- A teacher is needed to fill in on an as-needed basis in the **kindergarten class**, as **Elaine Macdonald** will need to be away from time to time to help with care of her mother in Pennsylvania. **Sherry Fulton** is the other teacher on the team.
- Two teachers are needed for the **second grade class**. I am willing to be part of this initial team to help with teaching, training and lesson planning. My hope is that a permanent team can be in place fairly soon . I am willing to stay on the team as long as needed.
- There are positions open for **youth teacher aides**. Youth who are interested need to first talk to their parents. If they support your interest in helping out in the Sunday School, please let me know. Some youth help on a rotating basis so they can still attend programming for high school on Sunday morning.

Art Supplies

You have an opportunity to recycle some of your household items and bring them to church to be used for Sunday School projects. We can always use clear plastic containers with lids, Pringle cans with lids (any size), scrap fabric, ribbon, lace, buttons, margarine tubs, *Cool Whip* containers, coffee filters, rickrack, ribbon, foam trays, used magazines (nature, family, children type), small plastic bottles (8oz+) with labels removed, green "Velcro type" bands found on lettuce and just about anything you can think of that **could** be used in Sunday School for craft projects.

Short term volunteers

Short term volunteers are always needed in Sunday School. They include being a substitute teacher (I start a new list each year), helping with the Advent and Lent workshops, mission projects, being a Sunday School photographer, and others short-term projects during the Sunday School year. Please speak to me, call me, or e-mail me about these great opportunities of service to the Sunday School program as we can always use your help.

Home: phone number 978-452-4934
e-mail mastersmbe@AOL.com

Church: phone number 978-851-9411
Church e-mail tewksburycc@verizon.net

I am in the office on Sunday mornings and I try to be in the office Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9:00-Noon. Please feel free to call or stop by if you have any questions.

F riends old and new

A lways a smile

L essons about God's love

L ots of fun activities....

Spells TCC Sunday School Program!

TRUSTEES REPORT

Submitted by, Jim Carr, Chair, Trustees

Trustees had a busy summer. The **construction of the T-Mobile cell tower** was started on July 5th and took about six weeks to complete.

A **shed** was purchased for the storage of the **Boy Scouts** gear that was being stored in the Glory Hole. The shed was delivered July 19th. Of course, a job that size was bound to create some inconvenience. For two weeks, the Scouts' gear had to be stored in an interim location, along with some of our own items. Thankfully, we had Sunday School classrooms available.

Another big job that was accomplished this summer was the **replacement of our office carpeting**. It worked out perfectly that Sue and Pastor Jonathan were away for the last week in July, giving us a chance to get it done without interfering with their work.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the June meeting, the Finance Committee welcomed new member **Liz Doherty** and said good-bye to a tireless and hard-working **Alice Golan** who is retiring. "Thank you" is not enough to express our appreciation for all that Alice has done for the Committee and the Church during her tenure. We will miss her smiling face and willingness to serve. Well done, Alice.

The Committee was also glad that **Rich Allen** decided to serve another term as well as his willingness to serve as the Committee Chair for another year. While the election of a Secretary was postponed to the next meeting, **Russell Adams**, returning to the Committee after 8 months working in New Orleans, agreed to lead the Fall 2007 Stewardship Campaign.

The committee met again on August 8 and the following summarizes key actions taken at both meetings:

- At the June meeting, the committee reviewed anticipated revenues from the T-Mobile Cell Tower lease, using a spreadsheet prepared by Trustee Chair **Jim Carr** and Chair Allen. Per the May 2006 Semi-annual Meeting vote, the monthly \$2,000 usage fee will be split 80% to the James Building Fund and 20% to the General Fund, following the payment of legal fees (\$3,500 paid 6/15/06 to Weston, Patrick, Willard & Redd) and half the purchase of a storage shed for the Boy Scouts (TCC paid \$1,739.00 on 8/1/06 to Reeds Ferry) to replace their lost storage space. Per the Board of Trustees contract with T-Mobile, lease payments began with the partial payment of \$241.94 for July 2006.
- Reviewed **Tina Ramsdell's** Treasurer's Reports on the General Fund Budget Expenditures and Special Accounts.
- Received Financial Secretary **Mike Wildeman's** Revenue Reports. Pledges and Identified Contributions continued to run ahead of Projected Revenues for the first 32 weeks of 2006 (8/6/06). The Committee will continue to monitor closely throughout the remaining summer (see related article).
- **Russell Adams** reported that the first meeting on the Fall 2007 Stewardship Campaign will be held in Pastor Jonathan's office on Thursday, August 17 at 7:15 pm. Purpose is to organize steering committee and to discuss approach and schedule. All Board and Committee Chairs will be contacted following the meeting to solicit each Board/ Committee's support and input.

The Preliminary 2007 Budget was discussed, with Chair Allen to send a letter and 2007 Preliminary 2007 Budget worksheets to all Board/ Committee Chairs, requesting that they devote time to putting their expenditures budget request together at the September 12 ABCs meeting.